

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the impact of COVID-19 on DASH operators and staff and actions to be taken to ensure safe commuting.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Koretz – Bonin):

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the City Administrative Officer (CAO) as needed, to report relative to:

- a. The percentage of DASH operators and staff impacted by COVID-19, any ongoing or forecasted disruptions to service, and efforts to reduce virus transmission and mitigate service disruptions.
- b. Best practices at other transportation agencies, and additional safeguards, protocols, technologies, and enforcement mechanisms that could be employed to ensure riders are commuting safely.
- c. Funding and/or resources necessary to implement recommended safeguards, protocols, technologies, and enforcement mechanisms.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On January 13, 2021, Council considered Motion (Koretz – Bonin) relative to the impact of COVID-19 on DASH operators and staff and actions to be taken to ensure safe commuting. Motion states that the recent surge of new COVID-19 cases has impacted transit dependent residents and staff at transportation agencies throughout the state, including Metro, LADOT, and Foothill Transit. In the last week, roughly 30 percent of Metro's bus operators have been out of work due to being quarantined, caring for family members, or having COVID-19. And the number of positive cases among agency staff and contractors has doubled in the past month. Metro has indicated this will result in bus and rail trips being canceled each day over the next few weeks.

Motion goes on to state that the pandemic surge may further impact the region's healthcare response, as COVID-19 infections continue to rise and frontline and essential workers find it more difficult to commute to and from work. Motion movers believe that the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to protect city workers, essential workers, and residents who depend on the City's public transportation network for daily activity. Motion recommends that Council instruct LADOT to report on the impact of the pandemic on transit operators, recommend best practices for ensuring safe commuting, and identify funding and other resources to implement effective safety measures. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held January 19, 2021, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with

LADOT staff. Councilmember Koretz stated that reports have been made that bus drivers are not wearing masks. It was suggested that windows on DASH buses be opened to circulate the air. The LADOT representative stated that the Department will discuss these concerns with transit contractors. The Committee recommended that Council approve Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Bonin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mel" and last name "Bonin" clearly distinguishable.

MEMBER VOTE

BONIN: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

KORETZ: YES

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-