

Bicycle Advisory Committee of the City of Los Angeles

October 8, 2013

Councilmember José Huizar
Chair, Planning and Land Use
Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Mike Bonin
Chair, Transportation Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: My Figueroa Streetscape Project
Council File #13-1124: Motion Submitted by Councilmember Price
Council File #13-1225: CEQA Appeal by Shammass Auto Group**

Dear Councilmembers Huizar and Bonin:

On October 1, 2013, the Bicycle Advisory Committee of the City of Los Angeles voted 10-0 to adopt the following motion:

WHEREAS, the My Figueroa project includes significant bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the Figueroa Corridor between Downtown Los Angeles and Exposition Park;

WHEREAS, by providing bicyclists with an option other than mixed-flow lanes where bicyclists are expected to share the same road space as buses and fast-moving motor vehicles, the My Figueroa project will encourage bicycling in furtherance of the 2010 Bicycle Plan's goals to "increase the number and types of bicyclists who bicycle in the City" and to "make every street a safe place to ride a bicycle;"

WHEREAS, the My Figueroa project includes the first protected bicycle lanes in the City of Los Angeles, in furtherance of the 2010 Bicycle Plan's Policy 1.1.7 and implementing program to "develop a pilot project to test the use of a protected bicycle lane on [a] Major Class II . . . roadway[.];"

WHEREAS, the My Figueroa project provides key linkages between and among some of Los Angeles' most important destinations, including Downtown Los Angeles, LA Live, the Staple Center, the Convention Center, the University of Southern California, and the museums and other cultural, recreational and other institutions of Exposition Park, in furtherance of the 2010 Bike Plan's policy and program to "establish a Backbone Network . . . to provide access to Downtown Los Angeles . . . and community and citywide amenities on . . . Major Class II roadway facilities;"

WHEREAS, the My Figueroa project was developed with extensive community outreach and participation, including from the business community;

WHEREAS, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is significantly underfunded in the City of Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, dedicated funding of approximately \$20 million exists for the My Figueroa project that cannot be used for any other purpose;

WHEREAS, any delay in construction will cause the loss of funding for the My Figueroa project;

WHEREAS, after elimination of redevelopment agencies, the City of Los Angeles should not forgo any funds that will enhance the economic vitality of former redevelopment areas such as the Figueroa Corridor;

WHEREAS, studies of the economic impacts of bicycle infrastructure show that local businesses benefit from such infrastructure;


and WHEREAS, customers who drop off vehicles for repairs and service at Figueroa Avenue automobile dealerships are by definition "car free" or "car light" on at least a temporary basis, and thus would benefit from improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure;

THEREFORE, the Bicycle Advisory Committee of the City of Los Angeles:

1. Supports immediate implementation of the My Figueroa project as approved in the August 23, 2013 Notice of General Manager's Determination and further described in the August 7, 2013 Final Environmental Impact Report;
2. Opposes any delay that might possibly jeopardize funding for the My Figueroa project; and
3. Encourages the further collection of data after implementation of the My Figueroa project to provide information that may be applied to similar projects throughout Los Angeles.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee looks forward to your continued support for this important project. If you have any questions, please contact me or your appointee(s) to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Jacobberger
Chair, Bicycle Advisory Committee

cc: Nat Gale, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Mowery, Senior Bicycle Coordinator
City Clerk, Index Section (for inclusion in Council File)
Deborah Murphy, Pedestrian Advisory Committee