

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Meeting of the Transportation Committee
September 28, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

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 Wednesday, September 28, 2022 [shifted from the regular Monday meeting day due to a holiday], via Zoom (online and by telephone). Committee chairperson Cindy Chvatal called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mr. Carpenter called the roll. Six of the eight Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal (chair), Frank Moser, Owen Smith, Sam Uretsky, and Jon Vein. Conrad Starr and Julie Stromberg were absent; Jonah Bliss had resigned from the Committee. GWNC board secretary Jennifer DeVore moderated the initiation of the meeting. *[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 8 Committee Seats, or five, so the Committee was able to take such votes.]*

II. COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy for Council District 5, introduced Jay Greenstein, Chief Field & Transportation Deputy for CD 5. Mr. Greenstein noted the re-opening of the application window for speed humps the following Thursday at 9am.

Each Council District gets an allocation of about 25 speed hump projects, amounting to 3-4 blocks in each Council District. He noted that, generally, the quota of projects is filled within the first 30 minutes of the opening of applications; he reported that 43 expressions of interest had reached the Council Office since the last application window was closed.

Jon Vein asked about the mechanics of applying and getting a response from the Council Office, noting that none of his emails he had sent regarding a need for a speed hump had been responded to. Mr. Greenstein responded that his communications had likely been going to his then-Council District 4 office, so was not able to respond to the specifics of his case.

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Mr. Greenstein noted that while there is a very high interest in speed humps in CD5, these installations are often not considered a priority by LADOT.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from public attendees. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Macias for all of the initiatives he helped bring about to clean up problems on Highland Avenue.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Review and Adoption of Committee Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Smith): That the GWNC Transportation Committee approve the draft meeting minutes for July 25, 2022.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion with Ned Racine, Metro, Updates on Wilshire Construction.

Mr. Racine was not present to report.

B. Discussion with Raphie Cantor on GWNC Pedestrian Priorities.

[this discussion occurred after item V.C] Mr. Cantor recapped the recent success of a new pedestrian (“HAWK”) crossing signal across Melrose at Orange Drive and that similar protections are needed to provide for safe pedestrian crossings of Beverly between the signals at La Brea and Highland. Mr. Carpenter noted his previously stated goals of also providing a safe way for pedestrians to cross both Beverly Blvd. and 3rd Street between La Brea and Highland.

The general consensus of the Committee was to advocate for safe pedestrian crossings of Beverly and 3rd at Orange Drive.

C. Discussion with LADOT Engineering on Implementation of a Pedestrian Crossing of Highland at 8th Street.

Rudy Guevara, LADOT’s District Engineer for CD 5, picked up on the discussion of a safe pedestrian crossing of Highland at 8th Street, following on Ms. Eliana Goehring’s discussions with the Committee at its prior meeting. Mr. Guevara reported that this part of the City was new to him and his staff and that he would have to do some research on the concerns and get back to the Committee.

However, in the meantime, he said that he will schedule the installation of a marked crosswalk across Highland at 8th Street, indicating that would take 4-6 weeks.

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Ms. Chvatal asked about what process could expedite prospective pedestrian crossing protection signals. Mr. Guevara said that he had taken note that Metro had identified this crossing in their plan for the station area, attesting to the need

for a safe pedestrian crossing. While the initial installation will just be a painted crosswalk, Mr. Guevara said that he will initiate work on follow up reports for an activated pedestrian crossing signal.

He cautioned, however, that he has hundreds of such requests, some waiting for years. That backlog notwithstanding, however, he told the committee to identify and send to him other candidates that the Committee believes should be given consideration.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Continued Transportation Committee Member Outreach: Transportation and Traffic Safety Priority Issues in Greater Wilshire Communities.** Ms. Chvatal discussed getting 6th Street designated as a bikeway.

Mr. Vein expressed frustration over protracted LADWP construction at Las Palmas and Beverly, apparently for one family's property, that seemed excessive and that street repairs did not seem to be meeting expected standards. Ms. Chvatal discussed issues that have been raised between the different approaches that LADWP and Street Services have been taking to street repairs.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Koretz had apparently indicated his preferred route for the Crenshaw [K Line] Northern Extension. Mr. Greenstein responded that the Councilmember had taken note of the Westside Cities Council of Governments' recommendation, agreed with it and felt it constructive to support their recommendation.

Mr. Uretsky noted that CD13 had not sent a representative to the Committee's meeting and asked if an invitation had been extended. Ms. Chvatal said she would contact George Hakopiants for the next meeting. Mr. Uretsky also noted that Larchmont had gotten new crosswalks installed.

VIII. REQUESTS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Chvatal reminded Committee members to send her agenda topics for future meetings.

The next meeting of the Committee was noted to be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 28, 2022. via Zoom ID 921 5993 555.

Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Carpenter seconded the move to adjourn at 7:47 p.m..