Undergraduate Students Associated Council
University of California, Los Angeles

July 24, 2024

LA Metro Board Administration

1 Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-3-1

Los Angeles, CA 90012

sepulvedatransit@metro.net

boardclerk@metro.net

RE: Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project

Dear LA Metro Board Administration,

The 2024-2025 Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) is writing to express our strong support for Alternatives 4-6 of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC) Project that include a direct, on-campus station at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a seamless connection to the Metro Purple (D) Line in Westwood Village. USAC strongly opposes Alternatives 1 and 3 as the proposed monorail routes contain stations next to the 405 freeway, which will expose passengers to dangerous pollution levels and unhealthy noise levels.[1] [2] USAC additionally opposes Alternative 1 as it does not provide a direct stop at UCLA, which will minimize the number of weekly riders and limit accessibility to public transit for the entire UCLA community.[3]

We urge Metro to select an alternative that maximizes equity and accessibility. On a daily basis thousands of people travel from the San Fernando Valley (and beyond) to the Westside to access UCLA for education, healthcare, cultural attractions, businesses, and jobs. In fact, UCLA is the county's fourth largest employer and the largest west of downtown Los Angeles. Commuters between the San Fernando Valley and the Westside face chronic congestion with limited transit alternatives. Current public transit options are limited to routes necessitating multiple transfers, which often results in commuters using their personal vehicle if they have access to one. This negatively impacts our quality of life, harms our regional economy and limits our ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Metro's ridership projections clearly show that the alternatives with the highest use include a direct stop at the UCLA campus and seamless connection to the D line. A UCLA station is projected to be the busiest non-transfer station in Metro's network when it opens. To motivate people to consider using public transit instead of their vehicles, the future STC needs to go directly to the destinations where the

[1] https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/who-is-at-risk
[2] https://la.streetsblog.org/2018/08/06/metros-mid-freeway-transit-stations-are-hellishly-loud
[3] https://thesource.metro.net/2023/11/27/weve-got-updates-on-the-sepulveda-transit-corridor-project-and-we-want-your-feedback-by-december-8-please/

overwhelming majority of people are heading while limiting transfers. Public transit is more appealing to commuters when: there is no need to transfer, it is affordable, and it is fast. The alternatives with higher ridership, each including a station on the UCLA campus, should be favored as Metro seeks to achieve the goals of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project.

Selecting an alternative that includes an on-campus station at UCLA and a seamless connection to the D Line is key to ensuring Metro can achieve all the goals of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. The ridership projections of approximately 120,000 boardings per day for several of the alternatives demonstrate this is a project with the potential to transform our region by providing fast and reliable transportation for Angelenos and visitors. The alternatives including an on-campus station at UCLA will provide what our region desperately needs – effective and accessible public transit in one of the most congested corridors in the nation.

Sincerely,

2024-2025 UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC)

CC: Honorable Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 4th District

Honorable Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Honorable Fernando Dutra, Councilmember, Whittier City Council

Honorable Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District

Honorable Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 5th District

Honorable Hilda Solis, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 1st District

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council, 2nd District

Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman, Los Angeles City Council, 5th District

Honorable Ara J. Najarian, Councilmember, Glendale City Council

Honorable James Butts, Mayor, City of Inglewood

Honorable Tim Sandoval, Mayor, City of Pomona

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Appointee of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles

Gloria Roberts, Director, Caltrans District 7

Stephanie Wiggins, Metro, Chief Executive Officer