



Metro Street Safety Policy

Background / Metro Roles / Discussion

November 2021



Metro

BACKGROUND: Board Motion 2020-0928, adopted January 2021

THREE GOALS:

1. Develop a Street Safety Policy
2. Create a countywide data collection program
3. Assess internal risk and liability to safety of all Metro-provided public transportation services

Recommends building on METRO ROLES

Metro
Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority
One Gateway Plaza
3rd Floor Board Room
Los Angeles, CA

M Metro
Board Report

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2021**

Motion by:
DIRECTORS GARCETTI, SOLIS, MITCHELL, AND BONIN

Metro Street Safety Policy

Street safety is a growing concern for communities across the globe. L.A. County vehicle crashes injured more than 91,000 people and killed 860 people in 2017. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 5-14 and the fourth-leading cause of premature death overall. In low-income communities and communities of color, impacts of vehicle crashes are often more severe because of inadequate infrastructure and higher vehicular speeds resulting from decades of inequitable transportation investments. To address street safety, L.A. County and many cities within the county have adopted street safety policies.

Metro's Vision 2028 Strategic Plan includes initiative 1.2.E to improve safety on the transit system and reduce roadway collisions and injuries. This initiative will be of increasing importance as the agency recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety and perception of safety will influence mode choice as people return to more daily travel. Street users need to feel safe accessing the Metro system. The risk of increasing Vehicle Miles Traveled during COVID-19 recovery is a pending threat to meeting the aggressive climate goals dictated by SB 375. Metro will benefit from working with state and local efforts to make streets safer.

Metro does not regulate local streets but can support safer streets within L.A. County through:

- Interfacing with the local public right-of-way, especially through Metro Bus Rapid Transit, Active Transportation Corridors, First/Last Mile projects, and Highway projects
- Funding priorities for local projects
- Transportation operations, Transportation Demand Management, and public outreach and engagement
- State and federal advocacy

SUBJECT: METRO STREET SAFETY POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

Significance of street safety

Public health crisis

719 deaths, 88,068 injuries in 2019.

Disproportionately Black, Latino, pedestrians, cyclists, people experiencing homelessness

Pedestrian deaths have risen

incomplete streets, larger vehicles, homelessness


Impacts Metro's mission

Safety concerns discourage active transportation + transit use



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Op-Ed: People of color are dying from traffic violence at a much higher rate. Here's why



To help reduce fatal traffic crashes, the city of L.A. has added new crosswalks that extend further into the street, such as this one at 43rd and Broadway. (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)

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Staff working group have focused on relevant Metro roles

Metro does not control street design, speed limits, or enforcement. To help Metro collaborate to advance street safety, staff have considered how to leverage Metro's roles as:

Operator

Planner & Builder*

Funder

Data Provider

Legislative Advocate

Educator

Innovator

*This policy is not meant to change Metro's 2013 Supplementary Modifications to Transit Projects Policy, which addresses requests for Metro to pay for upgrades to third party facilities (betterments).



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KEY OPPORTUNITIES + EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Update Complete Streets Policy
- Help advance safety and increase bus speeds
- Gather/ share data to enhance state information

To maximize equity benefits and avoid disproportionate burdens:

- Outreach to Equity Focus Communities and vulnerable road users
- Nuanced conversations on enforcement
- Use Funding and data as equity tools

Next Steps

- Broader public outreach, including CBOs + advocacy groups
- Staff develop draft policy
- 2nd round of outreach for comments
- Take to Board

Thank you! Contact for street safety work:

Mark Vallianatos, EO, Office of Extraordinary Innovation

Vallianatosm@metro.net