

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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When making inquiries relative to
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NOVEMBER 23, 2011

To All Interested Parties:

City Attorney (w/blue sheet)

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File No. 09-0680,
at its meeting held NOVEMBER 22, 2011.



City Clerk
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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

File No. 09-0680

Your

TRANSPORTATION

Committee

reports as follows:

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the use of bicycles on City sidewalks.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (LaBonge – Garcetti):

1. REQUEST that the City Attorney, Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Police Department identify the issues associated with bicycling on sidewalks, and develop language to update and/or replace Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 56.15; said ordinance to include:
 - a. A provision to allow bicycles to ride on sidewalks, even in banned districts, in instances where cyclists are avoiding a traffic hazard in the immediate area.
 - b. Clear definitions on pedestrian and business districts, and clear guidelines on how, where, and why bicycling would be prohibited on sidewalks.
2. INSTRUCT DOT, in consultation with the Police Department, to report to the Transportation Committee in 60 days with recommendations for an outreach and public education campaign for the legal and safe use of bicycles on sidewalks.

Fiscal Impact Statement: DOT reports that no General Fund impact is anticipated with the development and adoption of the proposed ordinance.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: No

SUMMARY

On March 27, 2009, Council considered Motion (LaBonge – Garcetti) relative to the use of bicycles on sidewalks. Motion movers state that some individuals and children are not comfortable or skilled enough to ride on arterial roadways with high traffic volumes or vehicular speeds and may desire to ride their bicycles on sidewalks for short distances. Unfortunately, bicyclists riding on sidewalks that intersect with driveways or that ride through roadway intersections are at additional risk if they are traveling on the sidewalk in a direction opposite of traffic on the roadway. Motion movers believe that it is critical that bicyclists who ride on sidewalks operate in a careful and prudent manner and at a rate of speed that is reasonable and proper under existing conditions and current uses given grade, width, and surface conditions. It is recommended by the movers of the Motion that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to amend the LAMC to require bicyclists operating on sidewalks to ride at a speed that is reasonable and proper, yield to pedestrians at all times, and audibly notify pedestrians when making passing movements. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

In a report to Council dated October 26, 2011 (attached to the Council file), DOT recommends that Council request that an ordinance be prepared to revise LAMC Section 56.15 to address the use of sidewalks by bicyclists. DOT reports that the City of Los Angeles currently allows

the riding of bicycles on sidewalks as long as it is done without "... a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property." With so many more individuals riding bicycles, and the City's lack of a built out bikeway network per the 2010 Bicycle Plan, some bicyclists - particularly slower riders such as children and the elderly – have a need to continue to ride on the sidewalks as long as their behaviors do not endanger pedestrians or themselves.

At its meeting held November 9, 2011, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with representatives of DOT. The Department representative stated that DOT will work with the City Attorney to revise the LAMC to allow the use of bicycles on city sidewalks but to also preserve the right-of-way for pedestrians. During the public comment period, support was expressed for bicyclists and their use of sidewalks, especially given the City's lack of a built-out network of bicycle lanes. Speakers stated that any revision of the LAMC should include outreach to cyclists and the posting of signage in areas where bicycles on sidewalks is prohibited.

The Transportation Committee recommended that Council request that the City Attorney, with assistance from DOT and the Police Department, prepare an ordinance to amend LAMC Section 56.15, as described above. Committee further recommended that Council instruct DOT to report back with an outreach and publish education campaign for the legal and safe use of bicycles on city sidewalks.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



MEMBER	VOTE
ROSENDAHL:	YES
PARKS:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
HUIZAR:	ABSENT

JAW
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ADOPTED

NOV 22 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL