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Mobility Plan Amendments: CF15-0719

1 message

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Our community strongly supports our Councilmember's motion to amend the City's Mobility Plan to remove the bike route on Westwood Blvd. in proximity to Westwood Village to one block WEST onto Gayley and Midvale Streets between Le Conte and Ohio Avenues.

I write in my capacity as a long-time member of this community, a member of the Westside Neighborhood Council, as President of Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. Homeowners Association and as "big sister" to an avid bicyclist.

The decision to explore an alternative route to Westwood Blvd. for bicycles was not one made without serious consideration. However, it is fairly astonishing to me to see the opposition to the recommended change given the congestion that we see daily on Westwood Blvd. It is not a safe street for bicyclists. While there may be other reasons for and/or against the change, the most important consideration should be SAFETY.

The designation of a bike route to access Westwood Village and the UCLA campus is very important. The route selected should be one on which not only the more/most experienced cyclists should feel comfortable using, but it should also be a route appropriate for community cyclists, younger riders, older riders, etc. Westwood Blvd. is not that street/route. We want to provide bike routes that encourage people to ride their bicycles -- not discourage them from riding.

Gayley and Midvale present a wonderful opportunity to designate less congested streets for bicycle priority. By doing so additional measures may be possible to make the street even more bike friendly as ridership builds. The nature of Westwood Blvd with its thousands of daily car trips, heavy bus traffic, business deliveries, etc. is not an appropriate street for added bike trips.

My bicycle-riding brother left Los Angeles many years ago after attending UCLA. One of his considerations was his interest in living in a city where he could SAFELY ride a bike (after his experience of having been hit by an elderly driver on Pacific Coast Highway). Westwood Blvd. is the pathway to the UCLA Hospital and Clinics that bring in many drivers unfamiliar with the Westwood area. It is folly to mix those drivers, UCLA-traffic and the additional commercial traffic with bike riders heading to and from their destinations when a safer alternative in close proximity exists.

We fully support the change from Westwood Blvd. and apologize for being unable to attend today's Transportation Committee hearing to speak to our support.

Thank you,

Barbara Broide, President
Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. HOA

****While it does not appear on the Committee's agenda, the Westside NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL voted in support of the Mobility Plan/bike route change for Westwood Blvd.**