



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Transportation Committee Meeting October 5, 2020
MINUTES
Approved by the Committee on November 23, 2020

I. **WELCOMING REMARKS**

A. **Call to Order**

A duly noticed meeting of the Transportation Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Monday, October 5, 2020, via Zoom (online and by telephone). Chairperson Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. **Roll Call**

Mr. Starr called the roll. All nine the Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Mr. Starr (Chair), Jonah Bliss, Tucker Carney, Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal, Jennifer DeVore, Philip Farha, Chris Palencia and Jon Vein. *[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 9 Committee Seats, or five, so the Committee could take such votes.]*

Also in attendance were GWNC President Caroline Moser (as Zoom moderator) and one member of the press.

C. **Welcome**

Mr. Starr welcomed the assembled group.

II. **COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none.

III. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Cindy Chvatal reported queries about apparent traffic control device installation in progress at 2nd and Highland. It was unclear from available reports what is being installed. Ms. Chvatal indicated that queries have been made to Rob Fisher in CD4 for more information on the work activity.

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS** (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. **Review and Adoption of the July 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Vein moved to approve the July 27, 2020 minutes as drafted and presented. Mr. Carpenter seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of 9 yes (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Farha, Palencia, Starr, Vein), 0 noes

B. Nomination and Appointment of GWNC Transportation Committee Secretary

- i. Mr. Starr nominated Jeff Carpenter to serve as Committee secretary. Philip Farha seconded the motion. Cindy Chvatal volunteered to assist and serve in instances when he is unable to attend. Ms. Chvatal suggested, and, with the concurrence of the Committee, Mr. Starr agreed to record the meeting to serve as a backup for the secretary. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carpenter indicated he would serve up to one year.

C. Ethics training and Committee Code of Conduct for Committee Members

- i. Mr. Starr thanked all members for having completed the required Ethics training and Code of Conduct.

D. Nomination of and Possible Vote on New GWNC Transportation Committee Members(s).

- i. Joseph Lee Suh

Mr. Suh was not present. Mr. Starr moved to postpone the motion indefinitely and Mr. Vein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Support for Traffic Safety Mitigations at the Intersection of Melrose and Highland

- i. Mr. Farha said that he had nothing to report at this time. The intersection has significant safety issues, particularly with left-turn movements, but Mr. Farha indicated that he was waiting to see the effects of the new development under construction on the northeast corner of the intersection before suggesting a course of action.

B. Discussion of Bike Infrastructure in and Connectivity Through Greater Wilshire; Recent Decisions by the GWNC Board and CD5 Regarding 4th Street Greenway and Uplift Melrose

- i. 4th Street Greenway

Mr. Starr noted that the GWNC board voted at its August meeting not to rescind its 2011 motion requesting that no traffic signals be installed at 4th Street's intersections at Highland and Rossmore Avenues. Mr. Carpenter clarified the interest he previously expressed was in understanding more about what improvements were being proposed for the "Greenway" east of Hancock Park. Ms. Chvatal mentioned that in most all instances there was no funding to actually implement any of the major projects that have been proposed, such as roundabouts. However, she suggested that other, less cost-intensive improvements could pursue that might improve the corridor's environment for walking along the "Greenway."

Mr. Carney responded that it was important to take care when referring to the "4th Street Greenway" in that is a specific program of projects and actions tied to a specific package of funding sources. For further clarification, Mr. Starr said that he would upload some of the previous "4th Street Greenway" presentation materials to the Committee's document file. Mr. Starr suggested, and Ms. Chvatal agreed to draft a motion for the next Committee meeting's agenda regarding possible initiatives to improve 4th Street.

Mr. Vein inquired as to what were the stated objectives of the “4th Street Greenway” project. Mr. Starr recounted the initial presentation by Michael Schneider et al. to the Committee of the Greenway project proposal and that the project sought to reduce the safety hazards at major intersection crossings as well as reduce car traffic through the neighborhood. Mr. Vein suggested that the situation “might be viewed through two lenses”, city funding availability on the one hand and, on the other hand, what augmenting that funding with State funding might allow for. Mr. Starr repeated his suggestion that Committee members think about drafting motions to put before the Committee for its consideration.

ii. Uplift Melrose

Mr. Farha provided some background on the Uplift Melrose project, noting that the initiative came about when some \$50 million in State funding was going to be made available to qualified project proposals that could meet a September 15th submission deadline. One of the strings attached to the funding is that projects had to include separate pathways for bikes as well as a commitment to conduct a traffic study to manage any project impacts. LADOT very quickly put together a proposal, but it was opposed by the 5th District Council Office before it could even be submitted, even though “most people were in favor of doing something.”

The project was also opposed by Fix the City organization as a violation of the “settlement” (as opposed to a judgment) that the group had with the City over its opposition to the Mobility Plan element of the General Plan. Mr. Farha believed that the concerns that had been expressed by the Councilmember and the Fire and Police departments could have been addressed in time if the submission had been supported to go forward. Mr. Farha said he would provide a copy of the proposal to be put in the Committee documents file.

II. NEW BUSINESS

C. **Draft Recommendations to GWNC Land Use Committee: Transportation Questions for Applicants**

Mr. Starr expressed the concern that transportation management and mitigation measures did not seem to be adequately incorporated into the Land Use Committee’s reviews of projects. He suggested it could be useful to include a set of questions or requests in the LUC’s briefing materials to applicants. Among the possible questions Mr. Starr mentioned were

- i. What is the anticipated rideshare utilization of the project?
- ii. What provisions and accommodations will the project be providing for deliveries?

Mr. Farha responded that he was not sure how that might work. One of the meeting attendees, Liz Fuller of the Larchmont Buzz (and former secretary to the GWNC Land Use Committee) responded, noting she was speaking as a stakeholder, by citing the experience with the TOD project at the southeast corner of La Brea and Wilshire, that the LUC continually tries to ask questions about transportation concerns but has had little

luck in getting those concerns codified in the City's conditions of approval. In her opinion, however, the LUC has gotten better at discerning transportation issues and pressing for accommodations in project reviews. Mr. Farha noted that, notwithstanding whatever recommendations the LUC may make on transportation mitigation, it is unclear how receptive the City is likely to be in incorporating recommended measures into approval conditions.

Mr. Starr reiterated the suggestion that members draft suggested project review questions for consideration.

D. Council File 20-0838 Permanent Slow Streets Network / Commuter Traffic Reduction Plan / Pilot Program

Committee members discussed initiatives by CD4 et al. to make the temporary "Slow Streets" pilot program in some way permanent. Ms. Chvatal asked how State statutes might bear upon permanent traffic restraints or closing streets to cars.

Mr. Palencia moved that the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council file a CIS in support of CF 20-0838. Mr. Bliss seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 yes (Carpenter, Palencia, Bliss, Carney, Farha, Starr), 0 noes and 3 abstentions (Chvatal, DeVore, Vein).

E. LA Metro's Consideration of Elimination of Bus and Rail Transit Fares

Mr. Starr introduced to the topic for possible discussion if there was interest. No Committee members expressed interest in pursuing presently.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

No reports were made.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Dockless Electric Scooters

Mr. Starr noted that LADOT has prepared a major report on the City's experience with dockless electric scooters and he was interested in having someone review it for the Committee. Mr. Carney volunteered to review the study and report back to the Committee.

B. 4th Street Greenway Online Document

Ms. Chvatal noted that the LADOT website has a description of the "4th Street Greenway" and mentions its objectives as "a better boulevard for biking and walking." Mr. Starr re-iterated his invitation for members to bring draft motions on how to improve 4th Street for the next Committee meeting.

VIII. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The feasibility of holding the next meeting on November 23, 2020, was discussed and proposed to be put on the November General Meeting GWNC board agenda.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:27 p.m.

The GWNC Transportation Committee Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/transportation-committee-agendas-minutes>.