

MOTION

On December 5 and December 6, the Mayor declared a local state of emergency in response to the Creek and Skirball fires. Thousands of residents have been subject to evacuation orders and numerous roads have been closed.

In order to quickly and safely evacuate residents and allow unobstructed access for public safety personnel, it is critical that roadways in evacuated areas remain uncongested. Many people rely on navigation apps to travel, especially when they are in a hurry to reach their destination. The most widely used navigation apps in Los Angeles are Google Maps, Waze, and Apple Maps. These apps, and others like them, will often create elaborate alternative navigation routes, frequently utilizing side streets or mountain roads, based on traffic data at the time.

As a result of the high volume of traffic on the accessible roadways during recent fires, the navigation apps recommended routes that included streets that were within evacuation areas because the data indicated there was no traffic. Navigation app users have no way of knowing whether the route suggested by their app is in the path of a fire. Evacuees often head to unfamiliar areas with unreliable road access; ensuring that drivers do not encounter additional danger caused by their navigation apps is paramount.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Fire Department and Department of Transportation to report on efforts to coordinate with navigation app developers to prevent their apps from directing drivers into evacuated areas.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz  
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Councilmember, 5th District

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