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

1 message

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Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

I support adopting the Mobility Plan 2035, including ALL of its proposed networks. As a cyclist, transit user, and driver, 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.

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. Calmer traffic and safer streets are critical to protect and enhance our quality of life. 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 my city representative, Paul Koretz, and his 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. Personally, I have been honked and harassed by a driver around the Westwood and Olympic intersection for no reason at all. It's scary, angering, and discouraging to cyclists. 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. Not to mention anyone wishing to visit the area's shops and restaurants by any means other than motor vehicles. Please keep the Plan's networks intact and keep Westwood Blvd. in the Plan. It is so frustrating and embarrassing that UCLA'

I challenge any city council member to ride their bike on Westwood Blvd during weekday rush hour and see how much hostility they and other cyclists will get from drivers. We all live in a city together and we should balance the interests of everyone, not just the minority of loud homeowners and business owners desperate to cling to the status quo. As LA continues to grow, its streets won't be able to accommodate everyone continuing to drive cars as much as they do now. We need to encourage alternate public transportation not hinder it. LA likes to think of itself as a forward thinking city. I challenge you to take a look at how other cities have successfully dealt with this supposed bike lanes vs parking spaces dilemma <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/blog/entry/10-ways-cities-can-win-the-fight-to-upgrade-parking-spaces-to-bike-lanes> .

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