BoardClerk@metro.net

**Re: Item #9B - Vermont BRT Approval: Item Needs More Consideration**

Dear LA Metro Board:

I am a member and/or stakeholder of the West Athens Westmont Community and am writing to ask you to hear our concerns:

I support LA Metro’s plans to improve transit services along Vermont Avenue, yet the current plan as recommended fails to offer the services, safety solutions and benefits to meet our needs.

**120th Street/Vermont:** Metro’s Vermont BRT Corridor Map shows West Athens-Westmont as a ***High Need Equity Focused Community***, with an “optional station” at 120th and Vermont Avenue. LA Metro has failed to explain how the 2.5-mile unincorporated portion of the Vermont Corridor from Century to 120th Street will receive an equitable share of benefits from this $425 million Measure M investment. **I urge the Metro Board to add a permanent station at 120th Street & Vermont which will increase benefits for unincorporated area residents.**

**Transit Access to Parks & Key Destinations:** The West Athens community extends southward to Helen Keller Park, ending at El Segundo Blvd. Helen Keller Park is a key destination offering computer labs and other services for local families. Faster access to MLK Hospital and Bilbrew Library is also needed. **I urge you to extend the Vermont BRT beyond 120th street to El Segundo Blvd. and add transit solutions to provide better access to MLK Hospital and Bilbrew Library.**

**Safety & Bike Lanes:** The West Athens-Westmont area has among the highest number of traffic/pedestrian accidents and fatalities in LA County. Despite repetitive requests for Metro to explain how LA Metro’s Vermont Corridor improvements and its BRT plan will reduce risks, injuries and death of our residents, Metro has failed to address our crossing safety concerns or requests for protected bike lanes along south Vermont Ave.  **Our children’s lives matter. I plead with LA Metro to reconsider its Vermont BRT plans south of Manchester, improve safety crossings and install protected bike lanes along this segment of Vermont to protect our residents’ lives.**

**LPA & Transit Oriented Community Investment:** LA Metro’s staff did not include the West Athens-Westmont community in its surveying process to determine its recommendation for the Vermont BRT’s side running vs. center-median Locally Preferred Alternative. Our community wants more than just a busway on Vermont. We seek economic opportunities and investments in this Transit Oriented Community, which we think is best achieved with a center-median BRT option. **I ask LA Metro to prioritize the Vermont Corridor Rail Improvements in its Measure M Subregional Priority Setting and accelerate West Athens-Westmont TOC investments.**

I am a: □ Community Organization □ Resident/Family □ Business Owner □ Student □ Local Stakeholder

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Business:/Org: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_