

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

March 14, 2008

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 07-4123
Assignment No: 08-01-2648

CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION SESSION INSTRUCTIONS TO DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY:

At its July 2007 Special Goal Setting session the Council identified Transportation as one of five policy issues to be discussed at a single topic Council Meeting in the coming year. On January 29, 2008, the City Council conducted a one-day hearing on transportation issues impacting the City.

During the single topic session, the Council considered presentations from two City departments relative to their current efforts to implement effective transportation programs. Presentations by local and regional transportation experts were given on several topics, including, the status of traffic and transportation in Los Angeles, new and potential sources of revenue and transportation strategic planning activities. Based on the presentations provided, the Councilmembers asked questions and issued instructions to departments.

Transportation Issues

The different expertise and leadership backgrounds of the panelists provided the City Council with information to obtain a detailed understanding of the key transportation issues facing the City of Los Angeles.

Rita Robinson (General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation) and Gail Goldberg (General Manager, Los Angeles Department of City Planning) updated the Council on the current impacts of transportation and traffic on land use and development in Los Angeles. The panel communicated to the Council their respective roles in improving the quality of life and travel for residents in the City. They discussed the development of a closer relationship between the two Departments to more effectively utilize staff resources and produce transportation planning results.

The second panel was entitled "New and Potential Funding Sources" and participants included: Michael Turner (Metro), Ian Simpson (Deloitte & Touche), Denny Zane (Los Angeles Transportation Funding Collaborative), and Genevieve Guiliano (Professor of Planning and Development in the School of Policy, Planning and Development at USC). Each panelist offered a unique perspective on the status of transportation funding and the need for innovative financing structures that could serve as new revenue sources. All the panelists spoke of the urgent need to identify new funding sources to meet the growing need for more transportation projects and programs in an era of declining federal and state transportation funds.

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TRANSPORTATION**

The final panel entitled “Strategic Planning for Transportation” discussed past experiences and current progress in transportation planning strategies for metropolitan regions. The panelists included: John Rist (City of Portland, Office of Transportation), Al Foxx (City of Baltimore, Department of Transportation) and Alan Wapner (Councilmember, City of Ontario), representing the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The transportation strategic planning efforts undertaken by these agencies offered several helpful lessons for Los Angeles with regard to public-private partnerships, short/long term budgeting and planning.

Councilmember Greuel concluded the meeting with a discussion of the City’s Draft Transportation Strategic Plan, and summarized the public comments received over the last two months. The majority of the responses from the public supported the City’s effort to prepare the Plan and many individuals provided suggestions on ways to improve various aspects of transportation in the City of Los Angeles. The City Council then approved the Plan’s draft Mission Statement and Goals, as follows:

1. Increase mobility and accessibility in Los Angeles.
2. Transform Los Angeles into an environmentally sustainable city that serves as a beacon.
3. Protect the quality of life in neighborhoods through sensible land use planning and thoughtful management of the city’s streets.
4. Ensure that the City’s transportation system is safe and reliable.
5. Promote the long-term competitiveness of Los Angeles as a center for international trade.
6. Develop sufficient and stable transportation funding to maintain and rehabilitate the existing transportation system.

Councilmember Instructions

This Office was instructed to compile the list of instructions to City departments and to submit the list to the Council for subsequent referral to the Transportation Committee. Attachment A to this report lists each instruction, noting the Councilmember who issued the instruction.

In preparing responses, departments should review the applicable portions of the meeting on the City’s video-on-demand service for additional detail and context. In order to initiate the processing of instructions, the CLA recommends that the Council instruct each department to report to the Transportation committee by referencing the instruction, as noted on Attachment A. Furthermore, the CLA recommends that the Council instruct the CLA and the City Clerk to work with the Transportation Committee to process and monitor departmental responses, as determined by the Committee. Finally, key transportation issues and resulting initiatives should be forwarded to the City Council for consideration upon completion of review by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

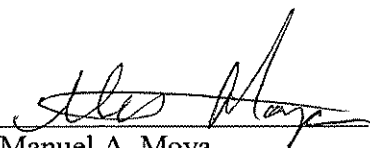
The Chief Legislative Analyst recommends that the City Council:

1. INSTRUCT each department identified on Attachment A (attached) to report to the Transportation Committee, as specified.
2. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Clerk to coordinate the processing and monitoring of departmental responses associated with Attachment A.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund.

GFM:LMO:IS:mam
Attachment: Attachment A



Manuel A. Moya
Analyst

ATTACHMENT A

Single Topic Meeting on Transportation January 29, 2008

Council Instructions To Departments:

Transportation & Traffic in Los Angeles

1. (Weiss) Report back on how the Department of City Planning(DCP) and Department of Transportation (LADOT) can combine efforts on the West Los Angeles community plan.
2. (Greuel) Direct LADOT and DCP to report back with a status report on a previous Greuel-Rosendahl motion (CF: 07-2419) relative to traffic counts.
3. (Greuel) Report back as to how the Department of Transportation and the Planning Department will work together to address the transportation aspects of planning in Los Angeles.
4. (Garcetti) In order to increase walkability along Metro Red Line stations, direct LADOT to develop a proposal for turning Western Ave into a pedestrian friendly corridor, as part of a broader strategy to obtain funding from Metro's Call for Projects.
5. (Garcetti) Direct LADOT to investigate the feasibility of a 24-hour public transit information system.
6. (Garcetti) Direct LADOT and DCP to study park-and-ride lots around Metro Red Line stops to encourage the usage of the subway.
7. (Garcetti) Direct LADOT and the CAO to study the feasibility of providing incentives for City employees and private businesses to increase carpooling.
8. (Garcetti) Direct LADOT to work with the CLA, CRA and DCP to create a valet district in Hollywood.
9. (Garcetti) Direct the CLA and DOT to work with the Hollywood Property Alliance to create a Hollywood Transportation website as a one-stop shop for people to access transit information in Hollywood.
10. (Garcetti) Direct LADOT to examine the feasibility of installing wireless internet access in Commuter Express and DASH busses as part of the City's Transportation Strategic Plan.

11. **(Reyes)** Direct LADOT to examine how to better match funding sources to the goals outlined in the Mission Statement of the City's Transportation Strategic Plan, in order to achieve more funding for public transit, increased DASH service, bicycle and pedestrian amenities.
12. **(Reyes)** Direct LADOT to report with recommendations to change the method of data collection to improve prioritization of transportation projects that accommodate all users rather than vehicular traffic only.
13. **(Reyes)** Direct the DCP to report on how it can play a greater role in transportation planning.
14. **(Reyes)** Direct LADOT to report on the new transportation planning concept that less signage and signalization on the roads may actually enhance safety by forcing drivers to slow down and pay attention, as well as other ways the City can enhance public safety on city streets.
15. **(Reyes)** Direct LADOT and DCP to detail how the General Plan Transportation Element update will interface with the City's Transportation Strategic Plan.
16. **(Reyes)** Direct LADOT and DCP to report on the coordination efforts the City is pursuing with regional agencies, such as Metro and SCAG and to identify innovative strategies, such as congestion pricing, reduced and shared parking, road diets, etc., that appear to be the most viable for the City of Los Angeles.
17. **(Reyes)** Since much of the region's existing rail and goods movement corridors run along the Los Angeles River, direct LADOT and DCP to report on ways to design a transportation system that coexists and provides multiple benefits to the Los Angeles River while serving transportation needs.
18. **(LaBonge)** Direct LADOT to improve the City's taxi system by establishing a "red car" or a Metro Red Line taxi system that would take travelers to within a quarter of a mile of a subway station.
19. **(LaBonge)** Direct LADOT to report back on ways to keep "big traffic," (large volumes of traffic) on "big streets," (such as Roscoe, Sherman Way, Victory Boulevards) to make the flow of cars more sensible.
20. **(LaBonge)** Direct LADOT to report back on freeway improvements that can be made to clear up "pinch points" (points of chronic traffic congestion) on local streets, such as Vermont Avenue, Silverlake Boulevard and Glendale Union Avenue.

21. **(LaBonge)** Instruct LADOT to report on ways to seek local funding opportunities with other jurisdictions that would allow Los Angeles to build future transportation projects.
22. **(Rosendahl)** Direct LADOT to report with a proposal to develop a bike path in Mandeville Canyon.
23. **(Hahn)** Direct the CLA to include a self-help funding clause in the City's Federal legislative agenda relative to transportation funding formulas that would credit local jurisdictions that have taxed themselves to fund transportation projects.

New & Potential Funding Sources

24. **(Greuel)** Instruct the CLA to report with the City's transportation legislative priorities before the State Legislature's February 22, 2008 deadline for new bill introduction.
25. **(Hahn)** Direct the CLA and LADOT to report on the steps necessary to include the Harbor Line rail proposal in Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan.