

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to implementing the first Los Angeles Park Block Pilot in Council District 14.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (De Leon – Bonin):

1. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), in coordination with the Bureau of Engineering, to:
 - a. Identify a pilot location and implement the first Los Angeles Park Block Pilot in Council District 14.
 - b. Report in regard to the necessary funding and staffing resources needed in order to implement additional pilot locations and scale up to a full Citywide Park Block Program.
2. INSTRUCT the LADOT to develop a public participation and application process which will prioritize Park Blocks in communities with the least amount of open space and highest incidents a of vehicle collisions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:
Palms Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On June 14, 2023, your Committee considered a Motion (De Leon – Bonin) relative to implementing the first Los Angeles Park Block Pilot in Council District 14. According to the Motion, in 2016 the City of Barcelona created a new strategy to combat air pollution, urban noise and traffic fatalities using a pilot program called the “Superilla.” This program transforms residential blocks by reconfiguring vehicle circulation, allowing for up to 70 percent of the street surface area and intersections to be reclaimed as usable public space while preventing cut-through traffic and remaining accessible for necessary traffic inside the blocks. Several years later the massive benefits of the Superilla program are clear. Studies prove that the interior areas saw major drops in noise and air pollution while external edges did not see meaningful increases in traffic.

Residents inside the blocks saw an increase in civic life over the years as community members spent more time outside in their neighborhood. Creation of the Superilla was cost effective- using a phased design starting with temporary installations that became permanent after public input and on site experience. Los Angeles has an opportunity to become a leader in the United States by designing a local “Park Blocks” program modeled

after Barcelona. Park Blocks can save lives lost to poor air quality and traffic violence. They can create instant public open space with substantial shade, outdoor recreation, greening and storm water capture in communities desperate for parks. And they can be accomplished using participatory and customized public processes. A successful program needs to be thoughtfully designed and personalized to Los Angeles. Given the limited resources for initial pilots, priority areas should be chosen among communities who have the least access to public space, highest health disparities, high population densities and the desire to participate in the program. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Transportation Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

HUTT: YES
PARK: YES
HERNANDEZ: YES
RAMAN: YES
YAROSLAVSKY: YES

ARL
6/14/23
CD 14

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