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~~ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT~~

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The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LA Sanitation), in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit organization, has worked in close collaboration with Council District Nine, the Departments of Planning and Public Works, and the local residents and schools to establish The Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration project, a network of green alleys in South Los Angeles westerly of Main Street and easterly of Avalon Boulevard, southerly of East 51<sup>st</sup> Street and northerly of East 54<sup>th</sup> Street. The Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project will create a new community green space by transforming polluted, unsafe, and underutilized alleyways in South Los Angeles into walkable, safe, green alleys featuring innovative stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The subject alley network presents a major opportunity to transform blighted, polluted, and dangerous space into a walkable, bikeable, and playable green space, thus creating new recreational opportunities for residents who have few places for safe outdoor recreation in their neighborhood. These corridors serve as vital links between homes, nearby schools, parks, and services. By encouraging walkability within the neighborhood, residents will be less likely to drive to reach nearby destinations, leading to increased opportunities for physical activity, and effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project will largely maintain the existing vehicular access to the alleys and improve the alleys as shared spaces between vehicles and pedestrians. A portion of one alley northerly of East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street between Avalon Boulevard and Towne Avenue ("Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project – North – Phase III") is proposed as a pedestrian mall. As part of the Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project, the pedestrian mall will transform dangerous crime- and trash-filled alleyways into safe, clean community green space that provides the following additional benefits: 1) safe routes to schools for children and youth; 2) promotion of walking and biking for residents to meet daily needs; 3) addition of accessible open space for residents in a high-density and blighted urban neighborhood with very little green space; 4) opportunities for residents to engage in community-building activities, thus fostering community pride and a sense of ownership; 5) crime reduction in the neighborhood by attractive design and public usage; 6) reduction and prevention of illegal dumping in neighborhood alleyways; and 7) opportunities for community education about the role of natural processes in the urban environment, pollution prevention, climate change, and healthy communities; and 8) implementation of the City of Los Angeles' Standard Plans for stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

The implementation of a pedestrian mall responds to a recurring set of site conditions that are present in alleys throughout this and other South Los Angeles neighborhoods: low income; high public health disparities; high residential density; poorly developed community connections; outmoded, neglected public infrastructure; and limited access to green space and safe places to play. The design and implementation of this demonstration project is inherently transferable to other neighborhoods in Los Angeles in need of improved stormwater treatment, better air and water quality, and increased access to open green space, recreation, and physical fitness opportunities. The project also models effective cooperation between City agencies, nonprofits, local organizations, and residents.

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OCT 15 2013

As part of project funding, The Trust for Public Land received an Urban Greening grant award of \$400,000 from the California State Department of Natural Resources to design and construct a pedestrian mall. For this project to proceed, it is necessary to establish a pedestrian mall to effectively use state funding to reclaim the underutilized right-of-way and to transform it into a welcoming public space, consistently available for public use.

LA Sanitation, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, will be responsible for implementing the Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project – North – Phase III project. Tasks to be completed by The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with LA Sanitation, include design development and construction administration, community outreach, and education.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the Bureau of Sanitation, City Attorney and Planning Department, prepare a Resolution of Intention to initiate proceedings to establish a pedestrian mall in the alley northerly of East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street between Avalon Boulevard and Towne Avenue.

I FURTHER MOVE that the aforementioned departments report back to Council within 30 days with a Resolution of Intention for this proposed redesignation for Council adoption.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk subsequently be directed to schedule a public hearing 90 days from the Council adoption of the Resolution of Intention.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, authorize the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation, or designee, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with The Trust for Public Land, fulfilling the state funding requirements and setting forth the terms and conditions of the Avalon Green Alley Network Demonstration Project – North – Phase III project.

PRESENTED BY:

  
CURREN D. PRICE, Jr.  
Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

