



February 8, 2023

Mayor Karen Bass  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
*Via email to Karen.Bass@lacity.org*

**Re: City of Los Angeles Appointees to LA Metro Board of Directors**

Dear Mayor Bass:

The Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA) is a Los Angeles County coalition of 42 community-focused organizations that strives to create just, equitable, and sustainable transportation systems and neighborhoods. We place the interests of working-class communities and communities of color first as we work towards a more sustainable region. For more than a decade, our membership has worked with LA Metro's Board of Directors and staff to center the needs of frequent transit users in the agency's decision making.

As the newly elected mayor of the City of Los Angeles, you have a momentous opportunity to uplift and advance transit equity in our region through your appointments to the LA Metro Board of Directors. The perspectives and concerns of low-income riders of color, who make up a

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majority of Metro's transit ridership—62% of Metro riders earn less than \$20,000 a year<sup>1</sup>—are currently underrepresented on the board. You can fix this inequity through the three Metro board members you will soon appoint. ACT-LA recommends the following candidates join you in representing the people of the City of Los Angeles on the LA Metro Board of Directors:

1. Elected official: Eunisses Hernandez, City of Los Angeles Council Member, District 1, and former nonprofit executive director
2. Public member: Tamika Butler, Esq., former California Transportation Commissioner, former nonprofit executive director, former private sector Director of Planning and Director of Equity & Inclusion, and current UCLA urban planning doctoral student
3. Public member: Mike Bonin, former City of Los Angeles Council Member and former Metro board member

These candidates would serve as excellent representatives of Metro's diverse ridership. They have demonstrated a deep commitment to public service with an emphasis on prioritizing the needs of vulnerable and underserved communities.

We ask that you consider our recommendations for the LA Metro Board of Directors. Please feel free to reach out to Laura Raymond at [lraymond@act-la.org](mailto:lraymond@act-la.org) for the contact information for these recommended appointees.

Sincerely,

Laura Raymond, Director, Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA)

Mohammad Tajsar, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of Southern California

Adalberto Rios, Program Director, American Friends Service Committee - Roots For Peace (AFSC)

Kevin Shin, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (BikeLA)

Carmina Calderon, Senior Organizer, Community Power Collective (CPC)

Emily Gartenberg, Senior Policy Coordinator, Jobs to Move America (JMA)

Alexandra Suh, Executive Director, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA)

David Levitus, Executive Director, LA Forward

John Yi, Executive Director, Los Angeles Walks

Carter Rubin, Senior Transportation Lead, Natural Resources Defense Council

Cynthia Strathmann, Executive Director, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)

Maryann Aguirre, Project Director, People for Mobility Justice (PMJ)

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<sup>1</sup> Metro 2019 Onboard Customer Satisfaction Survey; and LA Times:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-09-12/amid-blistering-heat-bus-riders-wait-in-search-of-shade>

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CC:

- City of Los Angeles Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez
- Tamika Butler
- Mike Bonin