

# **ACTION ALERT: HEARING WEDNESDAY MORNING- STREET FURNITURE PROGRAM AND PROPOSED NEW LAMC**

**BPW-2022-0308 STAP – Street Furniture Program to be heard at Public Works Commission 5/11, 10 am**  
Contract approval – Tranzito-Vector, LLC – Final study – Consideration of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Agenda for meeting at: [https://ens.lacity.org/bpw/agendas/bpwagendas86161540\\_05112022.htm](https://ens.lacity.org/bpw/agendas/bpwagendas86161540_05112022.htm)

Members of the public who wish to offer public comment to the Board should submit written comments via Google form at <https://bit.ly/DPWCommentForm> or call +1 669 254 5252 and use Meeting ID No. 161 637 1032. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616371032>

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The Board of Public Works is being asked to approve the STAP Program as recommended by staff with a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for environmental clearance meaning that there has been no EIR. City Hall believes that an MND is all that is needed to explain away any impacts that might come from introducing changing digital ads on hundreds of transit shelters citywide AND as a result of the new LAMC that will allow any advertising structures to be placed on the City's public right of way which includes sidewalks, parkways and all of our streets. There has been no serious attempt to address the environmental impacts, or to explore alternatives as is required under CEQA's EIR process. In addition, they have failed to acknowledge the conflict between the signage programs and the City's own General Plan/Mobility Element.

Public Works is also recommending that despite the fact that the environmental clearance issues have not been resolved, that the City now award the STAP contract to Tranzito-Vector LLC (a vendor with no demonstrated experience operating a program of this size or a program that includes the maintenance and operation of transit shelters. A visit to their website explains that they are a company that operates mobility hubs, bike share, and bike and scooter parking. How does the City weigh experience and the guarantees promised by vendors competing before the City?

Contract review and evaluation of competing bids has been done by Public Works and the public has never had any opportunity to be presented with adequate information to understand the tradeoffs being made in the selection of vendors. How many advertising panels will be placed on City streets under each program? What contract offers the greatest return for the least number of panels? How does the removal of the public toilet feature of the past contract affect the income projections of the program now that the City will be saddled with the costs of operating that program? The public has little faith in the objectivity or the ability of Public Works to analyze the financials and calls upon the Controllers Office or a third neutral party to be engaged in evaluating the contract bids and projected financials. It appears that the contract being presented for approval contains 6,000 ad panels, including 1,000 digital screens. The impact from such a program will be significant. The public has never been presented with the full impacts of this proposed program. How do 6,000 panels compare to what appears to be 2,000 ad panels under a competing bid??? Further discussions and analysis of alternatives under CEQA are clearly needed.

Under the new LAMC and STAP program, the public will have no voice in determining placement of structures. There may be "outreach," but there is no process for input, for opting in or opting out, despite promises made during the StreetsLA/DPW "outreach" sessions held after the RFP was released. We know what "outreach" means to the Dept. of Public Works. And, sadly, the Board of Public Works, made of paid members appointed by Mayor Garcetti, appear to be responsive only to City Hall direction and have failed to acknowledge the Department's failure to act upon public input—despite the fact that they govern over the Dept. of PUBLIC Works. The current bids must be analyzed by a neutral party away from the political influences of City Hall.

The environment, public safety and public health along with the vision our City and its neighborhoods have for our future urban environment as it gets more and more dense are at stake. Do we want advertising structures or trees to grace our corridors? Should we improve upon the safety of our most vulnerable street users or introduce more distractions that put pedestrians and bicyclists at heightened risk? Is Vision Zero a program whose mission can be so easily hijacked? When this program was announced it was presented as a way to address TRANSIT RIDER NEEDS for more shade and shelter. That need has been used to promote a program that fails to add significant shade and shelter, that provides for a mechanism to pollute our streets with

commercial advertising and changing digital messages that distract drivers and endanger street users, and detract from what many of us wish to see on our streets.

**Motion:**

The \_\_\_\_\_ opposes the approval of the STAP Street Furniture measure before the Board of Public Works, opposes the approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and believes that a full EIR is required for a program of this scope.

We are strongly opposed to the introduction of a new LAMC. Too many questions remain unanswered, too many concerns have been raised and ignored and the safety of all street users is at heightened risk under this STAP program. The public needs more information and a stronger voice.

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**Stronger Motion:**

\_\_\_\_\_ recommends that the STAP review and approval process be halted and a new truly transparent and inclusive process be embarked upon, driven by and reflective of community needs and contributing to a strengthening of our neighborhoods – not resulting in a program that endangers our fellow Angelenos and leaves too many unsheltered riders and too many unanswered questions. The street furniture program is a 20-year initiative. The City needs to get it right NOW. We deserve nothing less. Restart the process now. The sooner the process begins, the sooner the issues raised can be resolved.. .

**Issues:**

Insufficient program: 1884 current shelters to be refurbished and used without ads. Tranzito contract to add 1116-1249 new shelters for a total of 3,583 shelters in a City where 8,000 transit stops currently exist and more are being added. Contract is for 20 years. What is the plan to cover all the other stops, with high and low ridership who need shade and shelter? If less expensive shelter was chosen, could more stops be covered? Too many questions...

Broken promises to have a transparent process where our input would be considered. No input in RFP

No info to allow the public to understand the tradeoffs and opportunities between final bidders

Privacy protection concerns from captured personal data. Data access concerns.

Impacts on quality of life. Impacts on adjacent properties and uses.

Commercialization of our streets.

Loss of public open space. Trading our open space and streetscapes for....?

Driver distraction and accidents, injuries and death/ endangered street users

City legal liability from accidents within view of changing ad structures

Lack of specificity as to operational guidelines, rotation rates, etc.

No defined way for community input on placement. No answers on opt in/opt out options.

Cumulative impacts of the three different ad programs: STAP, IKE, Metro digital billboards

Environmental impacts related to energy usage

Light pollution impacts, night sky pollution

impacts on wildlife, insects, birds from the light pollution

Impacts on human health and well-being

Lack of trust/credibility in ability of reviewers to assess “best” program. Political influence. Need independent review

Need to provide automated public toilets as part of program (who pays for it under Tranzito plan?)

Failure of proposed program to provide sufficient shade/shelter for Angelenos. Insufficient total number of shelters provided for transit riders given number of stops in system and impacts of climate change.

No alternative shelter provided for low use transit stops

No discussion as to which shelter option (6 were submitted by bidders) was deemed best and by what criteria?

The new LAMC that is being introduced as part of the STAP program NMD opens up a Pandora’s Box to an unspecified, unlimited number of advertising structures on our City’s streets, sidewalks and public parkways. There is no limit as to the numbers, the sizes, the placement, etc. As the process for approval of all these projects rests solely with the Board of Public Works, the communities across the City will have no voice to object, to direct placements, or to do anything more than to speak before a Board with a history of following staff and political direction. Each time the City needs more money to balance a budget, or each time that a vendor with strong political ties seeks to “partner” with the City with one more “good” idea, our streets and neighborhoods will be at risk.