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Support for the City's 2035 Mobility Plan

1 message

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Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

I am a Los Angeles native and grew up in Koreatown. Starting in the 5th grade (in the late 1990's) I rode my bicycle or walked to school (often with my brother and/or classmates). While my parents could have easily driven me to school or had my brother and I join a carpool, they recognized this opportunity as a way to build trust between us. Today children are driven everywhere, often because parents feel it is not safe for their kids to ride a bicycle or walk on the sidewalk and/or roadways. It is unfortunate that children living in Los Angeles today are not afforded the same opportunity and independence I had because the City's transportation network lacks multi-modal features and instead continues to solely prioritize the movement of vehicles.

Today I ride my bicycle to work or take public transit (either the local Metro bus or light rail). However I am now in my mid-thirties and realize that while I can easily navigate the City's existing transportation network, the City's transportation system does not accommodate an elementary or middle school aged child or a senior citizen's needs. Imagining myself as a senior citizen or a parent of a young child today, I cannot say that Los Angeles would be in my list of top five cities to live in. This is directly related to the City's continued dependence on the automobile and the likelihood that as a senior citizen I will not be able to drive but instead will need to either walk across six-lane roadways or rely on a lackluster public transit system; or as a parent the lack of desire to sit in traffic as I drive my child to his/her various activities.

The 2035 Mobility Plan encourages the development of a multi-modal system over a 20-year period. Adoption of the Mobility Plan would not lead to the demise of the automobile, instead it would allow for the incorporation of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit-oriented infrastructure to exist alongside motor vehicles. Implementation of the key policy initiatives would allow the City to take steps towards becoming a jurisdiction that provides the infrastructure needed for senior citizens to remain independent when they can no longer drive (e.g., through the use of a well-constructed public transit system or pedestrian-oriented built environment), and children the opportunity to go to a friend's house without needing their parents to drive them (either by walking or some other form of active transportation).

As a bicyclists, pedestrian, and motorists I support the 2035 Mobility Plan and encourage the City of Los Angeles City Council to adopt the 2035 Mobility Plan so that the City's transportation network can become a network which accommodates all modes of transportation and all age groups.

Best-

Kathleen King