



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Transportation Committee Minutes
March 10, 2014

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee (TC) was held on Monday, March 10, 2014, in the Rectory of the Wilshire United Methodist Church, 4350 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:45pm.

2. Roll Call and Minutes

Present were members Jack Humphreville, Cindy Chvatal-Keane, Diane Dickstein and Jeff Carpenter. Also present were guests My La and Max Thelander from the City Planning Department, Officer A.C. Henry from LAPD [25967@lapd.lacity.org], and Joseph O'Heron, a commercial property owner on La Brea. Gerda McDonough, the TC Chair, was absent on account of illness.

Michelle Owen, a new Committee member, and invited guest Captain Rolando Solano of the LAPD West Traffic Division [24647@lapd.lacity.org] joined the meeting later.

Acting in the place of Gerda, Jack Humphreville called the meeting to order after determining that a quorum of members was present. In place of Gerda, Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Cindy Chvatal provided minutes that she had been given for the prior Committee meeting on December 4, 2013. These were unanimously approved.

3. LAPD Lead Officer Report (Officer Henry)

Jack Humphreville called upon Officer Henry of the West Traffic Bureau to report. Incidents at Melrose and Beverly, Highland and Olympic and along Western and La Brea were mentioned. The limitations of traffic incident data gathered was a particular source of concern for the Committee.

Michelle raised particular concern about the absence of data on numerous incidents and speeding on 6th Street west of Highland. Notwithstanding numerous crashes and incidents, LAPD no longer collects data on accidents, no matter how extreme, unless there are fatalities or serious injuries, or unless City property is damaged or destroyed.

Cindy raised the concern of errand bicycle behavior along 4th Street, with cyclists disregarding stop signs and other traffic rules. The pattern of violations was concentrated in a particular area in the 8-9am period. Officer Henry indicated that he would try to redeploy to monitor and curb cyclist mis-behavior at the identified intersections.

Captain Solano arrived towards the end of the discussion under this item. He expressed concern over the lack of data being gathered that would provide a much truer picture of the problems out on the street that, in turn, could justify resources to better respond to situations. Presently, however, with staff already unable to cover what they have assigned, the better data is not at the top of priorities.

4. Mobility Element Update (My La and Max Thelander, LADCP)

Jack returned to the published agenda to the topic of the Mobility Element. He led off with remarking that he had found it difficult to trust the City staff, that it was not possible to understand the complex issues that the City staff was presenting and that the Neighborhood Council needed its own expert advisors in order to engage the issues.

Discussion ensued on a wide variety of complaints about traffic, congestion, bicycles and sidewalks. Cindy and My La conferred on a number of specific items that Cindy had identified in the Hancock Park neighborhood.

5. Save Our Streets LA (Jack Humphreville)

Jack reported that the promised evaluation report has yet to be issued.

6. Metro Complete Streets Workshop (Jeff Carpenter)

This is an annual all-day workshop held by Metro, updating practices, technique and theory on strategies for making urban streets more livable. Materials from the workshop were available to those interested.

7. Safe Routes to School (Jeff Carpenter)

This was noted as a potential funding resource to address pedestrian hazards near schools. Federal and State programs, largely similar in scope, had alternated in cycles up until recently. State budget issues and Congressional inaction has created irregularities in the program funding cycles, but funds are still being made available.

8. People Street (Liz Fuller, Fred Mariscal)

No one was available to present this item.

9. Update on Failed Streets in Hancock Park (Cindy Chvatal-Keane)

The extensive history of engagement with the Council Office and the Public Works staff was recounted. The engineering survey that was supposed to help determine the priorities for concrete neighborhood street repair apparently has been found to be faulty and needs to be redone.

There have been commitments from the Council Office to fix the most egregious intersections, but have not been delivered on thus far. However, after the engineering survey

is redone, the understanding is that LABOE is to come up with an engineer's estimate to construct and what the City's contribution to prospective street re-construction would be. Prospective homeowner contributions mentioned might be on the order of \$25,000 per household.

10. Extended Metro Work Hours for Purple Line Station, Construction.

The discussion focused on issues at the Crenshaw contractor staging area. Diane Dickstein provided an update on current incidents. La Brea station issues were not taken up at this time.

11. Update on Alley Between Carling Way and 6th Street

Joseph O'Heron reported that, outside of some trash cleanup, no improvement has been made in the alley's condition. The Council Office has been sympathetic but does not seem to have been able to get any substantive action by the Bureau of Street Services with regard to the pavement condition. Joe felt that the situation was going nowhere in its present mode and somehow needed to be escalated to a level that could get some action.

12. Review of Recent Notifications for Possible Further Study/Action

Gerda was not present to discuss this item.

13. Committee Member Comments and Assignments.

None were noted.

14. Public Comments

There were no public comments noted.

15. Announcements and Adjournment

The schedule for the next meeting had not been determined at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Carpenter, substituting for the Committee minutes writer