

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: December 5, 2018

TO: Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles

FROM: Adel H. Hagekhalil, Director
Bureau of Street Services



Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer
Bureau of Engineering



SUBJECT: BSS/BOE RE-EVALUATION - COUNCIL FILE 18-0707 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT APPEAL OF A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT REQUEST UNDER THE SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM FOR 1225-1254 NORTH CHEROKEE AVENUE

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE Alternative No. 4 and direct Bureau of Street Services (BSS) and Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to proceed with utilizing a combination of tree trimming, root pruning and reducing sidewalk widths, as allowable per American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California Building Code (CBC) requirements, to remediate the existing sidewalk conditions on North Cherokee Avenue between Lexington and Fountain Avenues, while preserving as many existing trees as possible.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2017, Access Requests were submitted for 1228, 1244, and 1255 North Cherokee Avenue to the BOE Sidewalk Repair Program. BOE, in compliance with ADA and CBC Accessibility Standards, completed the design of these sites which called for the reconstruction of 7,700 square feet of sidewalk, the reconstruction of 17 driveway aprons, the adjustment of five (5) utility boxes, and the removal of 18 trees. Subsequently, on July 18, 2018, the Board of Public Works (BPW) adopted a Board Report submitted by the BSS Urban Forestry Division (UFD) for the removal of 18 Indian Laurel Fig trees to accommodate the access repairs.

On July 27, 2018, a California Environmental Quality (CEQA) appeal was filed by the United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles and the Eastside Nature Alliance regarding the BPW determination (BPW- 2018-0550), associated with the removal of 18 Indian Laurel Fig trees on North Cherokee Avenue.

On October 31, 2018, the City Council denied the CEQA appeal (Council File No. 18-0707). However, the City Council instructed BSS to report to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee an alternative solution for sidewalk repair design, with the intent of preserving as many trees on Cherokee Avenue as possible.

DISCUSSION:

BSS and BOE collaborated to develop and evaluate the following four (4) alternatives to repair the damaged sidewalks to meet ADA and CBC Accessibility Requirements, while preserving as many trees as possible on Cherokee Avenue. A summary of the design alternatives is discussed below. Refer to Attachment for a full evaluation.

Alternative 1: Reroute pedestrians from the existing sidewalk utilizing the existing roadway as the path of travel, narrowing the roadway.

Alternative 2: Remove the existing sidewalk to increase Parkway space, construct a new ADA compliant sidewalk on the street side of existing trees, narrowing the roadway.

Alternative 3: Reconstruct the sidewalk in its current location utilizing sidewalk ramping and meandering, acquiring private easement.

Alternative 4: Utilize a combination of tree trimming and root pruning while reducing the sidewalk width as allowable, per ADA and CBC requirements.

BSS and BOE have concluded that Alternative No. 4 meets the instructions by Council which leads to preserving at least 14 out of 18 trees while providing accessible sidewalks. Implementation of Alternative No. 4 will take 8 to 12 months to allow for tree stabilization and monitoring, but it will fulfill the initial intent of this project, which is to address pedestrian accessibility on North Cherokee Avenue. There will be no added cost to the sidewalk repair.

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Director Fred Mousavipour at (213) 847-3333, or Deputy City Engineer Julie Sauter at (213) 847-2230.

AHH/GLM/AB/LO

Attachment