



August 17, 2026

California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Letter of Support – Scope Modification Request: LA River Greenway, West San Fernando Valley Gap Closure (Vanalden Ave. to Balboa Blvd.)

Dear Commissioners and Executive Management,

On behalf of Move LA, we are writing to express our strong support for the City of Los Angeles' requested scope modification for Segments 1 and 2, Vanalden Ave. to Balboa Blvd., of the LA River Greenway Completion Project.

Move LA builds broad-based coalitions amongst diverse stakeholders seeking bold solutions to the region's biggest challenges—i.e., mobility, affordable housing, air quality, homelessness, and climate change. For years, the communities of the West San Fernando Valley, particularly in Reseda, Tarzana, and Van Nuys, have envisioned a connected, vibrant Los Angeles Riverway. Today, we stand on the threshold of making three crucial miles of that vision a reality. The LA River Greenway gap closure between Vanalden Avenue and Balboa Boulevard will transform how Angelenos move through their neighborhoods, giving families, commuters, and students a dedicated path to schools, parks, transit lines, and local businesses.

When construction bids for this project came in significantly higher than original estimates, the City faced a stark choice: cancel the contract and lose years of momentum or adapt. The proposed scope of modification represents a practical, pragmatic path forward. By installing high-visibility, signalized at-grade crossings, equipped with Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (HAWK signals) and upgraded ADA ramps, the City can immediately cut tens of millions in baseline construction costs without breaking the continuity of the trail.

Crucially, complex grade separations like the Orange Line Busway undercrossing and Caballero Creek bridge remain fully intact in the base contract where no surface alternatives exist. While deferring channel under crossings at five arterial streets is not our ideal long-term vision, it is a sensible value-engineering solution that protects precious grant funds and gets shovels in the ground now.

The urgency of this moment cannot be overstated. Beyond serving historically underserved, high-equity-need neighborhoods, this three-mile corridor borders the Sepulveda Basin.

Building a world-class active transportation network requires flexibility in the face of economic realities without losing sight of the ultimate goal. This modified scope preserves total trail connectivity, ensures user safety, and delivers an enduring greenway legacy for the San Fernando Valley.

We respectfully ask the California Transportation Commission to approve the requested Scope Modification Request at your August 20–21 meeting. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to active transportation in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Lipmen", is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Eli Lipmen
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Cc: Eric Bruins, Director of Strategic Initiatives, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
Marcelino Ascensio, Senior Civil Engineer, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering



