



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

March 8, 2023

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Paul Krekorian, President, Los Angeles City Council

Hon. Heather Hutt, Chair, Council Transportation Committee (T. Committee)

Hon. Traci Park, Vice Chair, T. Committee

Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Hon. Nithya Raman and Hon. Eunisses Hernandez, Members, T. Committee

Connie Llanos, Interim General Manager, Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation (LADOT)

Via email to all addressees

Re: **Venice Blvd. Mobility Improvements Project: WRAC withholds support until modeling studies of the volume of redirected traffic are conducted (related Council File: CF 22-0694)**

Dear City Officials:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a coalition of all fourteen neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, located in CDs 5 and 11 and portions of CDs 4 and 10.

WRAC's member Councils have long-expressed frustration with existing, severe traffic congestion on the Westside. Now, our Councils are concerned about the possibility of *increased congestion* that may result from vehicular traffic diverted onto adjacent local, collector and arterial streets from removal of one vehicle lane in each direction of Venice Blvd., as proposed by LADOT for the Venice Blvd. Mobility Improvements Project.

As a result, a majority of WRAC member Councils have adopted the following motion (or modified versions in keeping with its spirit), which is an adopted position of WRAC:

“The _____ CC/NC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, is concerned that removing one vehicle lane in each direction on Venice Blvd. between Inglewood Blvd. and National Blvd. will divert traffic onto other adjacent local, collector and arterial streets. Until such time as LADOT conducts modeling studies to predict the volume of vehicular traffic that will be diverted off Venice Blvd. when the road diet component of this project is installed, our Council will be withholding its support for Phase One of the Venice Blvd. Mobility Improvements project.

“The member Councils directly affected by this project are: Venice, Mar Vista, Palms and South Robertson. The member Councils which may be affected by redirected traffic include: Del Rey, WLA/Sawtelle and Westside.”

The language of the above motion (the WRAC Motion) has been approved by the following WRAC member councils: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, Brentwood Community Council, Neighborhood Council Westchester-Playa, Venice Neighborhood Council, West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council,* Westside Neighborhood Council,* Westwood Community Council and Westwood Neighborhood Council (**modified version maintaining the spirit of the motion*).

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Minority position: One WRAC member Council, Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC), passed a resolution in November 2020 (two years before the WRAC Motion was first proposed to WRAC member Councils), calling on the City to implement a Mobility Plan with improvements to Venice Blvd.; see 12/9/20 DRNC position letter: <http://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/DRNC-Venice-Blvd-copy.pdf>). DRNC has not taken a specific position on whether studies should be conducted of the volume of redirected traffic from the closure of vehicle lanes on Venice Blvd.

WRAC urges the City/LADOT to conduct modeling studies to predict the volume of traffic diverted onto adjacent local, collector and arterial streets from the removal of vehicle lanes on Venice Blvd.; until such studies are conducted, WRAC will withhold support for the Venice Blvd. Mobility Improvements project. WRAC further calls on Councilmembers Park (CD 11) and Yaroslavsky (CD 5), as well as other T. Committee members, to take appropriate action to ensure that such modeling studies are conducted, including without limitation making a request of LADOT and/or introducing a motion in City Council to direct LADOT to conduct such studies before further portions of the road diet component of this project are installed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg

Robin Greenberg
Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc (via email):

Daniel E. Mitchell, PE, Assistant General Manager, LADOT
Pamela Lee, AICP, Supervising Transportation Planner II, LADOT
Jeff Khau, Transportation & Planning Deputy, CD 11
Sean Silva, Field Deputy, CD 11
Jarrett Thompson, Transportation & Sr. Field Deputy, CD 5