

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a feasibility study to implement car-free streets in Downtown Los Angeles.

Recommendation for Council action:

DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to Initiate a feasibility study of street closure pilot demonstrations in Downtown Los Angeles, assess resources needed to implement the series of pilots, and conduct an evaluation study on initial findings, stakeholder feedback, and potential for permanent treatments.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LADOT reports that no impact to the General Fund is anticipated unless Council allocates funds to advance the car-free feasibility study.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For, If Amended:
Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On May 17, 2022, your Committee considered a May 10, 2022 LADOT relative to a feasibility study to implement car-free streets in Downtown Los Angeles. According to the LADOT, it requires consultant support to develop a feasibility study of implementing “car free zone” pilot activations to test a variety of implementation strategies over the course of a few days or longer that could include maintaining transit as part of the project design. The activations would incorporate a robust community outreach component, consistent with LADOT’s Community First Engagement model. The study will require a comprehensive evaluation including data collection before, during, and after the activation pilots to assess the outcomes of the pilots in relation to their goals. The assessment will include measuring walking and bicycling, transit use; conducting intercept surveys to understand user perception;, and could include studying economic impacts and people’s mode of arrival. The LADOT will also study vehicle volumes on the cross streets and parallel streets to better understand potential diversion and circulation impacts. The LADOT will incorporate the evaluation findings and implementation recommendations into the feasibility study to inform any future permanent conditions. A feasibility study of this scope and magnitude will cost approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendation contained in the LADOT report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Transportation Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

BONIN: YES

KORETZ: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

ARL

5/17/22

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-