

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Joint Meeting of the PLUM and Transportation/Infrastructure Committee
Thursday, March 26th, 2015, 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM
COFFEE CONNECTION, 3838 S. Centinela Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066
(Corner of Venice and Centinela)
PLUM Committee Co-Chairs: Mitchell Rishe and Steve Wallace
T/I Committee Co-Chairs: Michelle Krupkin and Ken Alpern

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order—Mitchell Rishe and Michelle Krupkin presiding.
Meeting convened by Mitchell Rishe at 7:25pm
- II. Introductions and Discussion of Items Not on Agenda
Public Comment:
 1. Bowlmor sign re-design. Attending for Bowlmor: Nick Scaccio, Area Manager; Andres Restrepo, Director of Concept Development. Change in color of sign from red and white (previously approved by PLUM Committee and MVCC Board) to blue, black and white. Prior re-design of sign to include bowling ball with antlers has been removed following to community input.
Note from Chair: after consultation with Bill Koontz, MVCC Chair, this item does not need to come back to the MVCC Board for approval.
 2. Sharon Commins. Measure R-2, extension of sales tax. Ms. Commins advised Committee to be on the lookout for attachments to the Measure, such as up-zoning.
- III. MVCC Liaison to Bi-Monthly CD11/LADOT/LAPD Traffic Committee Meeting – Linda Guagliano
See Attachment 1, March 18 Minutes of Mar Vista Bi-Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee Meeting
- IV. New Motions:

1) POLICY MOTION (to be forwarded to, if approved by the MVCC Board, the offices of Mike Bonin, Paul Koretz, Eric Garcetti, the City Attorney's office, and the LAPD):

The Mar Vista Community Council strongly supports:

- a) An immediate Citywide legal and enforcement policy that prevents any illegal accumulation and/or parking of recreational vehicles and campers, and
- b) Strongly supports any and all immediate City Council and/or Mayoral efforts to provide the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles City Attorney's office the tools necessary to reduce (if not eliminate) any inappropriate and/or illegal parking and waste dumping on the part of the aforementioned recreational vehicles and campers, and
- c) A City homeless policy that does not allow for any illegal parking or accumulation of recreational vehicles and campers as accepted or tolerated by the City of Los Angeles.

Motion tabled as sponsor, Ken Alpern, did not attend meeting.

2) POLICY MOTION (to be forwarded to, if approved by the MVCC Board, to the Planning Department, and to the relevant City Councilmembers of the Transportation and Planning Committees);

The Mar Vista Community Council supports increased development along the Expo Line/Pico Blvd. Transit-Oriented Corridor of commercial and/or residential nature of no greater than 40 feet, and/or three stories above ground.

Motion tabled as sponsor, Ken Alpern, did not attend meeting.

3) POLICY MOTION (to be forwarded to State Assembly members and State Senators):

The Mar Vista Community Council opposes SB 608 (The Right to Rest Act, which would prohibit the enforcement of any local laws that violate the rights of anyone to move freely, rest, sleep, pray, and be protected in public spaces without discrimination, as well as the right to occupy a legally parked vehicle and the right to share food and eat in public), because:

- a) There are already laws in place to ensure the rights of all individuals, including the homeless, to perform all of the above activities in daily life
- b) There is considerable risk to public health, mobility and rights of all citizens if local city laws are not allowed to be enforced with respect to illegal parking, illegal occupancy, and waste dumping

Motion tabled as sponsor, Ken Alpern, did not attend meeting

4) POLICY MOTION [WRAC LEADERSHIP]: Cost of building permit appeals: City shall revise appeals process for

Building Permits. Appeals of DBS determinations shall be done via the same simple process as appeals of Planning Dept. and Planning Commission determinations with similar fees. DBS "appeals" shall not be treated as a new case with public notification and CEQA requirements, because it is an appeal. An appeal is not a new proposed development project; it is an appeal of an already filed development project.

Justification: The current 2-step process is long, onerous and expensive for regular citizens. The first DBS administrative review takes 6 weeks and costs \$470. An appeal of that DBS determination requires public notification (\$20 for adjacent addresses from Assessor, \$165 for labels and sign postings) and a new case submittal (\$700). The total fee for a regular citizen to appeal DBS permits comes to \$1,400. (Planning appeals cost \$200, which is \$1,200 less). Approved in committee 7-0-0 and approved in WRAC Leadership unanimously.

Approved 4-0-0

5) POLICY MOTION [WRAC LEADERSHIP]: Support for Council Files 15-0020 [Collecting Fees Related to Condition Compliance] and 15-0135 [Planning's CCU Fee Ordinance to support MVIP Monitoring, Verification & Inspection Program]

WRAC supports Council File 15-0020 and 15-

0135 (<http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0020> and 15-0135) asking that the Planning Department to report back in 45 days on the best practices of other jurisdictions, including the County of Los Angeles, to ensure proper resource allocation for condition inspections and enforcement AND further asks that the Council instruct the Planning Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, and any other appropriate City department, bureau, or agency, to work cooperatively to propose a method by which inspection fees related to condition compliance are required and collected by the City prior to the release of any final approval of a projects.

Justification: Additional requirements are frequently placed on development projects through conditions of approval.

"...often these conditions go overlooked because of the City's lack of resources to enforce its own conditions. On 01/06/2015, the Los Angeles Times published an article, "In L.A., Conditions Placed on Developers Go Unheeded

(<http://www.latimes.com/local/cityhall/la-me-development-ignored-20150105-story.html#page=1>)" that spoke to the need for additional fees to cover the expense of allocating more staff to inspect and enforce the conditions of approval on the City's many projects. In other jurisdictions, such as Los Angeles County, conditions of approval specify the number of inspections required over the duration of the grant term necessary to ensure proper compliance with the conditions of approval. The conditions also obligate an applicant to cover the cost of such inspections. This approach ensures that the City has the resources it needs to enforce commitments made to the community, and helps to keep neighborhoods first. approved unanimously.

Approved 4-0-0

6) POLICY MOTION [WRAC LEADERSHIP]: Streamlining community improvement projects Council File 14-1624:

MVCC requests the Department of Public Works, with the assistance and cooperation of the Department of Transportation, City Planning, City Attorney, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, be instructed to prepare and present a report setting forth ways and means by which the City of Los Angeles may best serve community organizations seeking to undertake community improvement projects. The report should include but not be limited to a discussion of the following key elements: establishing a single point of contact for inquires and technical assistance, identifying efficiencies and streamlining of all existing processes and permits, resolution of liability responsibilities which can hinder volunteer efforts, and outreach strategy for stakeholder input.

Justification: "Throughout the City, non-profits, homeowner associations, neighborhood councils, local schools and other community groups undertake community improvement projects and make significant investments in their local neighborhoods. These community groups are important partners in the City's ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance neighborhood quality of life. Community participation in the planning and implementation of neighborhood improvement projects should be fostered and encouraged, and not hampered by City policies and processes that create inordinate burdens on such efforts. However, depending on the location, and scope of the project, the process, permit and fee structure can vary and are sometimes inconsistent. And sometimes, depending on the complexity of the project, community beautification efforts are discouraged or hindered solely based upon the "red tape" that exists within the City. For example, when Council District 12 partnered with Northridge South Neighborhood Council, Napa Elementary School, local neighbors and businesses to clean up an unimproved parcel of land, which was a magnet for illegal dumping and an area of blight (photos attached), navigating the different jurisdictions, departments, points of contact, and applications was a feat that required significant effort and time. Additionally, neighborhood council funding is limited to the fiscal year, and the red tape associated with community projects often makes it difficult to properly budget or encumber funds within the given timeframe. City departments, bureaus and agencies need to be responsive and willing to assist community groups

seeking to improve their neighborhoods and City staff should serve as a meaningful resource to resolve problems and find solutions. City policy, rules, regulations and processes should enhance and foster these community improvement activities, and not become a barrier." approved unanimously.

Approved 4-0-0

Discussion of Items Not On the Agenda

Adjournment.

Adjourned at 8:25.

**in compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at <http://www.marvista.org> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact secretary@marvista.org.*

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ATTACHMENT 1

MINUTES of Mar Vista Bi-Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee Meeting March 18, 2015

The Bi-Monthly meeting of the Mar Vista Bi-Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at the West Los Angeles office of CD11 Councilman Mike Bonin, 1645 Corinth Ave., Room 201, Los Angeles, CA 90025. The meeting was chaired by Linda Guagliano (MVCC Liaison) and attended by Rudy Guevara (LADOT Western District Engineers), Len Nguyen (CD11 Field Deputy), and Officer Martin Barocio (LAPD West Traffic Division CTSU).

All present signed the attendance sheet and approved the Minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting.

Agenda items were then discussed as follows.

LADOT Agenda Items:

Old Business -

Item #1: Rudy G. reported on the two remaining requests for traffic mitigation measures in North Westdale to control speeding and other problems arising from an influx of traffic from Barrington Ave.:

As to request part (b) for installation of a 3-way STOP at Stoner Ave. facing Gateway at the Radio Dr. intersection, Rudy G. previously reported that the LADOT study was completed and approved and work orders were issued to install signs and pavement markings. However, Rudy G. said that work has not been done so new work orders will be issued and he will notify the Committee when the work is completed. **[Tabled for LADOT follow-up report at the next meeting.]**

As to request part (c), installation of a painted crosswalk on Stoner Ave. at the intersection with Brookhaven was determined not justified by the volume of pedestrian traffic at that location and Rudy G. initiated a study to change the Stoner Ave. 2-way STOP to a Stoner-Brookhaven all-way STOP. But that study, now completed, found that the engineering review and supporting data failed to satisfy LADOT's guidelines for all-way STOP at this intersection and the most recent LAPD records of reported traffic collisions did not reveal a problem with lack of a stop sign control at this intersection. So installation of an all-way STOP cannot be justified at this time. **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

LAPD Officer Martin B. has reported via e-mail that the request for a speed trailer on Brookhaven near Stoner has been completed. He said there is no posted speed limit sign on Brookhaven but the speed limit is 25MPH, and while the trailer was deployed on January 27th for a 23-hour period, 2732 vehicles were counted and the average speed recorded was 20.08MPH. Rudy G. has also noted via e-mail that there is "the perception of speeding," that is, when people are outside on the street and cars go by nearby it seems the cars are going much faster than they really are, but that is just a perception **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

Item #2: Continuing follow-up re: complaints from businesses and residents about the many traffic control signs installed by LADOT on streets adjacent to the Sunday Mar Vista Farmers Market, Rudy G. reported that LADOT has now removed conflicting, incorrect and unneeded signage. During this meeting he contacted his supervisor, Mo Blorfroshan, who said he is still processing work orders to replace remaining signage with new signs changing the Sunday effective time from "7AM-4PM" to "7AM-5PM," as requested by Farmers Market administrators. Rudy G. will continue to recheck postings to make sure all signs ordered removed are gone and that new signs with the new times are correctly installed. **[Tabled for an updated LADOT report at the next meeting.]**

Item #3: Rudy G. assigned a staff engineer to do a study on the request to change the 2-way STOP on Westminster Ave. at Wasatch Ave. to an all-way STOP to help mitigate safety issues caused by a visibility problem in the street design. The study is not yet complete, but preliminary findings indicate that the requested

installation will probably be approved. The study should be completed before the next meeting. **[Tabled for LADOT follow-up report at the next meeting.]**

Minutes of March 18, 2015 Mar Vista Bi-Monthly Traffic Committee Meeting – Page 2

Item #4: At the January 21st meeting, Rudy G. asked LAPD Officer Martin B. to place a speed trailer at an appropriate location on the long block of Palms Blvd. between McLaughlin and Sawtelle to check if speeding is occurring, as a stakeholder has reported, and depending on the results, to monitor and control speeding as needed. At this meeting, Officer Martin B. said that the speed trailer has not yet been deployed because it has been in use elsewhere, but in about three weeks, they will be putting the speed trailer on Sawtelle Blvd. near Palms Blvd. for one day, and on Palms Blvd. for the next day. **[Tabled for an LADOT & LAPD report at or before the next meeting.]**

New Business – Items for Discussion:

Item #1: Responding to a resident's contention that Frances Ave. south of Venice Blvd. has become a "dangerous speedway" due to the absence of any stop signs on Frances between Pacific Ave. and Washington Pl., that the Barbara Ave./Caswell Ave. loop "intersection" with Frances presents "an accident waiting to happen" due to speeding on Frances, and requesting that stop signs be installed as needed to protect the motorists and pedestrians in the neighborhood, Rudy G. said that LADOT will take a look at this reported problem and see what can be done. **[Tabled for an LADOT report at the next meeting.]**

Other Agenda Items:

Old Business -

Item #1: Re: deep potholes, ruts and curb damage at the westbound bus stop on the northwest corner of Venice Blvd. at Beethoven St. remain, despite several requests Len N. has made to Caltrans to repair the damaged area they did not include when they repaved Venice Blvd. Len will resubmit his previous requests to Caltrans, insisting that the damage was an integral part of their street repaving job and must be done now. **[Tabled for a CD11 follow-up report at the next meeting.]**

Item #2: Len N. previously reported that he transferred the "Pothole Blitz" project locations list to the Bureau of Street Services (BOSS), and says that it is in process, working with neighborhood councils on Westside locations. **[Tabled for additional CD11 reports at the next meeting.]**

Item #3: Re: stakeholder-requested pavement repairs at 12600 and 12607 and at 12574 and 12601 Rose Ave., where tree roots have grown through the pavement and created dangerous humps, Len N. reported that small asphalt repairs are not funded and that potholes have been filled but other street repair in the "small asphalt repair" category is pending. CD11 will soon ask the Budget Team to fund that category. **[Tabled for a further CD11 report at the next meeting.]**

Item #4: Re: complaints about unsafe driving and parking by parents dropping off and picking up children at Mar Vista Elementary School, Len N. reported that he has not recently visited the school, but that complaints have dropped off, probably due to action by LAPD and Parking Enforcement. Officer Martin B. said there was a complaint about speeding but LAPD found no speeding at the location. He also didn't see bad parking or parking in STOP zones, but he went there in the morning. Len N. said the problem seems to be worse at the afternoon pick-up time and asks for an officer to observe and enforce again at that time. **[Tabled for CD11 & LAPD follow-up reports at the next meeting.]**

Item #5: Re: a request from the Pacific Condominium Assoc. for the alley from Wade to Beethoven behind 12731 Pacific Ave. to be resurfaced due to severe pavement deterioration, but that work comes under "large asphalt repairs" which are currently not budgeted. Len N. said some potholes were filled but bigger potholes are "small asphalt repairs" and will be on hold until that category is funded, maybe in the upcoming budget. **[Tabled for a CD11 follow-up report at the next meeting.]**

Item #6: Len N. reported that during his investigation re: a request to post signs to change traffic direction at a small strip mall at the southwest corner of McLaughlin on Venice next to East Blvd., limiting entry from McLaughlin only and exit onto East Blvd. only to mitigate a traffic safety problem, he found no regulatory or reported accident data to compel such signs to be installed, but he will talk to the owner about installing appropriate signs in this strip mall. **[Tabled for a CD11 follow-up report at the next meeting.]**

Minutes of March 18, 2015 Mar Vista Bi-Monthly Traffic Committee Meeting – Page 3

Item #7: Responding to a stakeholder's concern about the 40 MPH speed limit on Venice Blvd. through Mar Vista's "downtown" or commercial center, Len N. reported looking at design changes under the "Great Streets" project. Len also asked the CD11 Transportation Deputy about lowering the speed limit, but this is a state highway and Caltrans is unlikely to agree to that. Len will ask for Caltrans for data to explain why the speed limit on Venice Blvd. through "downtown" Mar Vista is 40MPH when it is 35MPH east of Sepulveda Blvd. and west of Walgrove Ave. **[Tabled for a CD11 follow-up report at the next meeting.]**

Item #8: Re: a request for traffic safety and mitigations along Walgrove Ave. and 23rd St. between Palms Blvd. and Ocean Park Blvd., to deal with a recent increase in accidents, speeding on curves, backups and gridlock, especially during the afternoon commuter rush hour, Officer Martin B. said enforcement is underway between Santa Monica Airport and Palms Blvd. on Walgrove on an ongoing basis, but 23rd St. north from the airport to Ocean Park Blvd. is located in Santa Monica. **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

Item #9: Responding to a stakeholder's complaint that school buses as well as other large vehicles violate the posted weight limit signs on Grand View, Palms and Inglewood Blvd. and other Mar Vista streets which prohibit vehicles over 6,000 pounds from driving on those streets, Officer Martin B. commented on the Los Angeles Municipal Code exemptions for some vehicles, such as a general rule that they must have business on the streets they travel. Officer Martin B. advised complainants to be specific about the location, date and time of the offense, to be directed to the LAPD Specialized Enforcement Section by CD11 or by this Committee. The Committee has received a copy of the Los Angeles Municipal Code section showing the various exemptions and sent a copy to the stakeholder for her information. **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

New Business – Items for Discussion:

No new items were received.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Mar Vista Bi-Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Council District 11 West Los Angeles office, 1645 Corinth Ave., Room 201, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Submitted by Linda J. Guagliano, Chair
Mar Vista Bi-Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee
March 25, 2015