

Dr. Theodore T. Alexander, Jr., Science Center School (ASCS)
School Site Council
3737 South Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90000

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Jose Huizar, Chair
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: MyFigueroa Streetscape Project

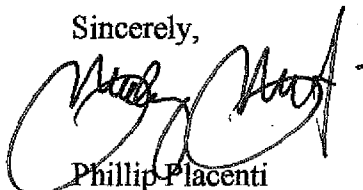
Dear Chairman Huizar and members of the PLUM Committee:

We, members of the Dr. Theodore T. Alexander Jr. Science Center School Site Council, strongly and unanimously support the MyFigueroa Streetscape Project. Our elementary school, the result of a partnership between the California Science Center and LAUSD, serves more than 600 students from neighborhoods along the Figueroa Corridor, many of whom walk and ride bikes to school every day.

The protected bike lanes, pedestrian lighting, widened sidewalks, and enhanced bus shelters will significantly enhance safety for our students and their families on the way to and from school. The MyFigueroa complete streets project will transform an intimidating auto-dominated corridor into a more beautiful and balanced pedestrian and bike-friendly environment.

Figueroa St. is particularly important because it connects our families to a constellation of LA's great institutions including: Exposition Park, the Coliseum, the California Science Center, USC, Staples Center and LA Live. We are incredibly excited that our students and the broader South LA community will be among the first to benefit from cycle tracks. Facilitating active transportation to school and to these destinations is critical to the health and safety of our students and their families. Therefore we urge you to implement the MyFigueroa Streetscape Project without delay.

Sincerely,



Phillip Placenti
Chair

On Behalf of the ASCS School Site Council

cc: The Honorable Gilbert A Cedillo
The Honorable Mitchell Englander
The Honorable Curren Price



USC Bicycle Coalition, a
chapter of the
Los Angeles County Bicycle
Coalition

bikeusc@usc.edu | usc.edu/bike | [@bikeusc](https://twitter.com/bikeusc)

January 26, 2014

To: Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org,
Councilmember.Cedillo@lacity.org,
Councilmember.Englander@lacity.org
Cc: Councilmember.Price@lacity.org

Re: USC Bicycle Coalition's Strong Support for My Figueroa

On January 28, the City Council Planning & Land Use Committee is considering *My Figueroa*, which includes Los Angeles' first protected bike lane or "cycletrack," along with numerous other transit, bike and pedestrian safety improvements which will create one of the few truly "Complete Streets" in Downtown and South LA. If successfully implemented, we could see streets across Los Angeles transformed to better meet the needs and safety of all who travel on them. Importantly for USC, the *My Figueroa* project will considerably improve the safety of the large and growing number of USC students, staff, faculty and community members who walk, bike and ride transit at far higher levels than the rest of the LA population, thanks to the excellent access to Expo light rail stations, flat terrain, high density and mixture of uses, and limited access to automobiles and parking.


Figueroa provides a vital connection between USC and Downtown to the north and Exposition Park to the south. Students living both north and south of campus walk and bike in extremely large numbers on Figueroa to get to campus as well as local and downtown businesses, cultural and recreation venues. Unfortunately, the lack of a bicycle lane, the high speed car traffic, and the heavy volume of buses on Figueroa pose significant hazards to USC cyclists and pedestrians. The campus' South LA neighbors face similar dangers when they travel to cultural, sports or educational events on or near the USC campus. Mapping of recent vehicle collisions involving pedestrian and bicycles shows a very high concentration along Figueroa, particularly near the USC campus where volumes are highest. Surveys for the recently completed USC Bicycle Master Plan documented these high rates of cyclist and pedestrian injury, compounded by the fact that many USC students arrive on campus with no previous cycling experience in urban environments. The protected bike lanes on *My Figueroa* will provide an essential resource for these students to develop their cycling skills as they explore the range of great shopping, cultural and recreation resources available north and south of the campus.

As a coalition of USC students, faculty and staff, including many USC neighborhood residents, the USC Bicycle Coalition (USCBC) is strongly committed to the successful integration of the *My Figueroa* project, the Jefferson Boulevard Streetscape bike lanes, and other bicycle access improvements around the USC campus which provide essential, affordable and healthy

mobility options while improving the livability and sustainability of our community. We urge you to recommend to Council adoption of the *My Figueroa* project as proposed, including the protected bikeways which will unlock access to the enormous riches of the greater downtown and USC community area for all.

Almost all other major cities in the U.S. have successfully implemented protected bike lanes along major thoroughfares, giving people mobility options and improving local business with every project. We know that it will also work here in Los Angeles, and we are incredibly excited that South LA will be the first community to benefit from this investment in advanced bicycle infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew González". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew González
President
USC Bicycle Coalition