

Background Report – Recommended Motion to Support
Council File 21-1224 regarding Bus Lane Violation Enforcement
(recommended to the WRAC Board by the WRAC MTC)

Summary of Council File 21-1224 (use of automated cameras to enforce parking violations in bus lanes):

1. Proposed traffic enforcement would be for parking violations only (not moving violations, *i.e.*, vehicles using the bus lane).
2. Two traffic officers (LADOT staff) would be hired to monitor video feeds from bus cameras to issue parking citations for illegally parking in bus lanes during rush hours.
3. The LAMC would be updated to allow this video enforcement.
4. City Council approved the Council File on Nov. 10, 2021, directing a report back from LADOT relative to a partnership with Metro on a camera bus lane enforcement program.
 - a. Transportation Committee approved the LADOT report on Nov. 1, 2022.
 - b. Next hearing in City Council not yet scheduled as of preparation of this background report.
5. Various steps required before program implementation, including:
 - a. C.A. to prepare and present ordinance to amend the LAMC.
 - b. LADOT to submit budget request for two Traffic Officer II positions to support future camera enforcement.
 - c. LADOT and Metro to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
6. Council File: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-1224>.
7. LADOT Report: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-1224_rpt_dot_9-29-22.pdf.

MTC Findings:

1. Parking violations that block bus lanes reduce the speed and reliability of bus service.

For further background, see motion by CMs Bonin and Krekorian, filed on Oct. 20, 2021 in C.F. 21-1224 (motion on p. 2, following).

Jay Ross,

WLASNC Board Member and rep to WRAC MTC

Christopher Wienberg,

PalmsNC Transportation & Infrastructure Cmtee Chair and rep to WRAC MTC

MOTION

In 2019, the City of Los Angeles and Metro launched a collaborative effort to implement bus speed and reliability improvements in support of the NextGen Bus Plan, which promises fast, frequent, and reliable service for Metro riders throughout Los Angeles. Most notably, the effort has resulted in new bus lanes on Flower Street, 5th Street, 6th Street, and Alvarado Street, with additional lanes planned on Grand Avenue, Olive Street, and La Brea Avenue. This rapid deployment of new bus priority infrastructure must be supported by effective enforcement to keep these lanes clear for exclusive use by buses during designated hours.

Earlier this month, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB917 (Bloom), which authorizes an innovative partnership between Metro and the City to use automated cameras to enforce parking violations in bus lanes. Cameras mounted on Metro's buses will be able to record violations, with citations to be issued after confirmation by Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) parking enforcement. This new approach to enforcement is expected to greatly reduce the incidence of vehicles illegally parked in bus lanes, which is a significant source of delay to buses during peak hours. LADOT should work with Metro to implement the new program as quickly as possible.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to report on the Metro-LADOT bus lane enforcement partnership, including:

- An expected timeline for implementation, including a warning period at the start of the program;
- A communications plan letting the public know about upcoming enforcement;
- Any legislative actions by Council needed to locally authorize the program;
- Any staffing and budget needed to implement the program; and
- Engagement with municipal operators to assess the feasibility of their participation in the program.