



RECOMMENDED ACTION

To adopt a resolution policy statement in support of prioritizing the movement of people by bringing forward a “Transit First” policy advancing strategies to drive sustainable and equitable investment within the communities served by Long Beach Transit.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Marisol Barajas, Manager, Government Relations

BACKGROUND

Since the late 1990s, Caltrans, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) and the I-710 Corridor cities have been attempting to resolve the air quality, congestion and safety issues associated with the I-710 Freeway Corridor and the surrounding communities.

Following years of project development, community outreach and technical analysis, METRO’s staff presented three alternatives to the METRO Board at its March 1, 2018, meeting and recommended the Board select Alternative 5C, a build alternative which featured widening I-710 to five mixed flow lanes in each direction. This alternative also included programmatic elements for the corridor comprising a Near Zero/Zero Emission Truck Technology Deployment Program, Community Health Benefits Grant Program, Congestion Relief Program and a Transit Enhancements Program. The METRO Board approved their staff’s recommendation to select Alternative 5C and directed staff to work with Caltrans to finalize the project’s environmental document. This final approach was ultimately rejected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Caltrans due to concerns that it exacerbated the health impacts along the corridor, and would not meet desired outcomes for air quality, equity, mobility and sustainability.

Due to environmental, community impact and displacement concerns raised by local communities, Caltrans, EPA and the METRO Board decided to suspend further work on the environmental clearance of the I-710 South Corridor Project Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The METRO Board also directed METRO staff to pursue an alternative path to developing a better program of projects for the I-710 South Corridor by re-engaging impacted communities in a new process more aligned to bringing advocates to the table as partners in developing the future multimodal, sustainable, equitable vision and investment plan for improving the I-710 Corridor. In response to this direction, METRO and Caltrans initiated the I-710 South Corridor Task Force in September 2021.

In September 2022, after a year of work and re-engagement of I-710 Task Force, a Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, Goals and Pre-Investment Plan Opportunity, was approved by the METRO Board and adopted under the new project name “The Long Beach-East Los Angeles Corridor Mobility Investment Plan”.



Following the re-engagement and development of improving the communities along the I-710 Corridor, LBT is introducing a “Transit First” policy in support of prioritizing the movement of people by advancing strategies to drive sustainable and equitable investment within the communities served by Long Beach Transit. The focus of the “Transit First” policy is as follows:

1. Improve local and regional air quality and public health.
2. Deliver safe equitable access to transit services.
3. Enhance economic opportunity and regional mobility (i.e., UCLA).
4. Create a sustainable environment (i.e., zero-emission buses and bus shelters).
5. Identify and protect high-usage transit corridors.
6. Provide a better quality of life for residents in impacted corridors and communities (ex. jobs and better quality of life).

In keeping with LBT’s Strategic Priorities and its mission *“Dedicated to connecting communities and moving people...making everyday life better,”* Long Beach Transit continues to play a leadership role in efforts and discussions impacting public transportation projects. As a result, LBT is continuing to lead by introducing the “Transit First” policy and advancing strategies to drive sustainable and equitable investment within the communities served by Long Beach Transit.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board may choose not to adopt the resolution. However, staff does not recommend this option as LBT plays a critical leadership role in efforts and discussions impacting the communities it serves.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting LBT’s Board of Directors to adopt a resolution policy statement in support of prioritizing the movement of people by bringing forward a “Transit First” policy advancing strategies to drive sustainable and equitable investment within the communities served by Long Beach Transit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "K. McDonald", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. McDonald
President and Chief Executive Officer