



December 16, 2015

City Council Transportation Committee

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you with regards to the LA Mobility Plan 2035.

For decades, no metropolitan area in America has had worse traffic congestion than Los Angeles. For those of us who live here, the cost of congestion—as measured in wasted time and fuel—is estimated at \$13 billion per year. The proposed plan will make that congestion worse by enforcing “road diets” and encouraging increased density without providing for appropriate traffic mitigation.

There are ways to meet the council’s goals of growing the percentage of transit users, increasing bicycle commuting and improving safety without creating unsafe gridlock that will impact buses and first responders as well as ordinary commuters. Choosing one mode over another is unnecessary. The City can implement a plan that can aid motorists, transit users, cyclists and walkers.

Reason Foundation recently [released a new vision](#) of what transportation in Southern California should look like in the next 25 years. The Southern California Mobility Plan incorporates tolling projects such as express lanes, managed arterials, new toll expressways, and tunnels, which would be paid for by user fees. Here in Southern California, it would mean commuting times would shorten and that everyone—motorists, transit riders, active transit users, and commercial drivers—would have more travel options. The full study is [here](#), and a brief summary [discusses the highlights](#).

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, who spoke at the study's release event in downtown Los Angeles, said, "The Reason Foundation report offers solid solutions to these challenges that would not require tax increases and would improve mobility options for all users in the region. I commend the innovative solutions proposed in it." We received great coverage from the *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Long Beach Press Telegram*, the *Pasadena Star News* and a number of other news organizations here in Southern California. You can read it [here](#).

Before implementing a plan that will make life worse for the 85% of residents whose transportation mode of choice is the car I encourage you to read this study and consider alternatives to achieve your vision of Los Angeles.

Please contact me at your convenience to discuss this study or speak more about the city’s mobility plan.

Kind Regards,

Jon Graff, Chief Financial Officer

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