Brogin Family

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July 16, 2017

By Email Only

Office of Councilmember David Ryu
Attention: Mr. Justin Orenstein

RE: COUNCIL FILE: 14-1169
FOR INCLUSION IN COMMUNITY COMMENTS FILE FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Orenstein:

I am writing to you as a retired urban planner, a long-time member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), someone who has worked with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since 1977, and as a resident of Sherman Oaks.

I have followed the issue of the State of California requiring that potential traffic impacts are assessed solely on the Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) in association with the project. The longstanding use of the project's affect on the area Level of Service (LOS), will no longer be considered in assessments in any manner.

CEQA will now require only the VMT assessment method as will the City of Los Angeles.

It is my educated knowledge and extensive experience by which I say that it is a terrible mistake to exclude the LOS information from traffic assessments
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I have read the recent SOHA letter sent to Councilman Ryu, on this topic, and I wholeheartedly agree with their observations and comments.

Furthermore, it makes far more sense to consider the VMT assessment as an augmentation to the LOS assessment, if nothing else, to see the progress of Transportation Demand Management programs.

While some would say that the VMT assessment process, as approved by the Legislature, is a done deal, the City of Los Angeles is such a significant enough player in this state to suggest strongly, that the VMT process, alone as the only traffic impact assessment is insufficient to protect the quality of life and commerce of this city.

I sincerely hope that my Councilmember, Mr. Ryu, will take the leadership position to bring sensibility and reality back into the discussion of the potential significant traffic impacts in our City.

Sincerely,

Wendy M. Brogin, AICP