

RECEIVED ON: June 13, 2023

Council Meeting: 06/13/2023

Agenda Item No. 12.G., 14.A.

From: [Noah Cisneros](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
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Subject: Public Comment for Item 12.G and 14.A Council Meeting (6/13/23)
Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 4:13:15 PM

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Dear City Council,

I oppose the effort to add a lane on Whittier Blvd at the Painter intersection, and I believe the city should negotiate with LA Metro to use the Measure R funds for increased transit frequency in the city. Montebello Bus 10 and 50 already go to most of the destinations on the Whittier people mover study such as Uptown, the Quad, PIH, Whittier College and the Groves. It would be a misappropriation of funds to create a whole new transit system just for one additional stop, Hellman. Instead, the city should halt all Metro Hot Spots projects and other projects that add lanes to Whittier Blvd and leverage our very own Metro board member Fernando Dutra to amend the Measure R expenditure plan.

Lane expansions are proven to not alleviate traffic. In a recent UC Davis titled [Induced Vehicle Travel in the Environmental Review Process](#), researchers found that 5 widening projects induced more people to drive and brought traffic levels back to their normal high levels. Lane expansions also increase air pollution with increased Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and are more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

What needs improvement in our city is increased transit frequency. Right now, not a single bus line in Whittier operates at 15 min intervals. Whittier has one of the worst transit services in the county with not a single stop qualifying as a “high quality transit corridor” under AB 2097’s definition. Transit can help alleviate traffic, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gasses, reduce accident fatalities and severe injuries, facilitate more affordable housing, and make our city more lively.

Transit is an all-around better solution, but Metro’s Hot Spots program is a waste of money for a failed solution to traffic. Please halt the Metro agreement in item 12.G and ask Metro to amend its Measure R expenditure plan to replace highways expansion funds for improving bus operation in our city.

Sincerely,

Noah Cisneros
- City Planner

CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department