As Metro’s rail network continues to expand, transit is becoming an attractive commute option for more Angelenos. The Expo Line, which opened to Culver City in 2012 and Santa Monica in 2016, hit its 2030 projected ridership just two years after opening. The success of our transit system depends on improving speed, frequency, and reliability, particularly where our rail and bus lines are affected by traffic congestion on city streets.

For our light rail system, portions of which run along city streets, traffic signals are a significant cause of delay. The Expo Line has 22 ungated signals along its route through the City of Los Angeles. Because these signals do not respond in real time to trains, even a slight delay leaving the station can result in the train hitting a series of red lights, with a cascading impact on the line’s operations. Often trains with more than 250 people on board have to wait at red lights while a few cars with just a handful of people in them turn left in front of the train. Metro estimates that these signal delays can add up to 15% to scheduled transit times. This is neither equitable nor efficient. These delays and resulting uneven train spacing have contributed to recent service issues on the Expo Line.

In the short term, trains need to be given higher priority in LADOT’s signal timing. In the medium and long term, LADOT should explore opportunities to upgrade ATSAC to be more responsive to the needs of people walking, biking, and taking transit as the City continues to encourage the growth of transportation options.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct LADOT to maximize signal priority for the Expo Line where it operates in street-running mode.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LADOT to report back in 60 days with the changes made, and any additional steps needed to reduce end-to-end travel times and to improve travel time reliability by 90%.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LADOT to report back in 120 days with an update on the development of the next generation of advanced signal technology, known as ATSAC 3.0.

PRESENTED BY: MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]