

PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTION
MOTION

In 2016, Elon Musk founded The Boring Company with the intention of creating tunnel networks in large cities. The Boring Company is currently constructing an initial test tunnel in Hawthorne and has proposed extending into Los Angeles to connect the South Bay, Westside, and San Fernando Valley.

The Boring Company is seeking an excavation permit from the Bureau of Engineering to construct a 2.7 mile tunnel (Proof of Concept Tunnel Project) which would provide proof of concept for a zero-emissions, high speed, underground, alternative means of transit for personal vehicles and/or single-rider use. The proposed tunnel would be used solely for construction logistics verification, systems testing, safety testing, operating, procedure verification, and line-switching demonstrations. The proposed entry/exit point is located at 2352-6 Sepulveda Boulevard, north of West Pico Boulevard and south of Mississippi Avenue, on a parcel owned by The Boring Company. The tunnel would end, without surfacing, below the vicinity of the intersection of Sepulveda Boulevard and Washington Boulevard in Culver City.

On March 27, 2018, the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners determined that the Proof of Concept Tunnel Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and approved a haul route application. Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.02(a)(1), City Council approval is required prior to the issuance of an excavation permit for construction of a tunnel structure. The Boring Company is now seeking that approval. The City of Los Angeles is committed to closely monitoring any public safety issues and impacts to the neighboring community which may arise during the course of this project.

I THEREFORE MOVE that with regard to The Boring Company's Proof of Concept Tunnel Project, the City Council find that:

1. Consistent with the March 27, 2018 determination by the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) was prepared by the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) on March 28, 2018 and was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
2. The NOE was presented to the City Council, as the decision-making body of the City, and that the City Council reviewed and considered the information contained therein;
3. The NOE reflects and expresses the City's independent judgment and analysis on the matters described therein; and
4. The project is categorically exempt under Section 15332, Class 32 of the CEQA Guidelines.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct BOE to file a NOE within five working days of City Council's authorization to issue the tunnel permit.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council authorize BOE and other City Departments to issue any and all permits necessary to construct The Boring Company's Proof of Concept Tunnel, including but not limited to excavation and revocable permits and to require no additional charges beyond the usual permitting fees and any necessary ongoing costs associated with those permits.

PRESENTED BY: 

PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

jmjg

APR 11 2018

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