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## Keep Westwood Blvd in the Mobility Plan 2035 CF#15-0719

1 message

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**Dan Ilves** <Dan.I@travelstore.com>

Mon, Aug 3, 2015 at 10:36 AM

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Dear Honorable Councilman Koretz:

As a working professional who strives to ride a bike to work to cut down on the use of my car, I am distressed by your recommendation to remove bike lanes on Westwood Blvd from the Mobility Plan 2035.

At a time when the City of Los Angeles is working to become more walkable and bikeable, we need more safe bike lanes connecting popular destinations like Westwood Village and UCLA to neighboring communities—not fewer. We need to encourage cycling and walking, and not create road blocks to it. Without bike lanes, cycling is far less safe.

I understand that according to the LADOT, along this half mile stretch, more than 8 times as many collisions occur between vehicles and bicyclists than similar streets in Los Angeles. Without proper accommodation for bicyclists, Westwood will continue to fail the thousands of students and faculty who ride to the campus every day, as well as the countless more who will come when the Expo Line opens next year. I am sure the area's shops and restaurants would welcome customers who arrive by any means other than car, too.

Having heard you speak to our WOW homeowner's group on a few occasions and, in general, being in favor on your position on issues, I was surprised to learn of your position on this matter, especially given that according to LADOT and transportation consultants Ryan Snyder Associates, there is funding to install bike lanes along Westwood Boulevard and space to do so without removing any traffic lanes or parking. The campus community, Westwood Village business owners, UCLA Hospital, and residents have come out to countless public meetings and hearings to speak in favor of bike lanes.

Please don't let a persistent, vocal minority block the safety improvements Westwood so desperately needs. I've heard these residents – who never ride a bike and do not appreciate the value cycling offers the community in terms of less noise, less gas use, less pollutants in the air, etc. – who speak from their selfish interests, and not in the interest of the general social good.

Please keep Westwood Blvd in the Mobility Plan 2035. I urge you to begin engineering study of buffered or protected bike lane options for Westwood Blvd between Wellworth and Le Conte. UCLA Transportation just installed bike lanes on Westwood Blvd to the campus border at Le Conte. It is now up to the City to do its part and extend these lanes through the Village and eventually connect to the new Expo Line station south of Pico.

**Dan Ilves, CTC, MCC**

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