July 11, 2016

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Board of Commissioners
221 N Figueroa St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY CIRCULATION AND PARKING ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Dear Board of Commissioners,

On behalf of Metro, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' plan to make Griffith Park more accessible to the public. Metro has been working along with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Recreation and Parks staff on a project that will allow for easier and more efficient public transit service into the park.

We are pleased that DASH has made the Metro Red Line Vermont/Sunset Station the official "Observatory" stop and will soon begin providing weekday service. This increases access to Griffith Park for tourists and residents alike. It will be easy and affordable to get to the Griffith Observatory from anywhere in the City seven days a week. Angelenos from all over the City and from every income bracket will have the opportunity to visit the Griffith Observatory, Greek Theater and the many beautiful hiking trails throughout the area, every day of the week for little cost.

As the agency responsible for the continuous improvement of an efficient and effective transportation system for Los Angeles County, including all modes, Metro supports more access into the park for all people. These goals align with Metro's mission and commitment to excellence in service and support, and our interest in increasing the use of transit and incentivizing transit use through TAP card machines. Metro has committed to helping promote weekday service through a train announcement at the Metro Red Line Vermont/Sunset Station. We will also have posters in the Red Line stations, floor decals and elevators decals that advertise and guide visitors to the DASH Observatory stop, beginning July 2016.

The Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan will increase park accessibility for those who rely on walking, bicycling, buses and trains for their daily trips and provides all Angelenos with much needed park access. Moreover, more people riding buses and trains means fewer cars in the park, less congestion and Improved air quality which will benefit to the community as a whole.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patricia Soto
Director, Community Relations
City of Los Angeles & Central Area
August 17th, 2016

Re: Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan (Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration)

To whom it may concern:

Griffith Park is the largest municipal park and urban wilderness area in the United States with over 4300 acres of natural terrain, parkland, and picnic areas. It is also designated a Historic Cultural Monument (#942 in 2009), a recognition that the preservation of limited natural park space (i.e. open space and wilderness areas) is of primary interest to Los Angeles residents.

Conservatively, over 10 million people visit Griffith Park annually. The challenge is in dealing with that love of both the open space and the built, including the Griffith Observatory, itself a huge and popular draw, and also a Historic Cultural Monument (#168, 1976).

Access to the Griffith Observatory is limited and not easily modified or improved due to the difficult terrain on the west, and the built environment on the east. Access to the Griffith Observatory is also solely via Los Feliz Boulevard, which bears the brunt of the ensuing traffic jams. This also constitutes a clear public safety risk as that access is blocked by eager visitors unaware of the very limited parking.

We find that the Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan straddles that fine line of safety vs public access through a balanced method of re-aligning the traffic flow along Western Canyon Road on the west and developing the East and West Observatory Roads as a one-way loop on the east. The installation of pay stations for parking at the Observatory and the use of that income to increase the number and frequency of the Dash buses will only further benefit the greater public, and encourage tourism, which is always good for Los Angeles at large.

While clearly intersections on Los Feliz Boulevard are still severely impacted, we will continue to push for enhancements from our Council Member for Council District 4, David Ryu, and from the Department of Transportation. Clearly coordinated traffic signals, left turn arrows, and other measures are needed to ensure adequate access and public safety. Those issues, however, lie outside the purview of the Department of Recreation and Parks, and we recognize those limitations.

In voicing our support for the Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan (Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration) we want to thank Joe Salaices, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Operations for the Griffith Park region (and everyone with the Department of Recreation and Parks) for their commitment to ensure both safe access to the Park and their dedication to ensuring that the urban wilderness factor is protected.

Sincerely,

Susan Swan
President*

George Skarpelos
Vice President*

*signed electronically
August 3, 2016

Board of Commissioners
Department of Recreation and Parks
221 North Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Subject: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY CIRCULATION AND PARKING ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Dear Board of Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' plan to make Griffith Park more accessible to the public. LADOT has been working with the Department of Recreation and Parks staff on increasing bus service and frequency from the Metro Red Line Station to the Griffith Observatory. LADOT's DASH also worked with Metro at the Red Line Vermont/Sunset Station as the official “Observatory” stop and will possibly provide weekday service. This increases access to Griffith Park for tourists and residents alike. DASH provides an easy and affordable transportation option to get to the Griffith Observatory. The Metro Red Line Station stop allows Angelenos from all over the City and from every income bracket an opportunity to visit the Griffith Observatory, Greek Theater and the many beautiful hiking trails throughout the area.

LADOT supports more access into the park for all people. These goals align with LADOT's Great Streets for Los Angeles Strategic Plan goals and strategies. The Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan will increase park accessibility for those who rely on walking, bicycling, buses and trains for their daily trips and provides all Angelenos with much needed park access. LADOT's DASH service has contributed to reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality by providing greater alternative travel options to the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ralph
Chief of Transit Programs
July 29, 2016

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

Dear Commission Staff:

Griffith Park Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan

The Los Angeles Fire Department conducted a review of the Griffith Park Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan as requested by staff from the Department of Recreation and Parks. This review focused on any impacts that would compromise public safety from both a code enforcement and operational response perspective.

The Los Angeles Fire Department has no objection to the proposed change in traffic flow, or the inclusion of angled parking spaces on East and West Observatory Roads. It has been determined that there would be no impact that would compromise public safety associated with the plan.

Sincerely,

RALPH M. TERRAZAS
Fire Chief

Charles S. Butler, Deputy Chief
Operations West Bureau
July 20, 2016

Ms. Sylvia Patsaouras  
President  
Board of Recreation & Parks  
City of Los Angeles  
221 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA  90012  

Dear President Patsaouras:

On behalf of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the proposal to establish daily DASH service between the Sunset/Vermont Metro Station and the Griffith Park Observatory that is part of the Griffith Park Mobility Plan.

We have attended several of the hearings related to the plan, and know that feelings run high in the neighborhoods surrounding the park about the congestion created by visitors to the park. The addition of a daily link between the subway and Griffith Park is a positive step that will provide visitors with a viable alternative to driving their own vehicles. Further, having the Sunset and Vermont Metro Station branded as the "Griffith Observatory" station will provide greater awareness for riders of the mass transit link to the park.

We believe that this is a "win-win" opportunity that will benefit both visitors to the park and the community and urge you to move forward with this plan.

Sincerely,

Leron Gubler  
President & CEO
July 29, 2015

Attn.: Tracy James
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Tracy:

The Board of Directors of the Lake Hollywood Homeowners’ Association would like to express our support for the Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan. Because this plan will divert some of the tourist traffic away from the unofficial “vista” Hollywood sign viewing site that is adjacent to our neighborhood, we feel the plan will benefit our community. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

David Benz, Vice President
Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association
david@vaughanbenz.com
Mobile 213 453 3661
August 1, 2016

Ms. Sylvia Patsaouras  
President  
Board of Recreation & Parks  
City of Los Angeles  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan

Dear President Patsaouras:

As a trustee on the Hollywood Sign Trust and on behalf of the Hollywood Sign Trust, I am writing to express our support for the proposed “Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan”. I have attended several hearings related to the plan and understand the sensitivity local residents have to traffic congestion in the area.

The Hollywood Sign is a tourist attraction and we appreciate the efforts to create accessibility from hot spots such as Hollywood to the park for the ease, low cost and a hassle free way to visit the park and see the Sign. The collaboration with METRO and LADOT is a proper use of resources to address mobility on our city streets and within the park.

We believe that this is a “win-win” opportunity that will benefit both visitors to the park and the community and urge you to move forward with this plan.

Sincerely,

NAI Capital, Inc.

Marty Shelton
Vice President  
(310) 440-8500

mlsl86.doc
July 20, 2016

Mr. Michael A. Shull, General Manager
Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Via Email: Michael.Shull@acity.org

Re: Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Shull:

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council writes to offer our support for the Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan.

The largest urban park in the country, containing some of our region’s most-visited tourist destinations, Griffith Park is accessible almost entirely only by driving through Los Feliz. As LA continues to see record numbers of visitors every year, our neighborhood is feeling this change acutely, with our otherwise quiet residential streets now regularly backed up for blocks by cars attempting to enter and exit Griffith Park. Further, we have seen first-hand the difficulty for cars trying to move and park in Griffith Park.

We are grateful to Mr. Joe Salaices for his efforts to tackle this vexing challenge. No solution is perfect; however, Mr. Salaices has not only offered possible solutions, he has also listened to and incorporated concerns from the community along the way. As a result, Griffith Park is now poised to provide substantially improved access via public transit without unnecessarily closing park roads to private traffic and while still maintaining one of the park’s most popular hiking and biking trails. Mr. Salaices heard our community’s concerns around the proposed change to traffic flow along Western Canyon Road, and the Plan now keeps this important access road as a two-way street. Further, Mr. Salaices heard our community’s concerns around motorized vehicles along Mt. Hollywood Drive, which currently is accessible only to people walking or biking, and the Plan now keeps this path closed to traffic.
By utilizing new parking revenues to provide substantially-improved transit connectivity to Griffith Park, the Plan provides Angelenos and the myriad tourists who visit Griffith Park every day with a reliable, useful alternative to driving through our neighborhoods. We do request as a condition of our support that, in order to be a useful alternative to driving, the new DASH service operate on 15-20 minute intervals and that it have hours of operation covering the entirety of the Observatory’s operating hours, at a minimum.

No solution is perfect, and we expect that there will still need to be additional efforts to provide improved access to Griffith Observatory and the Park, but this is a strong first step, and we support it. The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council approved this letter by a unanimous vote in support.

Best regards,

Luke H. Klipp, President
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

CC: Hon. David Ryu, Councilmember, District 4
    Catherine Landers, District Representative, City Council District 4
    Adam Miller, District Representative, City Council District 4
    Joe Salaices, Superintendent, Griffith Park
    Sylvia Patsaouras, President, Recreation and Parks Commission