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Support Mobility Plan 2035 for safe & sustainable streets! CF#15-0719

1 message

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Dear Councilmembers:

I support adopting the Mobility Plan 2035, including all of its proposed networks. As someone who drives, bikes, walks and even occasionally uses public transit, I **strongly** support this Plan because I believe that it will help make L.A. streets better for all of us walking, biking, taking transit and driving. I've recently returned to LA after several months of living in Berlin and I'm sorry to say that the LA streets were a rude culture shock - in my first 24 hours back in the city I saw three separate drivers run stop signs or red lights and was yelled at by another one when I didn't cross the street fast enough for his taste. Calmer traffic and safer streets are critical to protect and enhance our quality of life.

A well-connected network of protected bike lanes and other complete streets improvements the Plan includes will give people healthier options to get around our neighborhoods and our whole city. We need this plan to build on the progress made by the 2010 Bicycle Plan and make all modes of transportation work together for our city. The modal networks in the Plan were carefully crafted to balance the needs of all who will use them. We can't afford to piecemeal them to appease local naysayers without undermining their citywide utility.

I am especially distressed by a councilmember's 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. According to the L.A. Department of Transportation (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. My wife is a USC professor who bikes to work, and I certainly wouldn't a council member putting her life at risk this way, and her UCLA colleagues shouldn't have to suffer it either. Please keep the Plan's networks intact and keep Westwood Blvd. in the Plan.

Please approve the Mobility Plan 2035 so that we can all travel safely on the streets of L.A.

Sincerely,

Noah Mercer

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