



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Transportation Committee
January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting
MINUTES – Approved by the Committee March 22, 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, January 25, 2021, via Zoom (online and by telephone). Chairperson Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. **Roll Call**

Mr. Carpenter called the roll. Seven of the nine Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Jonah Bliss, Jeffrey Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal, Jennifer DeVore, Chris Palencia, Conrad Starr (chair) 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.]* Tucker Carney joined the meeting later. Philip Farha was absent.

C. **Welcome**

Mr. Starr welcomed the assembled group and made introductory remarks on his recent review of Robert’s Rules of Order as they might apply to the Committee and noted that it would seem that the Rules allow for causal discussion among the Committee member on agenda items.

II. **COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none.

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

Mr. Starr noted that there had been the intention to consider the 4th Street Greenway as a standing agenda item, but that he had forgotten to include the item in this agenda. Ms. Chvatal responded that there might be much to discuss insofar as funding for any of the improvements seems moot for the time being.

[Mr. Carney joined the meeting at 7:08pm]

Ms. Chvatal and Ms. DeVore expressed the opinion that treating the 4th Street Greenway as a standing item did not seem to necessary for the time being.

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

A. **Review and Adoption of the November 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Chvatal moved to approve the July 27, 2020 minutes as edited and presented. Ms. DeVore seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of 8 yes (Bliss, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Palencia, Starr, Vein), 0 noes, 0 abstentions.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **E-Bike Informational Town Hall**

Mr. Starr shared a perspective that the offering of E-Bikes of various configurations had recently undergone a significant shift that could merit discussion and better public understanding. He solicited interest in putting on a virtual Town Hall event and what form it might best take. Mr. Carney thought that the event would be best scheduled as a standalone event rather than in conjunction with a regular Transportation Committee meeting; Mr. Bliss and Ms. Chvatal concurred. It was suggested to look to scheduling sometime in the second half of March, keeping the schedule open to respond to participant availability.

Motion: That the GWNC Transportation Committee appoint Tucker Carney, Jonah Bliss and Conrad Starr to develop a virtual Town-Hall style meeting about E-Bikes for the Greater Wilshire community to be provisionally held during the latter half of March 2021 and, furthermore, the Transportation Committee requests that the GWNC Board utilize its communications channels to promote the event.

Mr. Starr moved, Mr. Carney seconds. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 yes (Bliss, Carney, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Palencia, Starr, and Vein), 0 no and 0 abstentions.

B. **Council File 21-0002-S30 - Fare Free Transit/State and Local Agencies/Equitable Post-Pandemic Recover/Freedom to Move Act (H.R.7389/S.4278)**

Motion: To recommend that the GWNC file a CIS in support of CF 21-0002-S30.

Mr. Carney moved, Mr. Palencia seconds.

[a representative from the press joined the meeting at this time, 7:30pm.]

Mr. Carney stated that he could see no negative aspect. Mr. Carpenter responded that while farebox revenue was only a fraction of operating costs, it was still immensely significant in terms of just managing to maintain current services, let alone managing to add the levels of service many believe is needed. He further noted that not putting any price at all on a very valuable and costly good or service is very likely to lead to misuse, abuse and disregard for that investment, and urged that the direction should, instead, be subsidizing users according to need (as Metro already extensively does) while charging those that can pay a commensurate rate, particularly higher-cost, very long-distance peak-hour commuters.

A vote was taken with 3 yes (Carney, Palencia, Starr) and 5 abstentions (Bliss, Carpenter, Chvatal, DeVore, Vein). After discussion, the motion's proponents agreed to postpone consideration of the topic to the next meeting.

VI. **COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**

- A. **LADOT Dockless Electric Scooters Pilot Draft Report** (Carney). Mr. Carney discussed his reading of the report, characterizing as more focused on LADOT's process than the systems themselves. The report recorded 10.3 million (to March 2020, essentially pre-pandemic) trips. About 26% of the users E-bike users reported not having access to a car; a similar percentage reported their travels as job-related. A third of the trips replaced a trip with a high-emission vehicle; half of the trips replace a walk trip.

Mr. Carney said that he was pleased with LADOT's recognition of the City's role as an infrastructure provider responsive to sustainable vehicle systems that promote mobility and equity. In the course of the pilot, LADOT developed the MDS (Mobility Data Specification) data platform which an important framework for overseeing, managing, and optimizing new dockless mobility options. It was noted that dockless e-bikes contributed significant increases in the use of protected bike lands, particularly Downtown.

Though the report made mention of the 311 for reporting fallen scooters and e-bikes, there was no evaluation of the effectiveness of that app and responsiveness to complaints. Ms. Chvatal noted this as an important issue and said it is something that should be followed up on.

Patty Lombard of the Larchmont Buzz asked for a link to the LADOT report and it was posted.

- B. **LADOT Neighborhood Circulation Survey Being Circulated.** Ms. Chvatal introduced the topic of notices of a survey being posted in the Hancock Park neighborhood. Mr. Vein expressed concern about the approach and method of the survey that appeared to target 4th Street in Hancock Park. The introduction of "how 4th Street can be made safer" seemed to be leading, suggesting the study is driven by a particular agenda. It was mentioned that, as one example, the suggested improvements at Highland would require a traffic study.

Ms. DeVore requested to call a special meeting with a representative of LADOT if possible. Mr. Starr agreed to pursue the request.

- C. **Melrose Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project** (Farha/Starr).
As Mr. Farha was not present, this item was postponed to the next regular meeting.
- D. **Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP)** (Starr). Mr. Starr discussed this program, now in the public outreach and comment stage, for how the City and the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) should prioritize transit stop and sidewalk amenities and appurtenances as the current transit shelter contracts expire. Note was made of an online survey and interactive map now available.
- Mr. Starr noted that bus transit stop shelters are at the center of the program; free-standing interactive kiosks are potentially a new element to the program. Mr. Starr noted that the most noticeable likely change will be the institution of dynamic, changeable digital signage in place of the static advertising panels.
- Ms. Chvatal noted that the current transit shelter program provided a revenue stream that went to individual Council Offices for their use and wondered if that arrangement will be changed; identifying a City contact was discussed. [Subsequent StreetsLA publicity identifies Elis Le, streetsla.ert@lacity.org, as a contact for the STAP.]
- E. **December 22, 2020 Land Use Committee Meeting** (Starr). Mr. Starr reviewed the Transportation Committee's motion from the prior meeting, requesting the LUC to include a number of questions in their examination of development projects coming before the committee. Mr. Vein commented that a number of his suggestions had been incorporated into the list of questions and expressed his appreciation for that. Mr. Starr said that the LUC indicated that it would take up the request at a future meeting.

VII. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. **Metro Recovery Task Force** (Starr). Mr. Starr noted that the public comment period had been extended to February 8, 2021. The Draft Final Report was available at

<http://media.metro.net/2020/Recovery-Task-Force-Draft-Final-Report.pdf>

The public feedback comment form was available at:

<https://metro.cvent.com/surveys/Questions/SurveyMain.aspx>

- B. **Purple (D) Line Extension/Section 1 First/Last Mile Survey** (Starr). Mr. Starr reported that Metro will launch an online survey starting in March 2021 to gather public opinion as to how to best facilitate access to and from transit stops and stations and provided this link:

<https://www.metro.net/projects/westside/d-line-firstlast-mile-section-1/>

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

The First/Last Mile Survey was suggested as a topic for the next meeting.

The next regular meeting of the GWNC Transportation Committee meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021 via Zoom.

The time and date for a prospective e-bike town hall during is to be subsequently determined.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:23 p.m.

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