



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File #15-0719; In Support of Adopting Mobility Plan 2035

1 message

Mehmet Berker <mehmetikberker@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 10, 2015 at 7:21 PM

To: adam.lid@lacity.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mehmet Berker** <mehmetikberker@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 10, 2015 at 6:06 PM

Subject: Council File #15-0719; In Support of Adopting Mobility Plan 2035

To: cityhall@empowerla.org

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

Please support the Mobility Plan 2035, including all of its proposed networks tomorrow in City Council.

The proposed networks are just that, proposed, and as such I worry that individuals who want to excise certain portions of the plan are really using that as a stalking horse to killing the plan in general. This is because what the plan does is provide a holistic approach, and general policy changes to help support the travel and especially the safety of LA's citizens at their most vulnerable—namely when they're walking or biking. As Senior City Planner Claire Bowin has said, none of these lines are set in stone, it is only a presentation of each of the proposed networks and the streets of which they could potentially be composed. If everyone can opt out of participating in the Plan before we even get to brass tacks, therefore, the Plan will be diminished (or shelved), and that would be a tragic failure of governance by this Council.

There is a misunderstanding of what this plan will do. Namely, this plan may certainly convince some people to travel by different means in different situations in the future, and that is all well and good. However, I am not interested in the arguments I have seen about numbers of people who will switch from one form of travel to the other. What this plan will do, immediately, is to make the safety of all Angelenos, no matter what way they are getting around town, the issue of foremost importance when it comes to how we design, build, and govern our streets.

Opponents to the Plan have said that the LOS levels of intersections will get worse (nevermind that LOS is a discredited measure that does not take people's safety into account). Opponents have said that emergency vehicles will somehow be bogged down in inescapable traffic. Besides these fears being unfounded, they are completely irrelevant to the most important thing the Mobility Plan 2035 will do: make all of us safer while using our streets.

Right now, there are Angelenos who walk and are made more unsafe by the design and policies the City of LA has in place; right now there are people riding bikes who are in more danger because our streets do not allocate a safe space for them to ride; right now there are people waiting for the bus without shelters or a place to sit. Make no mistake, the Mobility Plan 2035 is not about behavior modification, it is about creating the safety and equality that all LA citizens are entitled to. For instance, new design standards will help ensure future projects put safety first through best practices in the realm of street design. Any ancillary issues: people choosing not to drive if they previously did for example, are great, but are not the core benefit from adoption of the Mobility Plan 2035, and are not why it is imperative that the plan be passed in its entirety tomorrow.

Please pass the Mobility Plan 2035 in its entirety to protect the lives and wellbeing of myself and tens of thousands of other citizens of this city walking, biking, taking transit, and yes, even driving through our streets.

Thank you,

Mehmet

LA Resident
LA Pedestrian Advisory Committee Representative

—

Mehmet Berker
Cartography // GIS // Graphic Design

mehmetikberker@gmail.com
mehmetberker.com
c.651.470.8605

—

Mehmet Berker
Cartography // GIS // Graphic Design

mehmetikberker@gmail.com
mehmetberker.com
c.651.470.8605