

Transforming Public Transportation in Los Angeles County



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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA METRO)

- Third largest public transit system in the USA
- Public transit system of buses, heavy rail, light rail
 - Major expansion possible with passage of Measure M
- Serves LA County population of 10 million

LA Metro: Connecting the Dots of Public Transportation and Public Health



- LA Metro’s portfolio embraces many intersections between **mobility and public health**
- First Mile/Last Mile Issues
 - Address need and challenge of getting to and from public transit system
- Transit Oriented Communities
 - Design and integrate public transit into neighborhoods so it will be used often, safely, reliably
- Address needs of those most dependent on transit
 - These individuals are often the most “health vulnerable”
- Link goals to outcomes – and outcomes to funding

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Example One: Public Transit and Vision Zero



- Mobility AND health facts:
 - Motor vehicle fatalities in City of Los Angeles up 20% from 2014
 - Pedestrians represent nearly half motor vehicle fatalities
 - Leading cause of death among children 5-14

- *Key conclusion: Traffic deaths and severe injuries are predictable and preventable*

- **Response: Vision Zero – City’s commitment to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2025**
 - Multidisciplinary partnership to develop goals, strategies and measurable objectives for eliminating motor vehicle fatalities and injuries
 - Focus on most vulnerable: children, older adults, walkers and cyclists
 - Increased public transit use reduces vehicle use, and decreases risk....BUT
 - Need to ensure getting to transit is safe too – thus the need to connect with Vision Zero policies

- *Key to enhancing public transit use is convenient access – and access needs to be safe*

Connecting the Dots Example Two: Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan for LA County



- LA population: 10 million
 - 11% seniors
 - 37% with a disability
 - 13% living at/below poverty line
- Goal
 - Improve mobility for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and persons of low income by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the availability of transportation mobility options
 - Increase opportunities for physical activity by walking or biking the first mile/last mile of the transit trip
- Plan development
 - Occurred at local level with multiple stakeholder participation
 - Process included inventory of available services, needs assessment and identifying gaps and prioritizing funding to address gaps
 - **Survey: 50% consumers & stakeholders report medical trips as the most often difficult to make**
- Public transportation as ACCESS to preventive health care services emerging as key strategy to develop going forward
- “Rides to Wellness” – FTA model of partnerships between transportation agencies and health care providers

A New Long Range Transportation Plan for Los Angeles County: Connecting Dots on the Largest Scale



- Objective
 - Follow through on the transportation vision for the region
 - Work with diverse partner communities to fulfill that vision

- Approach: modular approach will inventory current efforts, highlight connections and fill in any gaps
 - Who we serve, what they need and where do they go?
 - *A Plan for Communities, Partners, and Outcomes*
 - How to achieve outcomes today and in the future?
 - *A plan to Manage, Serve, Fund, and Build*

- Public engagement is necessary
 - Meaningfully engage with stakeholders and the public at the “intersections” between modular efforts

- Key opportunity for public health outcomes to be integrated into mobility priorities and investments