



# Mar Vista Community Council



**MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE** with the MVCC Board of Directors  
Thursday December 3 2020 7:00 pm  
Co-Chair: Michelle Krupkin Co-Chair: Krishna Curry

ZOOM Electronic Meeting

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## MINUTES

1. Call To Order and Welcome –Michelle Krupkin, Krishna Curry 7:05 PM  
In attendance: Michelle Krupkin, Krishna Curry, Adriana De La Cruz, Hector Banuelos, Street Tree Superintendent, StreetsLA Urban Forestry Division, Selena Inouye, Alek Bartrosouf, Christine Stemar, Stacy Shure, Jason Fineis, Cindy, Marti, John Tapia, Ashley Zeldin.
2. Introductions and Public Comments (for items not on the agenda) (2 minutes)  
Jason Fineis comments regarding the SW corner of Palms Blvd. and Sawtelle Blvd., near Windward school, which is the only corner in that intersection that has no ADA/handicap ramp. Requesting a ramp.
3. Motion to approve Minutes of Previous Meetings (5-10 minutes) November minutes were passed.
4. Special Orders
  - a. CD11 Mobility Deputy Alek Bartrosouf, shares Mar Vista related mobility issues.  
Alek makes a note about SW corner of and Jason's public comment. Alek shares information regarding the upcoming follow-up Downtown Mar Vista Beautification Project (DMVBP) 12/09/20 5:30 PM webinar. If anyone has questions, he is available via email [alek.bartrosouf@lacity.org](mailto:alek.bartrosouf@lacity.org) or via phone at the CD11 office.  
John Tapia has a question about the red curb being repainted at Wade and Washington Place. He shares that someone painted over it illegally and it needs to be painted red again. Alek asks him to email a photo of the curb needing red paint.
5. Reports (15 Minutes)
  - a. Subcommittee Reports
    - i. Great Streets Committee (last meeting 11/11/20) See New Business item 7a, to be discussed when we reach that item.
    - ii. Mobility Committee (last meeting 2/24/20). No update.
  - b. Bi-Monthly Mar Vista CD11/LADOT/LAPD Traffic External City Committee Report- (last meeting 8/26/2020) Updated minutes: <https://www.marvista.org/docs/34486210-11351.pdf>  
Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 12/16/20. Last meeting in November was cancelled due to inactivity. This is a committee is a forum to consider, discuss and attempt to resolve issues raised by Mar Vista stakeholders who are concerned about traffic matters within the purview of the LADOT, Council District 11, and the LAPD's Community Traffic Services Unit. If anyone has any requests, items or questions regarding the upcoming meeting, please email Albert Olson at [Albert.Olson@MarVista.org](mailto:Albert.Olson@MarVista.org)
  - c. LADWP Committees Report - Adriana de la Cruz  
Adriana goes over written report <https://www.marvista.org/docs/34486239-11444.pdf>  
StreetsLA Stakeholder Advisory Council - Adriana de la Cruz.  
Adriana goes over written report <https://www.marvista.org/docs/34486239-11444.pdf>  
Adriana presents StreetsLA guest: Hector Banuelos, Street Tree Superintendent, StreetsLA Urban Forestry Division. Their Division has prevue over permitting and planting, landscape maintenance and overseeing administrative work. They deal with about 700,000 trees growing in the LA City

right of ways and about 10.5 million square feet in LA City medians. They have limited funding to perform the work unfortunately and fiscal challenges due to the Covid pandemic. More challenges coming up in the next several years. He is in attendance to answer questions.

Adriana asks about desalinization program, similar to what the City of Long Beach currently has in place. Hector Banuelos replied that water usage is not part of his division.

Adriana asks where the water comes from that is used for landscape and tree maintenance in the parkways.

Hector answers that for tree maintenance, they usually use potable water. The resources that are available for reclaimed water are very few at this time. There is one station available in CD11 at the Westchester Golf Course on Manchester. There are others in different Council Districts located at the northeast section of the city. They are located very far away from where a lot of the department watering is going on, but every once in awhile, we are able to capture that water for use. There are also some concerns that using reclaimed water for plant maintenance and irrigation might not be a good choice as it contains a higher content of borax and sodium. Some small studies show that reclaimed water might not be good for the trees, but Mr. Banuelos has not seen enough negative impact from LA City's actual use of that water to deter from trying to use reclaimed water. DWP is currently working on expanding infrastructure to provide reclaimed water at more landscaped medians throughout LA City. Reclaimed water is in use in CD11 on Manchester between Lincoln and Sepulveda. At least the ones that work, as there is a large backlog of system repairs for irrigated water on medians. We are low on staff and funding to keep up with repairs.

As far as storm water or water capture systems that we've used, at one location, we didn't have good results with water when captured. What we have found is that the water goes into the tree well, which is not good for the trees. Unfortunately water in a tree well goes to the bottom of the tree's root ball, which is not good for trees, which benefit from water above the root ball. Water collecting below the root ball causes problems with tree health when the trees get waterlogged and then eventually fail.

We have no control over the water flowing through the gutters and over the curb. There are a lot of unknown deposits and contaminants on the roadway, such as oil, brake fluid, leaking vehicles in the roadway that get into a stormwater flow. We don't consider storm capture a good method to irrigate LA City trees.

Michelle asks if current storm water capture involves more permeable sidewalks. Mr. Banuelos states that as a method it sometimes increases the water table and not an effective way to water trees.

Mr. Banuelos says that there is a water replenishment project on Elmer along Woodman Ave., just south of Roscoe. There is one swale, somewhat of an aquifer generated there, funded and designed by LA Sanitation with lots of landscape and amenities.

There were old streambeds with water underneath with the target to recharge underground aquifers. The project relieved storm water drains from their job of flooding out and causing capturing problems in the roadways as well as recharging the underground aquifers.

Adriana asks about the maintenance of schedule to do LA City tree replacement and tree trimming. Hector says unfortunately due to funding, the schedule to trim a tree is only once every 25 years.

The Department currently doesn't have funding to trim every 5-7 years, which would be ideal. No contract funding is available at this time to hire contract tree trimmers. Limited funds mean now there only are five tree trimming crews for entire City of LA's 15 council districts who are LA City staff employees to trim the approximately 700,000 in LA City. Currently these 5 crews are able to trim approximately 25,000 to 30,000 trees per year. It's a long time before they get back to take care of a tree.

Most efforts go to responding to removing dead & dying trees or obstruction requests (blocked stop signs, traffic control devices, utilities such as a power line) and also dealing with tree limbs down etc. Right now, due to pandemic funding

There was a discussion of stakeholders submitting permit requests to trim trees themselves or hire a trimmer. The best way is to submit a request online: <http://bss.lacity.org/request.htm>

There was discussion about the total LA City tree inventory. There is an inventory in progress with about 180,000 site inventoried presently. Mar Vista is currently scheduled for inventory in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2021, approximately June 2021.

For more info: <https://streetsla.lacity.org/tree-inventory-schedule>

Requests are forwarded to the respective field office, which then contacts the person making the request, Banuelos said. Removing a tree is the last option, he said. The city explores alternative measures, such as pruning, to resolve the issue, according to Banuelos.

If it is determined that a tree should be removed, a request is forwarded to the Board of Public Works for a removal permit, Banuelos said.

All removals of live trees in the city of Los Angeles require the approval of the Board of Public Works, Banuelos said. Michelle states that stakeholders sometimes complain about the trees they have on their streets. Hector comments that there is not a tree that doesn't drop leaves or flowers. There was a question about the Adopt a Tree program is still in effect.

The answer is yes! Hector stated that the program is in effect. Go to [www.Cityplants.org](http://www.Cityplants.org) for more info. Hector stated that they do have problems getting people to water the trees from that program. Alek Bartrosouf says to contact him via email with any requests for Adopt a Tree.

Michelle asks about the tree planting on Venice Blvd. Hector states that there were 36 box size African fern trees planted as well as work to enlarged tree wells to allow more growing space for some of the mature trees. That also allowed room to plant drought resistant landscape. Alek states that the LA Conservation Corps is irrigating the plants and is responsible for maintenance. Adriana asks if Hector's department uses water from local fire hydrants to refill the StreetsLA Urban Forestry Division trucks rather than going back to their main plant. Hector says yes, they utilize fire hydrants quite often as it is the easiest way to refill the trucks water supply.

- d. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Transportation Committee – Michelle Krupkin. Michelle reported that on 12/10/20 and 12/11/21 there is an upcoming Transportation Electrification Partnership Summit, which is a regional collaboration toward Zero Emissions and shared a link for the virtual event. <https://lincubator.org/tepsummit/> The last meeting for the NCSA Transportation committee was late October 2020. A report from that report is in the supplemental materials. As of today's meeting, there was no future meeting set for this NCSA Transportation Committee.

6. Old Business (10 minutes)

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding a Parking Demand Study. On hold due to Covid-19 pandemic. [No update.](#)
- b. Continued discussion and possible action regarding input on the Mobility Element of the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan Update. [Community Plan Subcommittee recently had a survey available which included some mobility questions. See their MVCC Community Plan Subcommittee page for details.](#)
- c. Motions for opposing Permanent Slow Streets and Community Plan Update (including mobility/infrastructure recommendations, and request for COVID-19-related delay of final passage and implementation) Motion regarding making Slow Streets permanent: Ryu [CF-20-0838](#). PASSED by MVCC BOD at 9/8/2020 meeting, CIS letter sent 9/11/20. [Alek said that LA Council was not expanding the Slow Streets program, just currently supporting the existing Slow Streets with reinforced signage. That's what LA Council decided to do with limited staff resources available instead of deploying additional Slow Streets. Michelle comments that when driving near the Slow Street of Allin Street at Inglewood Blvd., the sawhorses are knocked down and even removed. It seems that Allin Street is a Slow Street that is not working out well. Moving forward, it seems that similar to the process for requesting a speed hump in a neighborhood, the entire block should be consulted and have to sign a petition to request a Slow Street. Currently LADOT does not engage in outreach to all the stakeholders living on that particular street when deciding that a street would qualify. It might be best practices to revisit the way that a Slow Street is being implemented. Ashley asked about replacing or upgrading Slow Street signage in Zone 2. She commented that Northwest Neighborhood Association \(NWN\) members support their Slow Streets and that she had been in contact with CD 11 MV Deputy Vishesh Anand regarding those efforts to maintain Slow Streets signage and she wondered if Alek had an update for her on new signage. Alek answered that he did not have a date for her as but know LADOT is working on it. He would be able to get more info if Ashley emails him to remind him about it.](#)
- d. Motion regarding Sign Ordinance. Motion passed by committee, not discussed at 9/8/2020 MVCC BOD meeting, Motion passed at 10/13/20 MVCC BoD meeting. Letter pending. [Ordinance came from WRAC. Michelle asks for guidance on letter from Ken Alpern or Stacy Shure as they brought](#)

the motion to this committee.

- e. Motion (from Great Streets) regarding Pacific Ave. between Inglewood Blvd. and Grandview Blvd. being considered for StreetsLA Cool Streets project. Motion passed at 11/10/20 MVCC BoD meeting. Letter pending. Adriana suggests John Sapone Streets Maintenance Division Manager at StreetsLA and will look into other contact info. There was a discussion about Pacific Avenue being a failed street that is turning into cobblestone like surface quality. Adriana says we should put in a separate request for inspection and resurfacing while waiting for review from Cool Streets program. MK notes that Cool Streets is a relatively new program, started in 2019. StreetsLA is working with researchers at UCLA, USC and Arizona State University to quantify the heat comfort benefit of these projects.
- f. Motion (from Great Streets). MVCC requests a formal update from LADOT and other relevant city agencies of past expenditures and total monies remaining to date in the relinquishment fund of \$14.5 Million created when Caltrans relinquished Venice Blvd. in September 2016 to LA City (Council File No. 16-0147, Council File No. 15-0002-S48) Motion passed at 11/10/20 MVCC BoD meeting. Letter pending. MK states that some of the Council Files have expired. She asks Alek about whom at LADOT accounting deals with this fund such as Ms. Chen. AK says he doesn't know Ms. Chen with LADOT accounting staff but to send the letter to him and Eric Bruin, Vishesh and they would forward. Michelle ask Alek if any portion of the relinquishment fund was used for Great Street Venice Blvd. Alek says he know that Venice Blvd. was repaved but he is not sure where those funds for that originated.  
Stacy had a question about QUIMBY funds. AB answers -not sure QUIMBY funds are from developers paid into this fund to be utilized for open space.

7. New Business (45 minutes)

- a. Motion (from Great Streets). Whereas, MVCC has verified that despite assurances to the contrary from CD11, local businesses on Great Street Venice Blvd. and the Downtown Mar Vista area are not being sufficiently engaged for the Downtown Mar Vista Beautification Project (DMVBP).

Therefore, the MVCC requests that CD11 and affiliated city entities refrain from the implementation of the DMVBP until it can be confirmed that Mar Vista businesses have been informed about the components of the DMVBP including required maintenance and have given their feedback to CD11. Discussion and vote. There was a lengthy discussion in which Krishna detailed all the MV businesses that she felt were not properly contacted regarding this and other LA City projects. There was also discussion about how the current art on Venice Blvd. is not being maintained properly and there is a great deal of trash. There was also concern expressed about homeless issues impacting MC businesses.

STATUS: Motion as written above passed at Great Streets Subcommittee 11/11/20. Motion passed at Transportation & Infrastructure 12/03/20. Motion passed at BoD 12/08/20 LETTER SENT 12/31/20.

- b. MVCC reps for new WRAC Transportation Committee. Discussion and conclusion that any motion would be out of order as MVCC Elliot Hanna would be the only one determining this appointment.
- c. LAWA Presentation to be considered for the December 8 2020 BoD meeting. Brief update from Michelle Krupkin, including LAX runway closures and reroute updates for December 2020. Michelle gave a brief update, adding that the full info will be shared with the MVCC when LAWA gives their presentation at the December 8 2020 BoD meeting.
- d. Discussion of ramifications and effects, and possible motion for, removing vehicle lanes on Venice Blvd. Road Diet between Sepulveda and Robertson Blvds. within the Palms NC boundaries.  
No update.
- e. Discussion of decreased Metro ridership and funding, as well as possible motion.  
No update.

8. Public Comment

## 9. Future Agenda Items

- a. Inviting the Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment to speak about recycling at an MVCC meeting (Hruska). <https://mobile.twitter.com/lacitysan/status/1214343931728551936>
- b. Future considerations of benefits of the LANow shuttle pilot project versus dedicated DASH line(s). **On hold**
- c. Update from StreetsLA on upcoming Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) RFP Information Sessions (12/10/20, 12/15/20, 12/19/20, 12/21/20)

## 10. Adjournment

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