



**Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA) statement
on safety on LA Metro – March 11, 2022**

The Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles is a coalition of organizations representing many transit dependent Angelenos. Ensuring that LA Metro is safe is our top priority.

LA county residents have invested over \$800 million of our tax dollars into a multi-agency Metro police contract that has been ineffective and mismanaged. Despite Metro continuing to pour additional tens of millions of dollars into this contract due to overspending and waste, officers on Metro are not addressing safety concerns. For years, police have been racially profiling Black riders. The result is a system where transit riders often feel unsafe and do not think of Metro as a reliable alternative to their cars.

Cities across the nation are grappling with how to create a safer society. For too long, we have depleted our city budgets and eaten up critical transit operation funds by pouring money into police budgets. Los Angeles has spent decades trying to punish individuals out of homelessness at the expense of targeted, at scale investments into services and housing—the results of which we can see around us.

Our coalition continues to work with transit riders to organize for a different path forward, a Metro system where we invest in real safety solutions for all. We worked with transit riders and other experts to document a collective answer to what safety on Metro should look like in our report [*Metro as a Sanctuary*](#).

Our report calls on Metro to make a significant investment in social service outreach workers who are trained and adept at connecting unhoused people seeking shelter to services and housing. It calls for Metro stations and stops to be designed with safety in mind, to be activated by janitorial staff and vendors who can provide a reliable presence while people wait, and for our buses and trains to be on time and staffed with service providers and wayfinding transit ambassadors, among others.

Our coalition and transit-riding community partners envision a new way forward for safety on Metro, led by strategies that have been shown to be more cost-effective and successful than policing. We are long overdue to actually address transit riders' safety concerns, end racial profiling, and create the world-class transit system Angelenos deserve.