



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Transportation Committee Meeting November 23

November 23, 2020

MINUTES – Approved by the Committee January 25, 2021

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, November 23, 2020, via Zoom (online and by telephone). Chairperson Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with Caroline Moser moderating the Zoom call.

B. **Roll Call**

Mr. Starr called the roll. Six of the nine Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Mr. Starr (Chair), Jonah Bliss, Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal, Jennifer DeVore and Chris Palencia. *[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.]* Philip Farha joined the meeting later. Tucker Carney and John Vein were absent.

Also in attendance was Cathy Roberts.

C. **Welcome**

Mr. Starr welcomed the assembled group and made introductory remarks on the purpose and mission of the Committee and its relation to climate change mitigation.

II. **COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none.

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

Cindy Chvatal expressed the desire for the Committee to focus on the entirety of the GWNC area and broaden the focus to potential priorities for improvements and enhancements. She cited a roster of projects in an LADOT link, including an example on St. Andrews Place.

There was discussion over the various projects identified by LADOT, including Windsor Square. General agreement to be open to Area Representatives and other stakeholders suggesting initiatives to advance one or more of the projects that have been identified.

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

A. **Review and Adoption of the October 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the July 27, 2020 minutes as drafted and presented. Mr. Starr seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of 6 yes (Bliss, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Palencia, Starr), 0 noes, 0 abstentions.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Draft Recommendations on Transportation Questions GWNC LUC Applicants**

(This item was taken up later, after Mr. Farha's arrival.)

Mr. Starr and Mr. Farha shared their perspectives on various transportation-related issues involved with LUC applicants and how they might be best addressed.

Mr. Starr moved as follows:

The GWNC Transportation Committee recommends that the GWNC instruct its Land Use Committee to place on its next regular meeting agenda the consideration of the following "Submission & Presentation Guidelines" for inclusion under the bullet "Please be prepared to discuss":

Circulation: the Committee recommends designated locations for rideshare, taxi, and general passenger pick-up and drop-off that are not in "No Stopping" zones.

Commercial Deliveries: the Committee emphasizes the need for commercial delivery areas that will accommodate delivery vehicles' width, length, and height. *[UNFI trucks which supply natural foods grocery stores are 13'6" in height per Jamie at UNFI Moreno Valley]* ([LINK](#))

Active and Alternative Transportation: the Committee recommends secure storage areas for bicycles, e-bikes, and other active and alternative transportation modes; and showers and changing facilities for employees who commute by bicycle or other active transportation.

Ms. Chvatal seconded.

Mr. Farha characterized the current document as very short and succinct. He asked of the Committee what should be expected from the document.

Mr. Starr responded that for larger buildings, there are significant issues of circulation and safety. He noted that commercial facilities can fail to incorporate adequate height and other important clearances, with the consequence of delivery trucks forced to park, load and unload in the surrounding streets and neighborhoods.

Mr. Farha expressed concern about how much Metro’s approach “narrows down” the policy perspective. Mr. Bliss expressed a concern about making things more complex.

Mr. Carpenter suggested referring the item to the LUC for further discussion. Ms. Roberts (LUC Secretary) said she had no objection to adding the item to the next LUC meeting agenda. The motion carried by a vote of 4 yes (Carpenter, DeVore, Palencia, Starr), 0 noes, 3 abstentions (Bliss, Chvatal, Farha).

Mr. Farha and Ms. Roberts said they would take up the matter at their upcoming Land Use Committee meeting and that Board action would not be necessary.

B. Discussion of Bike Infrastructure in and Connectivity Through Greater Wilshire

This discussion moved to item VI.A.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Available Enhancements to Improve the 4th Street Greenway for All Modes of Active Transportation as Described by the City and the State (Chvatal)

Ms. Chvatal discussed the LADOT Vision statement, LADOT identified projects and links to LADOT maps and data.

(The Larchmont Buzz joined the meeting at this time, approximately 7:20 pm.)

Ms. Chvatal discussed how to give attention to the St. Andrews Street project as well as proposed improvements to pedestrian circulation on 4th Street and urged the Committee to explore the full list of “Our Projects” map of the GWNC.

Motion by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Mr. DeVore: That the GWNC explore all ways to improve 4th Street for all modes of active transportation within the GWNC, including in particular the St. Andrews Place bikeway.

Ms. DeVore moved to amend the motion by adding “...and consider not just bikes, but all transportation modes.” The motion to amend the motion passed with 4 in favor (Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Palencia) and 2 opposed (Bliss, Starr) and 0 abstentions.

The motion as amended passed with 3 in favor (Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore), 2 opposed (Bliss, Starr) and 1 abstention (Palencia).

Mr. Palencia, noting the constraints on east-west access generally in the GWNC, raised the question of whether it could be possible to get some kind of right-of-way access through the Wilshire Country Club golf course, particularly in view of the apparent demise of the Uplift Melrose initiative and the accessibility it would have provided.

Mr. Starr, noting the complexity of issues being raised, suggested that the item might better handled as a standing agenda item rather than a motion.

Discussion ensued with Ms. DeVore, Ms. Moser, Mr. Palencia and Ms. Chvatal regarding the desire to go beyond an emphasis on bikes and include all modes. Mr.

Starr felt that an “all modes” approach would hamstring the Committee and be so broad as to be meaningless.

Mr. Palencia felt that there was useful intent in the motion and suggested another amendment to strike the section “...to improve the 4th Street Greenway...” as well as other specific references to streets and pathways. However, there was no second to the motion.

Mr. Starr concluded that the item will become a standing agenda item.

B. CF 20-1328 Personal Delivery Devices Operating in the Public Right-of-Way

Motion: To recommend that the GWNC file a CIS in support of CF 20-1328.

Mr. Starr moved and Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. Mr. Starr discussed the issue, sharing a photo of a device on Melrose. The motion passed with 3 in favor (Carpenter, DeVore, Starr), 1 opposed (Bliss) and 2 abstentions (Chvatal, Palencia).

C. Public Safety Motion on Enhanced Mufflers

Motion: To recommend that the GWNC file a CIS in support of Public Safety Committee Motion (or Council File 20-1267) on Enhanced Mufflers of 9-30-2020.

Mr. Starr shared the text of the Public Safety Committee motion. Mr. Carpenter moved and Mr. Starr seconded. After some discussion, Ms. Chvatal moved to call the question. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion to call the question. The motion to call the question passed with 5 in favor (Bliss, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Starr), 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Palencia). The motion passed with 5 in favor (Bliss, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Starr), 0 opposed and 1 abstention (Palencia).

Mr. Farha joined the meeting at this time, approximately 8:10 pm.

(At this time, Item V.A. was taken up.)

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

A. LADOT Dockless Electric Scooters Pilot Draft Report (Carney). Mr. Carney was not present so there was no report. It was agreed to postpone the item to the next meeting.

B. Metro PLE La Brea Station First/Last Mile Discussion (Farha/Starr). Mr. Farha suggested that the individual Area representatives should contact the Metro consultants with their own recommendations and requests.

C. CA Transportation Commission 2021 Active Transportation Program Guidelines (Chvatal). Ms. Chvatal provided perspectives on developing compliant projects. Note was made of the “Quick Build Pilot Program” (p.48, #6), but, overall, Ms. Chvatal stressed that the projects involve a considerable amount of work.

D. Metro Purple Line Extension (Starr). Mr. Starr commented that the tunneling is now approaching the La Cienega station but is being impeded until an “anomaly” (and potential tunneling obstacle) that has been detected under the intersection of Wilshire and San Vicente can be resolved. Mr. Starr, updating reports in the press

that it might be an old oil well casing, said that it has been determined not to be the case.

- E. **Slow Street Applications Experience (Starr).** Mr. Starr commented that the application process was “not great” and quickly ran out of funding. He felt, based upon the treatment of Sycamore Square’s application, that there were questions about how the 189 projects were ranked.

VIII. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. **Letter from the City of West Hollywood re: Metro Crenshaw Line Northern Extension (Starr).** Mr. Starr noted that the City of West Hollywood continues to be actively promoting the Northern Extension and that the Metro Board has advanced funding for continued studies. La Brea is now one of the three remaining alternative corridors for the Northern Extension.

- B. **4th Cycling Environmental Impact Article in BikeRadar (10-30-2020) (Starr).** Mr. Starr shared the article.

IX. **REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:58 p.m.

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