



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802 • (562) 570-6711 • FAX (562) 570-6583

PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

June 22, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, Chair  
California State Assembly Committee on Local Government  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 268 (Mendoza) – Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

Dear Chair Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the Long Beach City Council, I write in support of SB 268 (Mendoza). This bill seeks to add additional representatives to the governing board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Over the past decade, the Long Beach City Council has expressed an interest in having a dedicated seat for the City of Long Beach on the Metro Board of Directors.

In recognition that the bill includes a dedicated seat for the City of Long Beach, the Long Beach City Council unanimously voted to support this legislation. Long Beach generally supports legislation that maximizes the City's representation on State and regional boards with jurisdiction over issues relevant to Long Beach. Metro serves as the largest metropolitan transportation planning organization in the nation, and its governing board is currently comprised of 13 voting members and one ex-officio member. This structure does not provide a permanent seat for the City of Long Beach, which is the second largest city in Los Angeles County and includes the Port of Long Beach. Currently, the City of Long Beach shares representation with 25 cities, mostly from the Gateway Council of Governments, but also from the surrounding area as part of the Southeast Long Beach Sector. The City desires a permanent seat on the Metro Board of Directors.

A permanent seat on the Metro Board of Directors would provide the City of Long Beach with an opportunity to establish a consistent presence at Metro to the benefit of regional transportation issues affecting Los Angeles County, and because Long Beach borders the County of Orange, to an extent, Orange County. Key issues impacting Long Beach that come before the Metro Board of Directors include funding for infrastructure improvements and safety along the Metro Blue Line and at Blue Line Stations, as well as funding for municipal operators, including Long Beach Transit, which shares connecting stations with the Orange County Transit Authority.

In furtherance of our commitment to regional collaboration, Long Beach values our partnership with the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and appreciates that SB 268 maintains county representation for all 5 supervisors. We also acknowledge and support the community member seat on the board.

SUPPORT for SB 268 (Mendoza)


June 22, 2017

Page 2

With that said, Long Beach would like to share our preference for a smaller percentage increase to the number of voting members proposed by this bill. As the Metro board currently includes 13 voting members, the increase to 21 voting members nearly doubles the voting membership. The City prefers a more limited increase, while maintaining a permanent seat for the City of Long Beach, as the second largest city in Los Angeles County.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 268 (Mendoza).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word "West".

Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Tony Mendoza, State Senate, 32<sup>nd</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District  
Assembly Local Government Committee Members