**PLATEFORME ANTI METRO (PAM)**

**c/o ACIM**

**Lime Street , Bell Village**

3rd July 2017

The Honourable Nando Bodha

Minister of Public Infrastructure and
Land Division

Moorgate House

Port Louis

Sir,

**Request for a meeting for an Experiment on Bus Travel time from Curepipe to Port Louis**

The Platform Anti Metro has been constituted as a result of national, widespread controversy on the choice of the Metro- express to solve a congestion problem between Curepipe and Port- Louis. Amongst the many controversial issues we have been raising one has been the journey time between Curepipe and Port- Louis. We have been systematically stating that the journey time of the Metro Express would take at least 1hr 20 minutes.

**You seem to have recently indirectly confirmed our statement on the journey time in Parliament**

We explain. In your Ministry’s budget intervention speech in Parliament you mentioned that the maximum metro speed would be 25km/hr in towns and 80km /hr ( ?) in rural areas. Since the metro will pass between Curepipe and Port- Louis, we are therefore talking of the maximum speed of 25km/hr.

That being the case, this would therefore mean that at a maximum speed of 25 km/hr the Metro – Express would take **more than an hour to reach Port-Louis, if it does not stop at any station in between**. **Then with 19 stations** in between and deceleration and acceleration plus stop over at each station, **this would take at least 1hour 20 minutes** if we give a maximum of 1 minute for the above factors.

How then would the travel time encourage diversion of passengers from buses to metro? We are not talking of the discomfort of more than 70% passengers standing on peak hours yet as compare to 90% sitting in buses...

Under the circumstances and in order to have an evidence based understanding of the dynamics of bus travel time between Curepipe and Port- Louis, the Platform Anti- Metro is urgently requesting that an experiment be conducted to estimate bus travel time between Curepipe and Port- Louis. For that purpose we propose that your Ministry helps in the implementation of this experiment by reserving a dedicated lane for a few hours on an agreed day to see how long a bus would take to travel from Curepipe to Port- Louis.

It is interesting to note that on the Tuesday following Easter; buses took 35 minutes maximum during peak hour to travel from Curepipe to reach Port- Louis.

We are sure that it has been on the basis of travel time factor, amongst others, that past consultants of other studies on the best alternative mode of transport for Mauritius and that of the World Bank’s by J.Richmond that proposition for the choice of Busway had been retained and proposed to Government as the best choice.

For the sake of evidence –based understanding and public interest, The Platform is therefore seeking a meeting with you to discuss on this issue and our proposed experiment.

We hope that for the sake of transparency of policies based on clear evidence on at least one indicator, pending that of others, that you would kindly and urgently give us a meeting.

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( for the Platform anti- Metro)