

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(16) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(2) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/15/2017

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 03/03/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 16-1452

Agenda Date: 03/08/2017

Item Number:

Summary: The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council supports Council file 16-1452. Traffic has become a way of life in Downtown LA. Traffic congestion is a problem that requires constant attention and evolving solutions. DLANC appreciates the significant steps the City has taken in that regard, especially the implementation of the Central City East and Central Business District Adaptive Traffic Control System ("ATCS") Projects and the oversight conducted by the Transportation Construction Traffic Management Committee ("TCTMC"). Unfortunately, the breadth of TCTMC oversight along "Streets of Significance" contains no exemption for ATCS Projects that are specifically intended to alleviate traffic congestion. This oversight is not necessary and, by delaying the ATCS Projects, actually counterproductive to the mission of the TCTMC to minimize the loss of traffic capacity. To avoid further complicating the ATCS Projects in Central City East and the Central Business District, DLANC supports authorizing the TCTMC to exempt the ATCS Projects from the "Streets of Significance" oversight process, as described in the attached letter.



February 15, 2017

Council File 16-1452

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 16-1452 in support of the Council’s effort to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary regulatory oversight of the Central City East and Central Business District Adaptive Traffic Control System (“ATCS”) Projects by the Transportation Construction Traffic Management Committee (“TCTMC”).

As this Council is well-aware, traffic congestion in Downtown LA is an escalating problem. With the rapid residential and commercial development in Downtown, the amount of traffic is steadily increasing while the explosion of public and private construction projects has greatly complicated the flow of traffic throughout our Neighborhood. Downtown LA is an appealing place for large numbers of Angelenos and visitors to congregate, whether for large street festivals, for mass political demonstrations, or even for spontaneous weekend shopping.

Simply put, traffic has become a way of life in Downtown LA.¹ Traffic congestion is a problem that requires constant attention and evolving solutions. DLANC appreciates the significant steps the Council has taken in that regard. The ATCS system has made meaningful reductions in traffic congestion throughout the City by implementing real-time traffic controls, such as monitoring sensors and improved signals. Additionally, the TCTMC conducts critical oversight of Metro and other construction projects to help mitigate traffic impacts on vehicles and pedestrians along identified “Streets of Significance,” many of which fall in Downtown LA. TCTMC oversight is an important and involved review process that alleviates construction-related traffic Downtown. In particular, Downtown LA is home to “Streets of Significance” impacted by construction from the 6th Street Viaduct Replacement Project and the Regional Transit Corridor, which overlay the Central City East and Central Business District ATCS Projects.

¹ See “Downtown L.A. traffic is getting worse – and to some that’s good news,” *Los Angeles Times*, July 1, 2016 (<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-downtown-traffic-20160702-snap-story.html>).

Unfortunately, the breadth of TCTMC oversight along “Streets of Significance” contains no exemption for ATCS Projects that are specifically intended to alleviate traffic congestion. This means the Central City East and Central Business District ATCS Projects—which involve relatively minor changes to traffic signals and sensors—will be unduly hindered by the TCTMC. Even though the ATCS Projects will immediately improve traffic congestion, proponents are currently required to appear before the TCTMC with extensive documentation, such as all pertinent permit applications, a detailed construction plan, a worksite traffic control plan, a holiday moratorium schedule, Police Commission approval (which takes approximately 45 days), and a peak hour exemption.² This oversight is not necessary and, by delaying the ATCS Projects, actually counterproductive to the mission of the TCTMC to minimize the loss of traffic capacity.

To avoid further complicating the ATCS Projects in Central City East and the Central Business District, DLANC supports authorizing the TCTMC to exempt the ATCS Projects from the “Streets of Significance” oversight process. Such an exemption would streamline the City’s approach to dealing with traffic congestion in Downtown LA without undermining the core authority of the TCTMC, so long as the exemption is limited to similar ATCS Projects that directly reduce traffic congestion.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the recommendation of the Government Liaison Committee on January 18, 2017, and action taken at the Board of Directors meeting on February 15, 2017, when the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

Motion: “The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) should submit a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 16-1452. DLANC should submit the letter posted with this Agenda in support of the Community Impact Statement.”

Sincerely,



Patricia Berman
DLANC President

Sincerely,



Nate Johnson
DLANC Government Liaison Committee Chair

² See “Items Required for Meeting,” Major Transit and Transportation Construction Traffic Management Committee, accessed Feb. 5, 2017 (http://eng.lacity.org/permits/tctmc/meeting_requirements.htm).