



Westside  
Regional  
Alliance of  
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Brentwood Community Council  
Del Rey Neighborhood Council  
Mar Vista Community Council  
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa  
North Westwood Neighborhood Council  
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council  
Venice Neighborhood Council  
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
Westside Neighborhood Council  
Westwood Community Council  
Westwood Neighborhood Council

June 21, 2024

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (LA Metro), via  
Stephanie Wiggins, Chief Executive Officer, LA Metro  
Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles and Chair, LA Metro Board  
Hon. Lindsey Horvath, LA County Supervisor and member, LA Metro Board  
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, City Councilwoman, CD 5 and member, LA Metro Board  
Hon. Traci Park, City Councilwoman, CD 11  
Mark Vallianatos, Innovations Executive Officer, LA Metro  
Jody Litvak, Community Relations Executive Officer, LA Metro

*Via email to all addressees*

**Re: OPPOSE LA Metro Congestion Pricing on the Westside Without Robust Transit Options in Place**

Dear Ms. Wiggins, Mayor Bass, Supervisor Horvath, Councilmembers Harris-Dawson, Yaroslavsky and Park, Mr. Vallianatos and Ms. Litvak:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, in Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Council Districts 4 and 10. Our Alliance represents over 500,000 Angelenos.

Many of WRAC's member councils have expressed concern that LA Metro may implement congestion pricing strategies along key Westside routes – the I-405 and I-10 freeways – before robust public transit options are actually in place and their impacts are fully experienced and assessed. Concerns that have been expressed include: the fact that congestion pricing may disproportionately impact lower income individuals who must drive yet cannot afford to live where a car-free or transit only commute is possible; the likelihood of drivers using alternate routes through nearby local streets to avoid paying the charge, thus increasing traffic congestion on local roadways in nearby neighborhoods and in many cases (along the 405) on narrow hillside streets; and the potential for exacerbating already difficult emergency evacuation during dangerous wildfire events in our Very High Fire Hazard Zone areas with limited means of ingress and egress (including in Bel Air Beverly Crest, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades).

Our members have also noted that according to news reports, a proposal for congestion pricing in New York City (a metropolitan area with long-established, robust transit options, unlike the Westside of Los Angeles) has *been postponed indefinitely*.

As a result, a majority (8) of WRAC's member councils have passed the following motion, or modified versions in keeping with its spirit:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The WRAC member councils that have passed modified versions of the motion are:

Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC and NC Westchester-Playa: both councils oppose congestion pricing regardless of transit options.

Brentwood CC:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Brentwood-Comm-Council-comments-on-TRS-Congestion-Pricing-Jan-2024-1.pdf>

Pacific Palisades CC: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Motion-Congestion-Pricing.pdf>

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June 21, 2024

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

To: LA Metro: CEO Stephanie Wiggins, Board Chair Mayor Bass and other officials

*“The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) strongly opposes the implementation of Metro’s Congestion Pricing pilot (aka the Metro Traffic Reductions Study (TRS) project) without first having robust transit options in place in the North/South direction through the Sepulveda Pass from the 101 to the 10 freeway.*

*“Robust transit options are defined as either 1) enhanced bus service through the Sepulveda Pass as previously suggested by the Southern California Association of Governments ([https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mobilitygozone\\_report\\_final.pdf?1604269434](https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mobilitygozone_report_final.pdf?1604269434)) and 2) the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project, which will provide either monorail or heavy rail subway service from the San Fernando Valley to LAX, with a stop on the UCLA Campus.”<sup>2</sup>*

We therefore respectfully urge LA Metro to decline to implement the TRS project (the Westside congestion pricing pilot) at this time, unless and until robust transit options are in place, as requested in the above motion.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,

*Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz*

Robin Greenberg, Chair, and Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair  
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

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<sup>2</sup> North Westwood NC has taken a minority position: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2008/08-0229\\_cis\\_05-05-24.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2008/08-0229_cis_05-05-24.pdf#page=3). No other member councils have opposed this motion.