



Alan Alietti <alan.alietti@lacity.org>

FW: Mobility Plan amendment / Council file 15-0719

1 message

Barbara Broide <bbroide@hotmail.com>
To: Alan Alietti <alan.alietti@lacity.org>

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 10:51 PM

Please enter our letter into the council file for the above referenced item to be heard Friday, May 13, 2016.

Thank you.

From: bbroide@hotmail.com
To: councilmember.wesson@lacity.org
CC: paul.koretz@lacity.org; joan.pelico@lacity.org; philip.bennett@lacity.org; jay.greenstein@lacity.org
Subject: Mobility Plan amendment / Council file 15-0719
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 22:49:24 -0700

Dear Council President Wesson:

I am writing you on behalf of the Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. Homeowners Association to voice our unanimous support for our Councilmember Koretz' amendment of the Mobility 2035 Plan that would remove Westwood Blvd. from Ohio Avenue to LeConte Avenue from Mobility 2035 in support of an alternative bike access route to Westwood Village. This is an extremely important measure to safeguard the safety of bicycle enthusiasts, to promote safe passage for local drivers and pedestrians, and to ensure that the investment made in the EXPO Light Rail Line is realized. As you may be aware, with the opening of the EXPO Line next week, METRO expects the Westwood Blvd. stop to be THE busiest stop on the entire line. It is absolutely critical that EXPO riders are able to make their first/last mile connections from the train to their ultimate destinations in on the Wilshire corridor, in Westwood Village and to UCLA.

While UCLA bicycle advocates are quoted on the radio as stating that over 3000 riders come to UCLA by bike daily, many of those riders come from north, east and west of campus -- not just from the south. In fact, recent bike counts done for the City by Counts Unlimited identified 360 riders using Westwood Blvd. We know, however, that thousands of EXPO riders will need to travel north on Westwood Blvd. via bus to get to their destinations. Additional EXPO riders will board buses on Westwood Blvd. to connect with Pico and Olympic Blvd. buses to travel to major destination points west and east, including Century City and Beverly Hills. Over 900 buses travel on Westwood Blvd. daily and until the subway is built, many commuters will rely on EXPO with bus connections to reach these destinations. The reliance upon Westwood Blvd. for bicycles is a dangerous and short-sighted strategy that will delay bus riders from reaching their destinations and serves a small minority at the expense of thousands of other transit users.

Further analysis done by a consulting traffic engineer hired by our HOA demonstrated the negative impacts of increasing numbers of bike riders on Westwood. Added delays in existing vehicular traffic will send traffic streaming onto nearby local residential streets -- thus creating unsafe conditions for pedestrians and those bicycle riders who are not comfortable riding on a busy commercial thoroughfare.

Bicycle riders should not be fooled into thinking that they can be safely accommodated on Westwood Blvd. While that route may be the shortest route for some "as the crow flies," crows do not have to navigate around parked cars, frequent buses and delivery trucks serving nearby businesses.

We trust that the City's traffic engineers can work with bike advocates and community members to fashion a safe access route to and from Westwood Village and the UCLA campus. Councilmember Koretz is recommending the use of Gayley and Midvale Avenues, one block west of Westwood Blvd. as such an

alternative. We trust that we can have your support of Councilmember Paul Koretz' amendment to the Mobility Plan - 2035 as passed out of the Transportation Committee this week.

We join with our neighbors to the north in support of our Councilmember's motion as do the members of our Westside Neighborhood Council and hope that you will join in supporting his efforts to ensure safe passage for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Broide
President, Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. HOA
(Westside Neighborhood Council, Seat 7-Board Member)