



**WILSHIRE CENTER  
KOREATOWN  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**



December 14, 2020

LA Metro  
One Gateway Plaza  
MS: 99-3-1  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Attn: LA Metro Board of Directors,  
Philip Washington, CEO  
Cc: [jacksonm@metro.net](mailto:jacksonm@metro.net)

**RE: Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council's Request For Action re Transit Service During COVID-19**

We, the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council of the City of Los Angeles, respectfully request that any and all cuts to public transit service during the pandemic be restored immediately.

The [median household income of L.A. bus riders is \\$17,154](#), and buses primarily service Latinx and Black community members, with bus ridership estimated as "[63% Latino \[and\] 20% African American](#)". This means that reductions in transportation service disproportionately affect some of our most vulnerable populations, many of whom lack alternative transportation options.

Although ridership has declined overall, bus riders regularly experience crowded conditions or resulting delays due to overcrowding. Specifically, the 720 bus route, which runs through the heart of Koreatown on Wilshire Blvd., has the [highest ridership](#) in the Metro system and is notably [crowded](#). Overcrowding means that riders are unable to socially distance and often must wait for an emptier bus to arrive, increasing their transit time significantly. Reduced service does not curb transmission rates; rather, it forces riders to sit closer together and puts bus drivers at increased risk. Notably, [two Metro bus drivers died](#) due to complications from COVID, and [553 Metro workers](#) (369 employees, 184 contractors) have contracted the novel coronavirus.

Because our public transit system receives the majority of its funding from local, state, and federal sources, particularly Measure M, declining ridership profits should not seriously impact the Metro system service, and we ask that public transit services be restored for the welfare of our community members.

Respectfully,  
Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council