



April 1, 2024

Metro Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Metro Board of Directors,

On behalf of California's 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the southernmost section of the 710 Freeway, Port of Long Beach, and its surrounding communities, I am writing to express my thoughts on the Long Beach-East Los Angeles Corridor Mobility Investment Plan (CMIP).

First, I would like to thank the LA Metro team and the project consultants who provided an incredible amount of outreach and engagement in communities across the corridor. Every community along the corridor faces unique challenges, and offers valuable solutions, and I hope you will continue to engage and empower these communities to share their experiences. Second, I would like to thank the members of the task force, the community leadership committee, and the three working groups, for their time and dedication to this project, and their communities. This draft plan is the result of their lived experiences and expertise.

This draft mobility investment plan outlines many exciting projects that will improve the quality of life of residents in this district, and along the corridor. For too long, residents of West and North Long Beach have been living in a goods movement sacrifice zone, resulting in shorter life expectancies, higher rates of respiratory illnesses, and limited access to green open space. It is our responsibility and legal obligation ensure communities have clean air. Meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards is the absolute bare minimum. While this plan makes many attempts to address these challenges, there is still significant work to do.


The significant investment in public transportation and active transportation is incredibly valuable to the community. Not everyone who lives in the corridor uses the 710 freeway or owns a vehicle, but their lives have certainly been impacted by the freeway. It is critically important for people who use public transportation, walk, bike, or any combination of these modes, to feel safe and welcomed throughout their travel. Projects like the bus priority lane on Atlantic Blvd, the micromobility corridor pilot for Long Beach Blvd to the City of Vernon, or the study on a regional Metrolink line from Union Station to Downtown Long Beach, will increase safety, reduce traffic, and improve air quality.

To further reduce traffic and congestion along the 710 corridor, more cargo leaving from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles will need to be moved by rail. I am hopeful that projects like the Freight Rail Electrification Pilot Project will support the region in this transition, and encourage additional investment in rail electrification.

I am concerned about the large number of highway focused infrastructure projects that may lead to increased capacity. I strongly support safety improvements along the corridor, to reduce the number of accidents and fatal collisions that currently occur. However, it is critical that these improvements, do not result in any additional lanes, displacement of residents, or an increase in transportation related emissions. Residents and community based organizations have raised concerns about the use of auxiliary lanes, which may have some safety impacts in specific locations but increase VMT in others. I encourage LA Metro to use auxiliary lanes sparingly, and with increased consideration of community concerns and emissions impact.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this draft investment plan, and for your continuing commitment to the communities along this corridor. These investments are long overdue, and hopefully will result in reduced traffic fatalities and transportation related emissions. Lastly, your ongoing engagement with the community is greatly appreciated, and will ultimately result in the most impactful plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Lowenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" being more prominent.

**JOSH LOWENTHAL**  
**Assemblymember, 69<sup>th</sup> District**

CC: Stephanie Wiggins, CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority