



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

June 3, 2015

Councilman Joe Buscaino
Chairman, Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
200 N. Spring Street Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 6-3-15
Submitted in PWGR Committee
Council File No: 14-1571-S1
Item No.: 3
Deputy: CD 3

Re: Council File 14-1571-S1; Street Cut Moratorium

Councilman Buscaino:

One of the most frequent constituent concerns in my district and throughout the City of Los Angeles is the need to repair streets and improve the City's ability to maintain streets that are damaged by construction and heavy loads. Thank you for your work to address these issues via the Street Cut Moratorium as the Chairman of the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee. Because it is crucial to support street repair while simultaneously facilitating the upgrade of telecommunications infrastructure, I support the recommendations in the report by the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and request that a categorical exemption for major telecommunications projects be adopted as part of the committee report.

As you know, the City is on the verge of releasing a request for proposals for CityLinkLA, a citywide Wi-Fi and wireline project which will result in the most significant one-time build out of virtual infrastructure the nation has ever seen. The availability of high-speed affordable internet is a vital part of the City's national and global competitiveness. It drives jobs creation, promotes innovation, expands the economy and supports improved education, health care and public safety. Ensuring the viability of telecommunications infrastructure is very important, and as such the City must balance the cost benefit of various fees and costs in the build-out.

The selected CityLinkLA bidder(s) will be making a substantial financial investment into Los Angeles' high speed broadband connectivity and a commitment to bridging the digital divide by providing free and low-cost connectivity to the 30% of Angelinos who do not currently have a home internet connection. The City will offer various incentives to help make this effort financial viable for the CityLinkLA partner applicants, and an exemption from the Street Damage Restoration fee is an important part of that.

I appreciate your support of the CityLinkLA proposal and your consideration of this proposed amendment to the BOE report. Please contact my Policy Director, Stephanie Magnien Rockwell, at 213-473-7003 with any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District

BB:smr