



City of Long Beach

Office of Vice Mayor Robert Garcia
Councilmember, First District

Date: June 4, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Robert Garcia, District 1 *RG*
Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, District 2 *SL*
Councilmember James Johnson, District 7 *JJ*
Councilmember Steve Neal, District 9 *SN*

Subject: METRO Blue Line Long Beach Turnstiles & Maintenance

Background:

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. It serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, building and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. 9.6 million people, nearly one third of the CA's residents, live, work and play within its 1,433 square mile service area.

The Metro blue line runs north-south between Long Beach and Downtown Los Angeles passing through the cities of Los Angeles, Watts, Willowbrook, Compton and Long Beach. The City of Long Beach blue line has 8 stops, each with pedestrian platform beds, public art, signage, parking lots, landscaping, etc. The route is significantly visible as it moves through North Long Beach, Central Long Beach and Downtown.

The blue line is vital to the economy of our region. It is estimated that over 6 million rides are served each year at the 8 Long Beach stops.

There are sections of the blue line that need immediate attention, including repairing of public art, signage, and improving public safety. It's important for users to experience a clean and safe environment when using Metro and public transportation.

Metro has indicated that it may install turnstiles at all Long Beach stops. Turnstiles, which are common on stops throughout Los Angeles, would assist public safety officials with monitoring who rides on the blue line.

Recommendation:

- 1) Request that the City Council formally take a position on installing turnstiles on all Long Beach stops, and direct the City Manager to communicate that position to Metro staff and appropriate representatives, and
- 2) Request City Manager to report back to City Council in 90 days on a timeline and plan to address the repair of public art, signage, and any other maintenance or public safety issues deemed important to address.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to this measure