


DATE: August 6, 2013

TO: Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee
Of the Los Angeles City Council

FROM: Councilmember Joe Buscaino 
Chair, Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee

Councilmember Mitchell Englander 
Council President Pro Tempore

SUBJECT: **Save Our Streets LA**

On January 9, 2013, the Council considered the Motion (Englander/Buscaino – Krekorian, et al.) (CF 13-1300-S1), relative to placing a \$3 billion Street Repair and Safety General Obligation Bond Program on the May 2013 General Municipal Election Ballot. Consideration of this matter was continued to January 15, 2013, at which time the Council adopted an amending motion (Buscaino – Englander) (CF 13-1300-S1), as follows:

1. Request the City Attorney to propose and advise on potential ballot language for a Street Repair and Safety General Obligation Bond Program to be placed on a future ballot, yet to be determined; and
2. Refer this matter to the Public Works Committee to allow more time for study, debate and public input and outreach on this proposal.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and status report to the Council on the outreach initiatives undertaken in response to the amending motion (Buscaino – Englander) to inform the public and to solicit public input on the condition of city streets, maintenance and repair costs to achieve an overall average street network grade of “B or better” and sources of potential funding for such an effort. In addition, this report includes instructions to departments for submission of additional information.

Special Public Works Committee Meetings

The Public Works Committee held six (6) evening hearings devoted specifically to the subject of the Save Our Streets LA (formerly known as Los Angeles Emergency Local Street Safety and Traffic Improvement Measure) initiative in various areas of the City including: Los Angeles City Hall; Harbor (San Pedro); Valley (Van Nuys City Hall); Westside (West Los Angeles Municipal Building); South (Constituent Services Center); and Eastside (Boyle Heights). At each of these meetings the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, the President of the Board of Public Works, the Director of the Bureau of Street Services and the City Engineer, or their staff, began each session with a comprehensive presentation on the state of the condition of city streets, sources of potential funding and what these sources are currently funding and the concept of a General Obligation Bond to fund a 10-year work program to fix the condition of failed (F) and nearly-failed (D) streets. Following city staff presentations, the

public was invited to ask questions, and voice their concerns or support for the program. Everyone in attendance wishing to speak to the Committee was afforded an opportunity to do so. Speakers included individuals and representatives of various groups including: citizens, property owners, chambers of commerce, labor, Neighborhood Councils, universities, disabled, bicyclists and environmentalists.

Through these efforts, the Committee heard numerous issues of concern to these groups and individuals. Generally, issues/concerns presented can be summarized into the following categories: Cost burden equity among recipients of benefits, including other taxation/fee structures to fund costs; fairness of taxing property owners only; and transparency of program management and independent program oversight. We believe there are issues that must be addressed before moving forward with a potential plan to generate sufficient funding to complete the repairs needed to achieve an overall average "B or better" grade, without any "D's and F's" for the city's street network, including: types of projects to be included in the program; funding options; public oversight and transparency of the management of the SOSLA program to minimize cost and maximize cooperation and efficiency among City departments and contractors to complete the work program on time, and within budget.

In addition, Councilmembers Buscaino and Englander held numerous joint and individual meetings with representatives of Neighborhood Councils, Chambers of Commerce, labor organizations, businesses, bicycle enthusiasts, environmentalists, academia and pedestrians, to inform these groups and to seek out their ideas and to address concerns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council approve the following recommendations, relative to submission of a comprehensive report from the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), within 45 days, in support of the Council's analysis of the proposal for Save Our Streets LA:

- 1) INSTRUCT the CAO and the CLA, with the assistance of the Department of Public Works, Bureaus of Street Services and Engineering, to report back with more detail on the funding requirement, and potential funding options, to achieve an overall average Citywide street system pavement grade of B or better, with further breakdown and analysis by Select Streets vs. Residential Streets.
- 2) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from the Bureaus of Engineering & Street Services to provide a preliminary work plan that identifies D & F grade streets that would be bond-eligible, and include a preliminary construction schedule.
- 3) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services to provide a long term pavement preservation plan to maintain streets in an overall average grade of B or better, using pavement preservation best practices.
- 4) INSTRUCT the CAO & CLA to report back on the feasibility of generating funding through taxing or charging fees on vehicle owners, such as a local vehicle

registration fee, local gas tax, or tolls. Further, if obstructions are identified, provide solutions or, at a minimum, a description of actions necessary to enable such alternative funding alternatives to be feasible.

- 5) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to report back on the availability of any federal or state grant programs that could potentially provide supplementary funding for this measure.
- 6) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to report back on the feasibility of borrowing against future revenues to provide upfront funding so that the street repair work program may be completed within a 10 year period.
- 7) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to report on long-term funding strategies to replace the ongoing decline of Gas Tax revenue and the loss of revenue from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) and Prop 1B.
- 8) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from the Bureau of Sanitation to report back with recommendations for dedicating a portion of a future Waste Hauling Franchise Fee to street repair and maintenance (CF 10-1797-S15 - Amending Motion 23D).
- 9) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with the assistance of the Housing Department, to report on the feasibility of amending the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) to allow the pass through of voter-approved property tax increases for the purpose of repairing city streets, as a part of a comprehensive review to the RSO (CF 07-0883).
- 10) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services, and the General Services Department, to report back on the feasibility of using alternative paving materials capable of reflecting heat from sunlight, thus reducing the "heat island" effect created by asphalt.
- 11) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services to report back on the feasibility of using concrete, in place of asphalt, to repair existing concrete streets outside of official Historic Preservation Zones.
- 12) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from the Bureau of Street Service to provide cost estimates, and report back on the feasibility of including the following elements into the SOS LA program
 - a) Sidewalk repair; and
 - b) Alley construction and repair.
- 13) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from LADOT, Department of City Planning, Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, and Bureau of Engineering, to report back with recommendations for structuring the Save Our Streets LA program to serve all road users, including motorists, transit users, bicyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users, children and the elderly (complete streets).
- 14) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from the Department of Water and Power, Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Engineering,

LADOT and the Planning Department, to report back on the feasibility and potential locations for creating "Green Streets," similar to the Elmer Avenue Project in Council District 6.

- 15) A. INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Sanitation, Department of Transportation and the Department of City Planning, to report on best practices associated with "Great Streets" programs, particularly in Washington, D.C., as well as potential funding sources, including one-time funding, that could be used to launch such a program in the City of Los Angeles. (CF 13-0600 - Motion 18).
B. INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, and respectfully REQUEST the Mayor's Office, to report on the potential to implement a Great Streets program in Los Angeles, and next steps required to pursue such a program, including management responsibility.
- 16) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from LADOT and the Bureau of Engineering, to report back on potential locations where underused streets or alleys may be vacated to reduce ongoing maintenance requirements.
- 17) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to report back on pending state & federal legislation that could impact this program, including efforts to lower the required voter approval threshold for infrastructure bonds.
- 18) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to report back with recommendations on the structure of an administrative oversight committee, and a true citizen's oversight committee.
- 19) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Engineering, LADOT and City Planning, to report back with recommendations for new policies to structure development agreements to provide funding for needed street and alley repair and maintenance in the areas included in such agreements.
- 20) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance of Bureau of Street Services and Bureau of Contract Administration, to report back with recommendations for modifying the Street Damage Restoration Fee, to increase funding for street repair and maintenance, and incentivize utilities to better coordinate with the City and each other, to reduce the number and frequency of street cuts. (CF 12-1825 & CF 11-1935)
- 21) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to assist the Bureau of Engineering to develop an RFQ to establish a list of qualified contractors eligible to perform work associated with the Save Our Streets LA program.
- 22) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with assistance from Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Street Services, and Bureau of Contract Administration, to report back with recommendations for procuring a new, cloud-based, public right-of-way activity coordination software system. (CF 13-0612).

- 23) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA, with the assistance of the Bureau of Engineering, to report on the City's track record of delivering General Obligation Bond projects on-time and under-budget.
- 24) INSTRUCT the CAO and CLA to report on the projected overall economic impact of SOSLA including, but not limited to the following: private sector job creation; increased tax revenue; potential to decrease claims filed with the City for personal injury and damage to vehicles and other property; and potential reduced maintenance costs to the City vehicle fleet.