



December 7, 2016

Councilmember Mike Bonin, Chair  
Transportation Committee  
Los Angeles City Council

**RE: Support for L.A. City Car Sharing Pilot Project**

Dear Chair Bonin:

The Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA) would like to thank the Transportation Committee for considering the low-income electric vehicle car sharing pilot project at December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting.

Founded in 1992, KIWA is a multiethnic worker center located in Koreatown, Los Angeles. For over two decades, we have served and supported low-wage immigrant workers and tenants throughout the City. In Koreatown, like many working class neighborhoods in Los Angeles, residents are highly transit-dependent and rely on our City's public transportation network to get around--from work and school to visiting the doctor or the grocery store. At the same time, gentrification threatens to displace long-time residents of our community, pushing them farther and farther away from these amenities.

We are proud to have worked with Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), the Mayor's Office, Shared Use Mobility Center, LA Thrives, the Salvadoran American Leadership and Education Fund (SALEF), and TRUST South LA for the past year in the design and development of the low-income electric vehicle car sharing pilot. And we commend the City of Los Angeles for taking the leadership to apply for and now implement this innovative and much-needed program to provide electric vehicle car sharing to low-income residents.

With this program, low-income Angelenas will have more options for getting from point A to B, all while cleaning up our air, improving public health and protecting the climate. More importantly, transit mobility has been shown to be a key contributor to upward economic mobility, and thus we see potential in this program to improve the lives of our community members in multiple, dynamic ways. As a member of the steering committee, we are committed to ensuring that this program addresses the needs of low-income residents in our community and throughout Los Angeles.



If Los Angeles—known worldwide for its car culture—can increase access to electric vehicles for all its residents, and in particularly low-income residents, we are one giant step closer to real transit justice.

We urge approval of the contract and look forward to Council action for a final approval. We also look forward to continuing to advocate for more low-income neighborhoods of Los Angeles to have opportunities like what this pilot program will create, and stand ready to help in making this first step a success.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Suh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alexandra Suh  
Executive Director