

 Overland Avenue Community   
"O.A.C."

2268 Overland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(Established 1964, Inc. 2011)

October 24, 2017

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Councilmember Mike Bonin, Chair  
Councilmember Nury Martinez  
Councilmember Paul Koretz  
Adam R. Lid, Legislation Assistant  
Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee  
200 North Spring Street, Room 1010  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Committee Meeting October 25, 2017  
Item No. 10; File No. 17-1183  
LADOT and City Attorney reports and Ordinance relative to  
changing the speed limit revisions and additions for various streets  
in the City of Los Angeles

Dear Committee Members:

The Overland Avenue Community ("OAC") respectfully requests that the Los Angeles City Transportation Committee take off the list of roads in which the Department of Transportation ("LADOT") is requesting raising the prima facie speed limit from 35 MPH to 40 MPH as follows:

**The segment of Olympic Blvd. between Beverly Glen Blvd and Sepulveda Blvd.**

The current request by LADOT is to raise the limit to 40 MPH on Olympic between Century Park East and Centinela. This is a lengthy, 3 mile stretch and fails to acknowledge that the stretch between Beverly Glen and Sepulveda is (except at the corner of Westwood Boulevard) **entirely residential, and is within the direct walking path of young children going to and from Westwood Charter Elementary School.**

There have already been numerous vehicular accidents within this area, particularly at Olympic and Overland (documented in photographs and police reports by the residents of the Overland Avenue Community), and several pedestrian injuries. It is

only a matter of time that a child or parent will be seriously injured or killed if the speed limit is raised. Copies of photographs of three (3) reported accidents at this intersection that occurred within the **last month** are attached. We have substantially more.

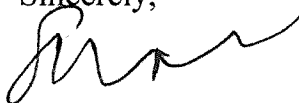
Because Westwood Charter Elementary School is not located on Olympic Blvd., but one block north of Olympic Blvd., there are no 25 MPH (school hours) speed limit signs posted along this stretch between Beverly Glen and Sepulveda. However, Olympic is the street that is crossed by hundreds of small school children twice daily, 5 days a week during the school year from Sepulveda to Beverly Glen. Westwood Charter is the school for all the elementary school children in this area. Those children who lived south of Olympic must necessarily cross Olympic at Veteran, Westwood, Overland, Prosser, and Beverly Glen. **Olympic, between Beverly Glen and Sepulveda is also along the Safe Routes to School program.** As you may be aware, the City of Los Angeles has adopted a Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2025. Children walking and bicycling in our city are one of our most vulnerable populations. For some portion of each day, children walk along our streets. Recognizing that our youth may not have the maturity level to understand the risks and dangers associated with traffic crashes, SRTS implements engineering improvements to reduce motor vehicle speed and reckless driving that can result in fatal or severe injury traffic crashes.

The 40 M.P.H. proposed limit on Olympic contradicts the express goals of the SRTS. This street cannot be declared to be reasonable, safe, and more appropriate to facilitate the orderly movement of traffic if the speed limit is increased to 40 M.P.H.

The City of Los Angeles should be providing notice of this proposal, and they have not, to not only the principal of Westwood Charter, but to the parents of the school children who must cross Olympic Blvd. twice daily. I am certain that if proper notice were given, there would be substantial opposition to this proposal.

Raising the speed limit along this residential stretch is a dangerous, unsafe proposal. We urge you to take this section off the list.

Sincerely,



Shannon H. Burns  
Overland Avenue Community  
Vice President

cc: Jay Greenstein  
Westside Neighborhood Council





