



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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June 4, 2013

Dear Mayor and City Council:

**Re: Long Beach City Council Agenda File #13-0476 Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Garcia, Councilmembers Lowenthal, Johnson and Neal**

We are writing to you on behalf of the Metro Board to thank you for your interest in improving the Metro Blue Line. We look forward to creating a close collaboration with the City of Long Beach to improve the Metro Blue Line. The Metro Blue Line is a key component of our transit system, as well as being the most productive light rail line in the country. It is, however, over 24 years old and in need of rehabilitation and modernization. To address this need, the MTA is committing a significant amount of money and attention to refurbishing and upgrading many elements of the line over the next two years, including:

- o The rehabilitation of Traction Power Sub-Stations (Approximate Cost \$82,000,000)
- o The rehabilitation of Blue Line's Signal System (Approximate Cost \$64,000,000)
- o The rehabilitation of the overhead catenary system (Approximate Cost \$13,000,000)
- o The replacement of track and addition of track booting (Approximate Cost \$13,000,000 for the area in Long Beach alone)
- o The refurbishment of several rail stations (Approximate Cost \$21,000,000)

In addition to the work being done along the line and at stations, we are also in the process of procuring new rail vehicles. Staff will be presenting the Board with a recommendation to purchase 69 new rail cars to replace the original Blue Line fleet, which will cost approximately \$262 million (about \$3.3 million per car). We anticipate delivery of these new rail vehicles in the next 5 – 7 years. We also have a Light Rail Vehicle rehabilitation program that will provide a mid-life overhaul to 52 existing light rail vehicles and provide mid-life overhauls to 74 heavy rail vehicles.

As you may be aware, the Metro Board has been working for some time now on gating our Metro Red and Purple line stations. As part of our conversion to the TAP system, the Board mandated gating for station entrances where the standards and policies would be acceptable. The TAP team worked closely with Metro Fire, Life, and Safety and other departments at the time gates were being engineered for the entire Metro Rail system, and produced a detailed gate-analysis study in October 2007. Every existing station on all rail lines was studied for gate installation feasibility utilizing ADA required spacing, ingress and egress calculations (4 minute regulation), emergency gate locations, and automobile traffic considerations.

The street-level stations in Long Beach do not meet the selection criteria for turnstiles or fare gates due to the size and configuration of the existing platforms which could create a safety hazard. We will be able to locate TAP validators in the platforms for rider convenience.

In regards to security, the safety and security of our customers has always been, and continues to be, our top priority. Just this week we redeployed additional law enforcement and security personnel to the Long Beach area. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept. has added two mobile foot patrol Deputies in the am shift and another 2 Deputies in the pm shift to cover the Wardlow, Willow, PCH and Anaheim Stations, and have also added four Security

Assistants on each shift to assist with fare enforcement in the Long Beach area. We will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments to our security detail as needed. Our FY14 budget allocates \$37 million to our Safety & Security capital projects. Systemwide camera and video enhancements will be made for improved security and \$20 million will be allocated to address safety improvements specifically on the Blue Line.

Maintenance on the Blue Line is another high priority for our agency. We are in the process of upgrading canopies at our stations, including seven Long Beach stations, to provide at least 50 per cent weather protection. We are adding safety signage at pedestrian crossings, adding suicide prevention signage at grade crossings and at the end of our stations, and replacing 200 signs per month at our stations, with a plan to complete Blue Line signage replacement by September this year. Each station is undergoing a paint rehab project, using a new type of paint that has proven to be more durable. This work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

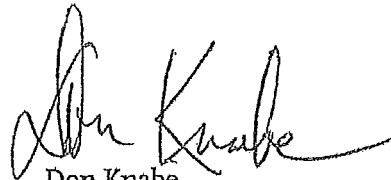
In addition, our rail stations receive ongoing maintenance. Each station receives high steam pressure washes weekly (during the evenings) to provide deep cleanings and apply disinfectants. Every station in our system receives a general cleaning two times daily, 7 days a week, including trash removal, sweeping, spot mopping, and other general cleaning of ticket machines, railings, map cases, etc.

The Board works hard to provide all of the elements necessary for a world class transit system; we are always looking for ways to improve our system. We welcome the suggestions and ideas your City Council has for our agency, and look forward to working closely with you to continue to improve the Metro Blue Line for the residents and employees of Long Beach, along with all of our other customers.

Sincerely,



Diane DuBois, Vice-Chair  
Board of Directors  
LACMTA



Don Knabe,  
Chairman Pro Tem  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

cc: Pat West, City Manager