



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”)
Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes, July 27, 2020
Approved October 5, 2020

In conformity with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

A. Call to Order

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Transportation Committee was held online. Chair Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and explained procedures.

B. Roll Call

Mr. Starr called the roll. Eight of the nine Committee Members were present online at the Roll Call: Conrad Starr (Chair), Jonah Bliss, Tucker Carney, Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal, Philip Farha, Chris Palencia and Jon Vein. Jennifer DeVore soon arrived. No Committee Members were absent. The GWNC Transportation Committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 51% of the nine filled Committee Seats, or five, so the Committee could take such votes. Also attending: at least seven Stakeholders and Guests including Juanita Kempe, M. Walker, Martin Berman, Patti Carroll, Cathy Roberts and Caroline Moser.

C. Ethics Training for Committee Members

Mr. Starr had received Mr. Bliss’ Training Certificate; Mr. Vein will forward his.

Committee Member Jennifer DeVore arrived at this time (7:10), making all nine Committee Members present online (the Committee quorum was five).

II. COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

A. Ned Racine, LA Metro

Ned Racine, Metro Senior Construction Relations Officer (cell 213-479-7884, RacineN@metro.net; 24-hour information 213-922-6934; Bus Rapid Transit 24-hour hotline 213-922-2500+1; PurpleLineExt@metro.net; www.facebook.com/PurpleLineExt; www.Twitter.com/PurpleLineExt; www.metro.net/PurpleLineExt), described construction for “the appendage at Orange Dr. . . . this is the normal process of building a station.” Scott Donohue, Metro’s STS Consultant, showed online slides describing above and below-ground “appendage structures” that will be constructed just north and west of Orange and Wilshire. There will be street closures from August 28 – February. During construction,

Wilshire will be reduced to “two lanes in each direction.” Mr. Racine said businesses have been and will be contacted regarding traffic patterns and minimizing disruptions.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments at this time.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Review and Adoption of the May 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Document copies were available at www.greaterwilshire.org/TCdocs. The following correction was requested: page one, Item #I: “duly noted discussion” should be “duly noted meeting” as there was a quorum.

MOTION (by Mr. Farha, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee approves the Minutes of its May 18, 2020 Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Farha, Palencia, Starr and Vein); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Election of Transportation Committee Secretary

Mr. Starr asked for a volunteer. No Motion was made or vote taken.

C. Nomination of and Possible Vote on New GWNC Transportation Committee Member(s)

i. Joseph Lee Suh

Mr. Starr relayed that Mr. Suh was unable to attend this meeting; this Agenda Item will be re-Agendized for the September meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. GWNC Transportation Committee “Purpose and Procedures.”

Mr. Starr explained the above. He showed a slide and there was discussion of “Transportation Committee Protocols.” He clarified that quorum calculation “has nothing to do with voting.”

MOTION to LAY ON THE TABLE (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Mr. Vein): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee TABLES this Item until later in the meeting.

MOTION to LAY ON THE TABLE PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #IX.]

MOTION (by Mr. Carney, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee recommends that the GWNC Board approve the Transportation Committee Protocols as presented and corrected.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Starr explained the difference between reconsidering and amending a Motion.

Committee Member Jennifer DeVore was unavailable to vote by this time, making eight Committee Members present online (this Committee quorum was five).

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Farha, Starr and Vein); zero opposed; two abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Chvatal and Palencia).

B. 4th Street Greenway

- i. Motion to Amend or Rescind the Motion Adopted by the Committee on January 13, 2020: “The GWNC Transportation Committee recommends the GWNC support the 4th Street Greenway as presented at its October 21, 2019 meeting and that the GWNC communicate its support to the appropriate agencies and request the City support and fund the 4th Street Greenway project, with the condition that the signals will never be opened up to east-west car traffic.”

Mr. Starr explained options.

MOTION (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by [*CS CONFIRM: WHO?*] M_. _): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee appeals the decision of the Chair to allow Agenda Item V. B. i. as written.

Committee Member Jennifer DeVore was again available to vote by this time, making nine Committee Members present online (this Committee quorum was five).

MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with two in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Chvatal and DeVore); six opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Farha, Palencia and Starr); one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Vein).

MOTION (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Mr. Vein): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee recommends that the Board amend the Motion Adopted by the Committee on January 13, 2020 by replacing all of the original language of “The GWNC Transportation Committee recommends the GWNC support the 4th Street Greenway as presented at its October 21, 2019 meeting and that the GWNC communicate its support to the appropriate agencies and request the City support and fund the 4th Street Greenway project, with the condition that the signals will never be opened up to east-west car traffic” with

“That the GWNC Board recommend to LADOT that LADOT, with community involvement and input, implement the following upgrades available per LADOT for the 4th Street Greenway: 1) Crosswalks (Continental, Decorative or Ladder) at 4th and Highland and 4th Rossmore; 2) initiate an expedited plan for sidewalk repair

and curb ramp installation at Las Palmas and 4th, and Hudson and 4th street; 3) conduct a comprehensive traffic study; and 4) ensure any funding available for these upgrades is discussed with the community, Council Office, and full GWNC Board before allocation is decided. ”

DISCUSSION: Ms. Chvatal explained the issue, including safety concerns and the estimated \$750,000 cost. Mr. Carney believed that biking “will benefit all of us.” Mr. Vein believed that biking accommodations would only benefit “a small portion of the population.” Mr. Starr cited reasons to have such accommodations. Mr. Farha believed the Greenway to be “a step in the right direction.” Mr. Carney reminded that “it still goes to the City,” which will do a traffic study.

MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with three in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Chvatal, DeVore and Vein); five opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Farha and Palencia); one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Starr).

- C. Support for Crosswalk on Melrose at Orange.
Mr. Farha explained the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Farha, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee recommends that the GWNC Board support having a crosswalk on Melrose around Orange Dr.

Committee Member Jennifer DeVore was unavailable to vote by this time, making eight Committee Members present online (this Committee quorum was five).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the eight eligible voters present with all eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Chvatal, Farha, Palencia, Starr and Vein); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- D. Support for Traffic Safety Mitigations at Intersection of Melrose/Highland.
Mr. Farha requested waiting to address this, pending further developments. He relayed that a Stakeholder reported safety hazards such as speeding vehicles. Mr. Starr noted that “this does about Hancock Park.” No Motion was made or vote taken.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. Recommendation that the GWNC Board Amend or Rescind the Motion Adopted at its General Board Meeting on September 14, 2011: “The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes signal lights at the intersections of 4th and Highland and 4th and Rossmore; supports City Councilman LaBonge regarding not removing the existing stop signs at those intersections; and would like to be involved in the traffic planning for those intersections.”

MOTION (by Mr. Farha, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): “The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee recommends that the GWNC Board Rescind the Motion Adopted at its General Board Meeting on September 14, 2011: “The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes signal lights at the intersections of 4th and

Highland and 4th and Rossmore; supports City Councilman LaBonge regarding not removing the existing stop signs at those intersections; and would like to be involved in the traffic planning for those intersections.”

DISCUSSION: Mr. Farha believed “this is the cleanest way to go forward.”

Committee Member Jennifer DeVore was again available to vote by this time, making nine Committee Members present online (this Committee quorum was five).

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the nine eligible voters present with six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Farha, Palencia and Starr); three opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Chvatal, DeVore and Vein); zero abstained.

B. Closure of Orange Drive at Wilshire Blvd. (600 Block) for construction of appendage structure.

Mr. Starr had contacted the BMW dealership and the Coffee Bean; neither replied. No Motion was made or vote taken.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

There were no reports.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Starr reported that Metro would be commencing their First/Last Mile Study for the Purple Line Extension La Brea Station in late September, as communicated to Mr. Starr by LA Metro’s Patrick Chandler will update the GWNC. Mr. Farha volunteered to Chair the next Committee meeting while Mr. Starr is unavailable.

Mr. Starr recognized Ms. Moser, who urged someone to volunteer to be the Committee Secretary.

IX. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Upcoming Transportation Committee Meeting. Next GWNC Transportation Committee will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2020 via Zoom.

Mr. Starr noted the above.

The next Agenda Item addressed was the continuation of Item #V.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Starr declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin, Minutes Writer

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Possibly edited by GWNC. The GWNC Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/transportation-committee-agendas-minutes>.