

Re: Council File 15-0719

Honorable Councilmembers:

As a Koreatown resident who gets around by driving, walking, bicycling, public transit, and ride-sharing, I strongly support the adoption of the Mobility Plan 2035, including all of its proposed modal networks. I ask that you approve this important document that will balance the needs of all users of our streets, prioritize safety, and broaden the range of transportation options available to Angelenos.

The Mobility Plan is an important step forward for Los Angeles, recognizing that our streets ought to be places for people, not merely conduits for cars. It makes safety the City's top transportation priority -- particularly for children traveling to school -- and supports LADOT's strategic goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities by 2025. It supports the introduction and expansion of new technologies to facilitate ride-hailing, bike-sharing, intelligent goods movement, and smart parking management. It proposes networks of bike lanes, bus lanes, and other needed improvements that create better alternatives to driving and maximize the impact of our investments in regional rail expansion.

Some neighborhood groups are rightly concerned about how these changes would affect their communities, and they deserve to have their voices included and listened to as projects are designed and implemented. Others are attacking specific elements of the plan based on unfounded fears, which threatens to piecemeal well-planned citywide networks based on the preferences of a vocal minority. We can't afford to undermine the extensive four-year process that went into creating the Mobility Plan or the citywide utility of the modal networks it lays out, and I urge you to reject attempts to arbitrarily cut certain streets out of the plan to appease parochial interests.

Mobility in Los Angeles has changed a lot since the last time we adopted a comprehensive transportation plan in the late 1990s. With regular CicLAvia events taking place, new technologies expanding our travel choices, and a rapidly expanding transit network, we are starting to see the possibilities of a multi-modal city in terms of our neighborhood vitality, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness. I encourage you to ensure that this progress continues. Please support safer streets and better mobility options for Los Angeles. Please vote to adopt the Mobility Plan 2035.

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Niall Huffman
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