



Metro

Board Report

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 27, 2019**

Motion by:

Hahn, Solis, Butts, Garcia and Najarian

Related to Item 38: Metro Pilot Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project
Business Solutions Center

As Metro continues to accelerate the Twenty-eight by '28 Project List, particularly the “4 Pillar Projects,” there will soon be an extensive amount of construction activity across Los Angeles County.

These rail projects will bring high-quality transit to the neighborhoods with the fewest transportation alternatives. However, during construction, nearby businesses are likely to experience a significant interruption in their everyday operations. Many of those businesses exist in an area with existing barriers to economic development.

Over the last several years, Metro embarked on an unprecedented effort to mitigate the negative impacts of construction on small businesses. The implementation of the Metro Business Interruption Fund provides financial support to impacted businesses from the Regional Connector Project, Purple Line Extension Sections 1 and 2, and the Crenshaw/LAX Project. This program has made great strides in forming robust partnerships between Metro and the local business communities.

In addition, Metro deployed the pilot Metro Business Solutions Center (BSC), which went even further to provide technical, marketing, and financial assistance for the small and micro businesses along the Crenshaw/LAX Project corridor.

Since 2015, these complementary programs have created a template that other transit agencies have worked to replicate. The amount of investment, financial or otherwise, has minimized local small business losses and strengthened the relationships between Metro and the communities it serves. The success of these programs has created goodwill and will directly contribute to the long-term success of the projects themselves.

As Metro moves forward with its ambitious capital project timeline, the agency must take every reasonable step to ensure there is sustainable and equitable assistance for small “mom and pop” businesses affected by all future major capital projects.

SUBJECT: METRO PILOT CRENSHAW/LAX TRANSIT PROJECT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS CENTER

APPROVE Motion by Hahn, Solis, Butts, Garcia and Najarian to direct the CEO to:

1. Transition the Metro Business Solutions Center from a pilot to a permanent program, and expand the program to all upcoming light rail projects in the Measure M pipeline.
2. Evaluate and measure the impact of the current Metro Business Solutions Center and identify areas of improvement.
3. Propose a funding formula for the expanded Business Solutions Center, including the following equity criteria:
 - a. The estimated number of small and micro businesses impacted for each respective light rail project.
 - b. Percentage of businesses impacted that serve primarily low-income populations.
 - c. Number of businesses that operate in Disadvantaged Communities.
4. Coordinate with the Vendor/Contract Management to ensure that the expanded Metro Business Solutions Center complimenting Business Interruption Fund Program is properly timed according to each project's construction schedule working with the community based organization which will tailor the needs of the communities on the project corridors.