



July 25, 2023

Honorable Metro Board Chair Mayor Karen Bass
Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Completing Regional Connector First-Last Mile Connections

Ms. Wiggins and Ms. Bass:

We write to congratulate you on the opening of the Regional Connector. The new subway is already improving mobility for tens of thousands of Angelenos.

Before Metro winds down construction of the Regional Connector and the connected Eastside Access Improvements, we urge you to correct several missteps regarding station first/last mile connections. Metro and the City of Los Angeles appear to have mistakenly left out several approved bike/walk facilities which are detailed in the attached list.

Some of these bikeways were in the city's 2008 Downtown Street Standards (adopted by the the City via a negative declaration under CEQA)¹. These standards were approved well ahead of adoption of the Regional Connector's final environmental impact report². Other bikeways were included as part of Metro's scope of work included in its 2014 Federal TIGER grant for Little Tokyo Connections.

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to make good on Ms. Wiggins' pledge "to not only physically restore Little Tokyo to what it was before construction, but to make it better" and to

¹<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2008121038>

²<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2009031043/5>

apply this promise to pedestrian and cyclist safety around all three Connector stations³. We ask you to move expediently to complete these required and promised pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the next three months before construction is closed out.

We've seen that Metro and the City of Los Angeles can deliver safe and accessible streets for people taking transit, biking and walking through your work together on the Bus Speed Working Group. We hope to see your agencies bring the same focus and urgency to ensuring that the streets people travel to their new Regional Connector stations are safe and accessible for all modes of transportation, including those traveling on foot and by bike. To ensure safe connections for Metro customers, Metro needs to work with the city to implement (not water down) approved first/last mile facilities - during current Metro construction.

Michael Schneider, Streets For All
Carter Rubin, NRDC
Chase Engelhardt, Climate Resolve
Eli Lipmen, MoveLA
Eli Akira Kaufman, BikeLA

Cc: Metro Board of Directors

LIST OF MISSING REGIONAL CONNECTOR BIKE/WALK FACILITIES

Pedestrian Plaza Omitted:

- Traction at Alameda

Bikeways Omitted:

- Central Ave from 1st St to 3rd St
- Flower/Hope St from 1st Street to 3rd St
- Judge John Aiso/San Pedro St from Temple St to 3rd St

Bikeways Less Than Planned:

- 1st St eastbound from Vignes to Mission was to be protected
- 1st St from Judge John Aiso/San Pedro St to Los Angeles St was to be protected
- 2nd St from Spring St to Broadway was to be two-way protected
- Los Angeles Street from 1st to 2nd was to be protected
- Ramirez St/Center St from Commercial St to Vignes St was to be protected

³<https://thesource.metro.net/2021/10/22/metro-celebrates-start-of-work-to-improve-walking-and-biking-access-between-little-tokyo-arts-district-and-union-station/#:~:text=Construction%20is%20expected%20to%20be,Wiggins.>