



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee Minutes
June 1, 2015

1. Welcoming Remarks

A. Call to order (Michelle Owen)

A duly noticed meeting of the Transportation Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Monday, June 1, 2015, at Wilshire United Methodist Church, Youth Choir Room, 4350 Wilshire Blvd. Committee Chair Michelle Owen called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

B. Roll call (Michelle Owen)

Ms. Owen called the roll. Four of the six Committee Members were present at the Roll Call: Michelle Owen, Julie Stromberg, Jeffry Carpenter and Bill Funderburk. Two Committee Members were absent: Cindy Chvatal and Jack Humphreville. The Committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 51%, or four of the six members, so the Committee could take such votes. Also attending: GWNC Administrator Elizabeth Fuller and stakeholder guest Diane Dicksteen.

2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Administrative Items (Discussion and Action)

A. Review and adoption of February 2, 2015 Minutes

Ms. Stromberg moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Funderburk seconded the motion. It was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

B. Review and adoption of the April 6, 2015 minutes

Approval of the April minutes was tabled.

C. Need for new Committee members

It was noted that Sycamore Square Alternate Eric Oliver has agreed to join the committee, but more members are still needed. Prior to joining the committee, Mr. Oliver will need to be voted in as a member at a meeting and his presence at said meeting will be required. Ms. Fuller said she will put a call for members in our next GWNC newsletter, which will go out soon. Ms. Fuller noted that this committee has also been under-served by the current administrator, and she will try to make sure that the new GWNC administrator

adds the Committee to his/her list of official responsibilities, to support and attend as they do with the other GWNC committees. This will provide additional help with things like agenda writing, minutes writing/editing, scheduling, venue coordination, committee outreach, communication with the Board and other committees, etc.

D. Nominations for new Committee Secretary

Committee members agreed to table an appointment until a more thorough search has been done to bring new members on board.

4. Old Business (Discussion and Possible Action)

[Note: Items in italics, below, were unconfirmed at publication and may be postponed until a later date.]

A. Update and Discussion on Revised Mobility Plan/Mobility Plan 2035

Mr. Funderburk noted that he did not attend the recent city hearing on the Plan, but did receive comments from Miracle Mile Residential Association President Jim O’Sullivan. An issue of concern to Mr. Funderburk has been the changes proposed to street dedication requirements for developers, which have been relaxed to some degree in a recently-passed ordinance. Committee members asked whether this might be an issue for the Land Use Committee to discuss, who benefits from the changes (pedestrians, bike riders, businesses, etc.), and what the specific changes might be...but no answers were immediately available. Mr. Funderburk said others he has talked to have characterized the changes as “minor,” but he is still concerned.

B. Report on Metro Purple Line Extension Construction Community Meeting Held on May 21, 2015

Mr. Carpenter reported that Metro announced it has reduced the count of trees to be removed along Wilshire to 82. Removal will start this summer with 20 trees near the Wilshire/La Brea intersection, and will continue next year with 20 more trees near the Wilshire/Fairfax intersection. Ms. Stromberg noted that Metro has announced that the trees will be available for pick-up to the public, but interested individuals will need to pay for the pick-up and deliver out of their own pockets. Ms. Stromberg said that she can distribute a more detailed notice she received. Ms. Dicksteen said she heard that Metro was going to label the affected trees with information about the condition and status of each tree. Mr. Carpenter reported that interested Transportation Committee member Eric Oliver has volunteered to be the liaison to Metro’s Eat Shop Play program for the area, which will begin in August. This is also related to the Business Interruption Fund, which can pay merchants for lost business during subway construction (several payouts have been made to businesses along the Crenshaw Line). Also, the On the Move riders program, to encourage senior citizens to use public transit, will kick off soon. Mr. Carpenter further reported that four months of pile driving along Wilshire, and closure of the Wilshire/La Brea intersection for 15 weekends, will be our first encounters with large-scale construction. Finally, overall, Metro says the project is still on track to open in 2024.

C. Discussion and possible on the proposed Bike Plan: streets involved? Neighborhood impacts?

There was no news on this item, and it was tabled for a later meeting.

D. Discussion and possible action on the proposed Mobility Plan (Mobility Element of the General Plan): what can we do to better understand the proposals? (speakers, education, etc.?)

Ms. Stromberg said she reached out to the Los Angeles City Planning Department with a request that Claire Bowin come to speak on this subject at a future GWNC meeting, but Ms. Bowin was reluctant, saying she has already addressed the GWNC more than any other Neighborhood Council. Ms. Fuller suggested having one of our own members review and create an “Executive Summary” of the document (as GWNC Land Use Committee member John Kaliski often does with complex issues for that Committee), but Ms. Stromberg said the document is so large and complex that an outside consultant would be better. She recommended that either the Board or individual area neighborhood associations hire a consultant to produce such a summary, but acknowledged that it would be prohibitively expensive. There was further discussion about the background of the Plan, and how all municipalities are required by the State of California to produce General Plans with certain required elements, including a Mobility Element.

5. New Business (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Discussion and possible action on curb repairs at 901 S. Victoria Blvd.

Ms. Stromberg reported that while the Windsor Village Preservation Plan governing the Windsor Village HPOZ requires that all sidewalks be maintained with concrete, recent handicap-accessible curb cuts at this address left uneven sidewalks that were repaired with asphalt, leaving them bumpy, unsightly and in violation of the HPOZ requirements. Ms. Stromberg said she contacted the Bureau of Street Services about the problem, but they had no idea who was responsible for the repairs, and neither did CD4 Field Deputy Ben Seinfeld. She said BSS is still looking into the matter, but she’s wondering what other communities have done to remedy such issues. Ms. Fuller said Hancock Park has a long history of writing angry letters to various city agencies when such things happen there, but in general the City currently has neither the staff nor the funds to make this kind of repairs. Mr. Carpenter also noted that concrete cannot be repaired with concrete patches (unlike asphalt, which is easily patched) – the whole broken area must be removed and re-poured. He said grinding the broken areas to smooth them out can help avoid total replacement, but the City doesn’t seem to do this. Ms. Dicksteen noted that there are areas with the same problem on Lucerne Blvd. Ms. Stromberg said all communities with similar repair requirements for concrete streets and sidewalks should be able to share in whatever funds CD4 has found for concrete repairs, and the money shouldn’t all be spent in one area. Mr. Carpenter noted the City has announced a new “fix and release” project for city sidewalks, and suggested that Mr. Humphreville speak about the program at the next GWNC meeting. Ms. Stromberg agreed, noting that it’s not yet clear what contractors will be required and what kinds of timelines are involved.

B. Review, discussion and possible action to request support from GWNC to encourage LADOT to expedite approval to use Plate-Lock Technology for Metro Purple Line project

Ms. Owen said she wrote to Michael Cortez, at Metro, about this issue, but he said he hasn't yet connected with Curtis Tran at the Bureau of Engineering, who has the necessary information. She said we need to find out why the technology – which could minimize the amount and noise of street drilling by creating re-enterable openings – is not yet available for use in the Purple Line construction. Mr. Funderburk asked if Ms. Owen would draft a letter for the committee to review and present to the GWNC, and she said she would.

MOTION: (by Ms. Owen, seconded by Mr. Carpenter) That the Transportation Committee provide a letter to present to the GWNC Board, which could be sent, on behalf of the Board, to Curtis Tran at the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, to advocate for the approval and use of Plate-Lock Technology in the City of Los Angeles.

MOTION APPROVED unanimously by a voice vote.

C. Discussion and possible action on a request for left-hand turn arrows at Melrose and Rossmore/Vine

This issue was tabled for a later meeting.

D. Discussion and possible action on how to involve new CD4 Council Member on a street and sidewalks plan for GWNC and CD4.

Ms. Stromberg said that the Windsor Village Association sent a request to David Ryu congratulating him on his election and expressing interest in working with him, but received only a form-letter response. Ms. Stromberg recommended that a member of the Transportation Committee send Councilman-Elect Ryu an invitation for him and his Field Deputy for the Greater Wilshire area to attend the next Committee meeting. Ms. Fuller noted that the GWNC Board (and probably all the other NCs in the District) will also be submitting requests for his attendance, and everyone is eagerly awaiting word of the appointment for a Field Deputy for the area. Committee members agreed that the Field Deputy should be invited to all of our meetings as soon as they're appointed. Mr. Funderburk said that Catherine Landers is currently Mr. Ryu's Outreach Deputy.

MOTION: (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Ms. Owen) That Ms. Stromberg will invite Councilman-Elect Ryu and his Field Deputy for the Greater Wilshire area to the August Transportation Committee meeting.

MOTION APPROVED unanimously by a voice vote.

6. Committee and Staff Member Comments and Reports (including discussion and possible action items, if listed)

There were no reports.

7. Committee & Staff Member Comments/Announcements

A. Next meeting: Monday, August 3, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

8. Requests/Motions for Future Agenda Items

A. Discussion of Bicycle Rules

This item was tabled for future discussion.

B. Discussion of Skateboarding Rules

This item was tabled for future discussion

C. Discussion on Trust for Public Land Green Alleys Pilot Program as Option in the Greater Wilshire Area

This item was tabled for future discussion

D. Others

Ms. Stromberg suggested adding a discussion of policies and procedures for dealing with covered street cuts that haven't been properly leveled. Ms. Fuller said this is probably something that is best dealt with through complaint letters to the various city agencies.

Ms. Owen asked if we could get copies of letters from other communities, such as Hancock Park, to use as templates. Others agreed with this approach.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Fuller
GWNC Administrator