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February 24, 2010

Transportation Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
c/o Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1010  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Transportation Committee Meeting-February 24, 2010

RE: CF# 09-2672 CDs 2, 4, 5

Board of Transportation Commissioners report and Ordinance relative to a speed limit revision for Riverside Drive between Clybourn Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard.

Honorable Council Members;

I am against raising the speed limit from 35 to 40 mph for the proposed segment of Riverside Drive from Clybourn Ave (the Burbank boundary) to Van Nuys Blvd. **Our Neighborhood Council (GTLNC), The Toluca Lake Homeowners Association and others have previously sent you opposition letters to the increase of speed in our community.** I would also like to focus my comments on our Toluca Lake community which runs along Riverside Drive from Clybourn to Vineland Ave. This area contains our beloved Toluca Lake Village with shops and shoppers most of whom are pedestrians from nearby residences.

Unfortunately, over the years Riverside Drive has become a thoroughfare of commuters from the Burbank Media District studios such as Disney, Warner Bros, ABC and NBC. Therefore, we have a lot of traffic going back and forth with drivers in a hurry to either get to work or get back home. We have had numerous accidents with pedestrian injuries. If the speed was increased it would make it even more difficult for cars to stop when a pedestrian enters one of our crosswalks and could result in more injuries and even worse, possible fatalities. **It should be noted that the speed limit for the Burbank portion of the Toluca Lake Village (i.e. at the Clybourn Ave boundary) is 30 mph. There must be compelling reasons why Burbank designated the immediate adjoining area at this lower speed. It would think it's because of Safety!**

Our resourceful and hardworking Councilmember, Tom LaBonge, arranged a meeting this week between LADOT and LAPD Valley Traffic and key members of our community. **At the meeting LAPD Valley Traffic Officer Williams stated that as there are several traffic signals for the Riverside Drive stretch between Clybourn Ave and Vineland Ave the LAPD would agree to leaving the speed limit at 35 mph for this segment with the understanding by the community that this short stretch (about 1 mile) would not have radar enforcement. While we understand this as a trade-off, this is what we want!** (If we can't have both keeping the current speed and radar enforcement).

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**Our fine Police Department could still enforce other traffic violations in our Village community.** As an example, a recent LAPD sting operation at one of our crosswalks cited 84 drivers over a two hour period for not giving pedestrians the right-of- way.

Therefore, I respectfully request the honorable committee to consider maintaining the current speed of 35 mph on Riverside Drive from Clybourn Ave. to Vineland Ave.

Thank you.

Yours respectfully,

Frank F. Banyai  
Member, Public Safety Committee, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council  
Member, Board of Directors, Toluca Lake Homeowners Association

Copies to:  
Honorable Bill Rosendahl, Chairman  
Honorable Tom LaBonge, Vice-Chairman  
Honorable Richard Alarcon  
Honorable Paul Koretz  
Honorable Bernard C. Parks