



losangeleswalks.org

hello@losangeleswalks.org
508.916.7863
830 Traction Ave. #3
Los Angeles, CA 90013

January 4, 2018

Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr. and Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email: richard.williams@lacity.org

RE: CF # 14-0163-S3 Sidewalk Repair Program

Dear Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr. and City Council Members,

Los Angeles Walks strongly encourages the Los Angeles City Council to **keep the Vision Zero High Injury Network in the Sidewalk Repair Program prioritization methodology.**

Los Angeles Walks serves on the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) Sidewalk Repair Program Community Advisory Committee and leads the LA Vision Zero Alliance. We disagree with the Budget and Finance Council Committee’s recommendation to remove proximity to the Vision Zero High Injury Network from consideration when prioritizing sidewalk repair requests across the City of Los Angeles. The Committee’s preference for Incident Reports -- the number of claims received from the City Attorney’s Office and the number of service requests received via MyLA311 and Safe Sidewalks LA online -- is problematic.

Los Angeles Walks urges the Los Angeles City Council to retain the High Injury Network in the Sidewalk Repair Program prioritization scheme for three reasons:

- **Social Equity:** The Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN) is a tool developed by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) that identifies streets with a higher incidence of severe and fatal traffic collisions, particularly among vulnerable individuals (older adults, youth, people walking and bicycling) and particularly in communities that experience health disparities - predominantly low-income communities and communities of color. The public health data that informs the HIN tells the story of historical disinvestment, underinvestment, and neglect in the design, construction, and maintenance of streets and sidewalks in these neighborhoods.



losangeleswalks.org

@losangeleswalks

@heyimwalkinghere

The Vision Zero High Injury Network is the only element of the Sidewalk Repair Program prioritization scheme that considers social equity. By removing the High Injury Network from the Sidewalk Repair Program methodology and putting more emphasis on Incident Reports (i.e. claims and service requests) the City favors communities where residents are more likely to file claims and more likely to submit service requests: those communities with more access to information and more time, knowledge, and skills to report needed repairs. Removing the High Injury Network would lead to the inequitable distribution of public resources and would perpetuate the neglect of particular neighborhoods that most need and deserve infrastructure investment.

- **Program Alignment:** The HIN identifies where LADOT has planned or completed projects that provide safety benefits to people walking. A consideration of proximity to the HIN when prioritizing sidewalk repair requests offers a chance for interdepartmental coordination, and a more holistic approach to improving the built environment. When BOE sidewalk repairs align with LADOT intersection and roadway enhancements, an entire path of travel improves, not just one aspect of a network. With program alignment, people experience a more complete, meaningful, and noticeable quality-of-life improvement from door to door, rather than simply from door to corner.
- **Stakeholder Support:** The Bureau of Engineering Community Advisory Committee, a group BOE assembled precisely to provide critical stakeholder input on the development of the Sidewalk Repair Program, recommended including the High Injury Network in the Program’s prioritization scheme. Additionally, LADOT determined the criteria that would establish the City’s High Injury Network through a series of stakeholder engagement sessions and surveys. The priorities of these groups and individuals should not be discounted, but should be upheld by our policy-makers as important contributions.

Again, Los Angeles Walks urges City Council members to keep the Vision Zero High Injury Network in the Sidewalk Repair Program prioritization methodology.

We appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me at emilia@losangeleswalks.org or 508-916-7863.

Sincerely,



Emilia Crotty
Executive Director, Los Angeles Walks

Cc:
Honorable City Councilmember Gil Cedillo, City Council District 1
Honorable City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, City Council District 2



Honorable City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, City Council District 3
Honorable City Councilmember David Ryu, City Council District 4
Honorable City Councilmember Paul Koretz, City Council District 5
Honorable City Councilmember Nury Martinez, City Council District 6
Honorable City Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, City Council District 7
Honorable City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, City Council District 8
Honorable City Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., City Council District 9
Honorable City Councilmember Mike Bonin, City Council District 11
Honorable City Councilmember Mitch Englander, City Council District 12
Honorable City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, City Council District 13
Honorable City Councilmember Jose Huizar, City Council District 14
Honorable City Councilmember Joe Buscaino, City Council District 15
Los Angeles City Clerk



everyone walks in L.A.

losangeleswalks.org

  @losangeleswalks

 @heyimwalkinghere