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## LADOT Awarded for Outstanding Projects by ASCE MLAB

Los Angeles, CA (June 16, 2021)

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The American Society of Civil Engineers Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch (ASCE MLAB) recognized the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) with four Outstanding Project Awards for their 2021 awards cycle. Two of LADOT's employees were also awarded with Outstanding Civil Engineer awards. All six awardees will be pushed forward to the next round of awards which considers projects and individuals in the entire state of California.

Many of the awards recognized LADOT's role in the City of Los Angeles COVID-19 pandemic relief effort.

"LADOT was on the ground moving our city forward when the world was put on pause," said LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds. "A majority of LADOT employees are frontline workers. Our field crews, traffic officers, engineers, and planners worked directly with LA communities to provide support and relief to our most vulnerable constituents. I'm proud to see their hard work recognized."

LADOT Covid Relief programs include the [LA Al Fresco](#), [Food/Retail Pick Up Zones](#), COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination Site Support, [Slow Streets Program](#), [LAUSD Grab n Go](#) support, LA County Food Drive support, and redesigned Signal Timing to help the most vulnerable residents and hardest hit businesses across the city. Economic development and community support programs prioritized BIPOC businesses and neighborhoods, [which were shown to be the most vulnerable communities](#) by our Pandemic Travel Behavior Study.

[The Pandemic Travel Behavior Study](#) was made possible by LADOT's GIS Strategic Plan, which leverages all available Department and city data to create a network to identify priority projects. Through this investment, LADOT was able to identify that areas with lower incomes and higher BIPOC populations saw little change or increased their travel largely due to essential working jobs. At the opposite end, wealthier areas were able to adhere to the safer at home orders and saw significant decreases in congestion and traffic levels. This study helped prioritize LADOT's pandemic response programs to distribute resources in areas of most need.

While the COVID-19 pandemic relief effort was a large part of LADOT's focus in 2020, we also worked around the restrictions of the pandemic to deliver mobility projects to our communities. The [5th Street & 6th Street Improvement Project](#), jointly coordinated with Metro, introduced improved bike lanes and part-time dedicated bus lanes along the major Downtown LA corridors. The project also featured



improved lane striping, wide safety buffers along bike lanes, new high-visibility crosswalks, and unique bikeway transitions at the project limits.

This recognition would not be possible without the hard work of hundreds of LADOT employees who continued to deliver excellent projects despite the difficulties introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic. LADOT is honored to receive these awards and extends gratitude to our amazing staff and community members for making this possible.

"At LADOT we value creative thinking and commitment to the communities we serve," said LADOT Chief Engineer Dan Mitchell. "I couldn't be prouder of the work our teams accomplished to better understand travel behavior and keep our city moving safely during an unprecedented year. These awards are shared by the entire LADOT family."

The free virtual awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 17th at 5:30pm. Please register here to attend: <https://www.ascemlab.org/event-details/mlab-awards-night-banquet>

[List of LADOT awards:](#)

**Outstanding Emergency Response / Preparedness Project for LADOT's COVID-19 Pandemic Response:**

LADOT's COVID-19 Emergency Response Programs worked directly with the communities in the City of Los Angeles to provide support and relief to their constituents. The AI Fresco Program, Food/Retail Pick Up Zones, COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination Site Support, Slow Streets Program, LAUSD Grab n Go support, LA County Food Drive support, and redesigned Signal Timing across the city helped the hardest hit businesses and Angelenos. The programs prioritized BIPOC businesses and neighborhoods, which were shown to be the most vulnerable communities.

**Outstanding Bikeways and Trails Project for the 5th Street & 6th Street Improvement Project:**

The 5th and 6th Street Improvement Project added protected bike lanes on 5th and 6th Streets from Spring Street to Central Avenue. This provides an important east-west link for east DTLA communities, such as Skid Row and the Industrial District, to access Main and Spring Street corridors. Peak hour bus lanes (active on weekdays from 7AM to 7PM) were installed on 5th and 6th Streets from Figueroa Street to Central Avenue, improving service for passengers along the corridor. Parking and minimal loading zones were reconfigured to improve safety.

**Outstanding Applied Mapping Technology Project for LADOT's GIS Strategic Plan:**

The LADOT GIS Strategic Plan leverages all available Department and city data to create a network to identify priority projects in relation to the Mayor's Green New Deal. Data relating to micro transit, EV charging in public right of way, equitability infrastructure, and more are analyzed to better provide services to underserved neighborhoods and constituents. The goal is to daylight data that could feed insight into other data sets and understand what their relationships can contribute to our services. This allows us to present data in different ways to different audiences and highlight areas of importance to them.

**Outstanding Big Data Project for the Pandemic Travel Behavior Study:**

As Los Angeles grappled with how to manage the effects of the COVID-19 health and economic crisis, LADOT launched a study of travel trends during the pandemic. Our analysis affirms that long-standing racial inequities, created through decades of policies meant to intentionally oppress black, brown and



other people of color, that impact how people travel have only deepened in recent months, impacting how many Angelenos in need get around.

**Outstanding ASCE Younger Civil Engineer** - Brian Phan

**Outstanding Civil Engineer in Community Service** - Joan Hsu

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## About LADOT Transit

LADOT leads transportation planning, project delivery, and operations in the City of Los Angeles. We work together and collaborate to deliver a safe, livable, and well-run transportation system in the city and region. Our vision is for all people in Los Angeles to have access to safe and affordable transportation choices that treat everyone with dignity and support vibrant, inclusive communities.

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