



Housing Jobs & Transit for All

Español

Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience Committee

November 16, 2020 at 09:00 AM

AGENDA Item #19

Email Subject: ACTION ALERT! Tell Metro Board: Riders want unarmed alternatives to police on transit

Body: It is imperative that Metro and all of our public agencies' budgets and programs invest in ways that put Black, brown, POC, and low-income communities first. We have been calling on Metro to divest from its police budget and reinvest funds into our communities through free fares, improved bus infrastructure and service, and neighborhood stability programs. This starts with ensuring a transparent policing contract evaluation process that includes authentic and regular community engagement with transit riders, including those who have been negatively impacted by policing, in order to design alternatives for safety.

Last week during Metro's Operations committee meeting, Councilmember Bonin introduced a [Community Safety Approach to System Security and Law Enforcement motion](#) as a first step in eliminating the role of law enforcement on our Metro systems and investing in community-based approaches to keep the Metro system safe and welcoming for transit riders of color. This motion would establish a Transit Public Safety Advisory Committee. A committee that would include many of our members who are part of the Community Safety and Security Working group. This committee will be tasked with developing a community-based approach to public safety on the transit system.

TAKE ACTION! By calling into the meeting Thursday 9am to give comments. Everything you need to take action is below.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GIVING LIVE COMMENTS: CALL ##### (WILL BE AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY EVENING)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING METRO BOARD MEETING: Livestream Metro Board meeting via <http://boardagendas.metro.net> or listen by phone by calling (877) 422-8614 and enter extension 3490064#.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT VIA EMAIL: Public comment on individual agenda items can be submitted via mail to jacksonm@metro.net BY 4PM WEDNESDAY. Include meeting date, meeting name and agenda number.

We need you to take action today by:

- 1) Submitting a public comment via email before Thursday, June 25, or during the live Metro Board meeting. See instructions above.
- 2) Tweeting and posting on Facebook and other social media pages. Tag Metro Board members and use #PeoplesTransit and the graphics below.

Metro Board of Directors Twitter Handles

- @RobertGarciaLB, @LongBeachMayor
- @EricGarcetti, @MayorOfLA
- @MayorButts
- @MikeBonin
- @PaulKrekorian
- @JohnFasana
- @DupontJackie
- @AraJNajarian
- @HildaSolis
- @kathrynbarer
- @mridleythomas, MRTempower
- @JaniceHahn, @SupJaniceHahn
- @SheilaKuehl
- @metrolosangeles

Sample Public Comment for Item #37 (File # 2020-0429):

I am writing to urge the Metro Board of Directors to approve the Community Safety Approach to System Security and Law Enforcement motion as a first step in eliminating the role of law enforcement on our Metro systems and investing in community-based approaches to keep the Metro system safe and welcoming for transit riders of color. Crime in LA and on Metro has significantly decreased, demonstrating that dollars spent on police could be better spent on improving transit reliability, scaling up social workers on transit, and piloting a transit ambassador program. Armed law enforcement patrol should not be the default approach that Metro implements to enhance riders' experiences. We need to reimagine safety approaches that prioritize community safety over-policing. Metro should divest from the billions of dollars spent on a multi-agency police contract and invest toward alternatives to armed-law enforcement, fare-free transit, and transit services.

Additional talking points:

- The Transit Safety Advisory Committee needs to serve as Metro's community oversight body over the multi-agency law enforcement contract and renewal process with the powers to investigate, make binding recommendations, and reallocate resources concerning the role of law enforcement on the Metro system, including requiring Committee approval of any law enforcement contract. This is the only way we can ensure true community accountability over the process.

Sample Tweets & Facebook Posts

Armed police on transit = racial profiling, criminalization of poverty and makes BIPOC transit riders feel less safe. Metro must reimagine public safety and divest from police. #Peoplestransit

We are calling on Metro to prioritize community safety over policing on transit.
@metrolosangeles must shift resources away from police and invest in community safety strategies and transit service improvements. #Peoplestransit

Let's #reimaginepublicsafety and fund alternatives to armed law enforcement including social workers and transit ambassadors, not on more police! Community safety also includes sanitation stations and clean vehicles, ability to socially distance and transit reliability.
#Peoplestransit

Street vendors, bright street lighting, wayfinding signs, cleanliness, and sanitation stations make riders feel safe. Armed police officers should not be the default safety strategy! Metro riders should feel welcomed, not criminalized while riding transit. #Peoplestransit

Graphics

Graphics can be downloaded [here](#) and [here](#)

TELL THE METRO BOARD:

It is time to reimagine public safety on Metro.

Transit riders want unarmed alternatives to police.

Shift resources away from police and invest in transit ambassadors, social workers and service improvements.



Safety on Metro looks like



NO more policing



Bright street lighting



Benches and shade structures at every stop



Accessible transit



Social Workers and care teams



Unarmed Transit Staff



#PEOPLESTRANSIT