

MOTION

Medians are an important feature in our neighborhoods. The FY 2020-21 Budget allocates \$2 million for median maintenance by StreetsLA. This \$2 million is comprised of \$1 million from Measure R and \$1 million from Measure M. Despite the approval of a contract by the Board of Public Works for FY 2020-21 median maintenance work, there has been a gap in maintenance activity since July 1, 2020. Deferred maintenance of medians can result in cost impacts. For example, uncontrolled overgrowth may require additional equipment or staff to address, and unmet service needs for otherwise minor irrigation adjustments can develop into larger system failures or the loss of landscaping.

Given the current shortfalls in City revenues, however, there is also a need to ensure that median maintenance is environmentally and financially sustainable into the future. Consideration should be given to the Citywide use of California native and drought tolerant vegetation, planting strategies, mulching/composting and watering systems that minimize resources required to maintain them. Well-maintained medians add a sense of community pride to a neighborhood, help create an environment that supports local business, beautify the public right-of-way, and contribute to a reduction of air pollution within Los Angeles. Making sure that medians are both environmentally and financially sustainable is important to the future of our neighborhoods.

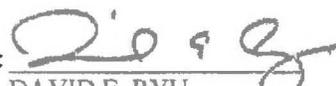
Because the transition to more sustainable landscaping may require upfront investments, identifying funding options to support median improvements and maintenance would be beneficial in the long-term, such as partnering with Neighborhood Councils and other neighborhood groups, or through funding sources such as the Metropolitan Water District, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the State of California.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct StreetsLA and the City Administrative Officer to report on the status of FY 2020-21 median maintenance funding and performed services, as well as the steps that can be taken to avoid negative impacts of deferred maintenance.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct StreetsLA and the City Administrative Officer to report with a long-term plan to minimize resources required to maintain medians and to achieve their environmental and financial sustainability.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to report on additional funding sources to invest in median improvements, maintenance, and long-term sustainability, including partnering with Neighborhood Councils and other neighborhood groups, as well as potential funding sources such as the Metropolitan Water District, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the State of California.

PRESENTED BY:


DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)
Councilmember, 3rd District

AUG 25 2020