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January 9, 2013

Arthur T. Leahy  
Chief Executive Officer  
METRO  
One Gateway Plaza MS9925-1  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: 2013 Call for Projects Application (Broadway Streetscape Construction)

Dear Mr. Leahy:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) submits this letter of support for the Broadway Streetscape Construction project (“Project”) submitted in response to METRO’s 2013 Call for Projects. DLANC has consistently supported projects designed to further the City’s Bringing Back Broadway Initiative, including those that relate to improving the pedestrian environment along Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles.

DLANC believes the Project will enhance the pedestrian and transit experience along historic Broadway from 2nd Street to Olympic Boulevard and improve antiquated infrastructure along one of the City’s oldest historic corridors. The Project will encourage the re-use of historic buildings through its various elements, including: installing curb extension/transit platforms at intersections on both sides and ends of the block, widening sidewalks on the west side of the block, adding street trees in the sidewalk extension, adding trees and planting in bio-filtration planters on the curb extensions, improving street and pedestrian lighting by restoring the existing lights and adding more closely-spaced re-created lights, adding street and transit furniture, enhanced paving in the crosswalks, and adding decorative granite edge band paving that will be unique to historic Broadway and in keeping with the National Register Historic District.

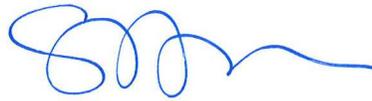
These Streetscape improvements are necessary because Broadway’s transit experience is currently confusing and feels unsafe due to the condition of infrastructure and lack of well-lit amenity and information-oriented transit stops. Curb and sidewalk extensions will shorten street crossing distances, improving safety and visibility for pedestrians and access to the confluence of transit serving Broadway. Extending curbs will also provide protected curbside parking/loading zones, further buffering pedestrians from vehicular traffic. These public realm improvements will encourage the use of transit, biking and walking, by providing user-friendly accessibility and enhanced transit and pedestrian experience.

Moreover, increased transit, bicycle and pedestrian use through these planned improvements will help the City of Los Angeles achieve compliance with SB375 by reducing vehicle trips and emissions from automobiles, especially as Downtown continues to attract new residents, workers and visitors. The Project also furthers the City's sustainability efforts by including opportunities for groundwater recharge and for integrating electronic and solar energies into way-finding and transportation demand management systems, thereby further reducing vehicle trips.

DLANC strongly encourages METRO to prioritize this Project as critical to Downtown, and fully fund the amount requested. Thank you.



Patricia Berman  
DLANC President



Simon Ha, AIA, LEED AP  
DLANC Planning & Land Use Committee Co-Chair

CC: Hon. Jose Huizar (Council District 14 c/o Jessica Wethington McLean)