



## PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS KEVIN DE LEÓN

June 21, 2020

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Budget & Finance Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chair Krekorian,

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed budget motion to reallocate previously committed funding for the Downtown Los Angeles streetcar transportation project. In 2013, the Council authorized an expenditure of more than \$290 million dollars over a thirty-year period to cover the future operations & maintenance of this project. The intention was to create opportunities to connect neighborhoods in downtown and provide invaluable public transit options for a revitalized region.

Downtown Los Angeles is the fastest growing neighborhood in the city. The DTLA2040 Community Plan projects that by 2040, Downtown Los Angeles will add 125,000 people, 70,000 housing units, and 55,000 new jobs. In 2019 alone, we saw the addition of 4,500 new housing units—with 2,000 being added just in the last quarter. As more Angelenos move into this region of our city, upholding investments that make it a more livable, workable community will be critical to its ongoing development.

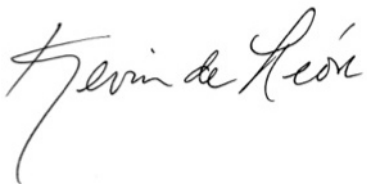
Gutting a funding stream intended to expand public transit options for Downtown residents, businesses, and visitors will hamper the growth and development of this community; and we cannot afford to be so short-sighted. Making such drastic decisions without the input of the affected community has a chilling effect on the voices of countless stakeholders who are deeply invested in the vitalization of their neighborhood.

Moreover, the motion is in direct conflict with this council's broader environmental and regional planning objectives of building a more inclusive city on the cutting edge of clean, efficient, and affordable modes of transportation. As previously mentioned, the booming population and economic growth of this community require us to plan ahead and guard investments in the future of Downtown Los Angeles - expanded mobility options including better bus service, safe bicycle facilities, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

As a representative democracy, Angelenos have elected someone to represent their interests on the City Council - and they deserve a seat at the table. However, Council District 14 has no representative able to cast votes or advocate on behalf of its constituents. Taking advantage of this lack of representation to reallocate resources is harmful to the community, and cuts against the grain of our democratic values.

I strongly urge you to vote *against* adopting this motion, and thoroughly engage the diverse array of Downtown Los Angeles stakeholders before reallocating or diverting funds for any ongoing projects in their neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin de León". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'K'.

**KEVIN DE LEÓN**

Councilmember-Elect, 14th District

CC:

Councilmember Blumenfield

Councilmember Bonin

Councilmember Koretz

Councilmember Price

Council President Nury Martinez

Mayor Eric Garcetti