

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council



Transportation Committee Draft Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2014

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Transportation Committee (TC) of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) was held on Monday, May 12, at Wilshire United Methodist Church, 4350 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90005. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Roll Call and Minutes

Committee Members Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal-Keane, Jack Humphreville, Gerda McDonough, Michelle Owen, and Julie Stromberg were present.

The minutes of the February (?) meeting were not available and will be approved at the next TC meeting.

3. Election of Officers

Gerda McDonough stepping down as TC Chair due to moving out of the region. Present committee members (Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal-Keane, and Gerda McDonough) voted unanimously that Stakeholder Michelle Owen is to replace Ms. Donough as TC Chair. Julie Stromberg appointed as TC Secretary and GWNC Land Use Committee Liaison.

4. Ethics and Meeting Rules

Elizabeth Fuller was not present and this item was tabled for the next TC meeting.

5. Update on Save Our Streets Initiative

Jack Humphreville reported that the Save Our Streets Initiative fails to address the amount of sidewalks that will be done. The City of Los Angeles has 10,500-11,000 miles of sidewalks. Mr. Humphreville reported that they are branding or funding the Initiative

through general funds vs. tax (street tax). Priority at City Hall to fix LA's streets and sidewalks. Major priority to get street bond passed to fix streets and free up money in general budget. Need 2/3 vote and plan on putting the Initiative on the November 2014 ballot. However, City has to first pass a resolution by beginning of July 2014 with all documentation ready by mid-July. Opposition arguments will follow by including it on November 2014 ballot. There is no other plan to fix LA's streets other than a street tax, but Mr. Humphreville says that this can be done via bonds. The proposed street tax would be a ½ cent sales tax increase. Metro wants to increase the street tax by another ½ cent by November 2016, which would result in \$2.8 billion per year in increased taxes. Mr. Humphreville reported that Mayor Garcetti said that he would not put the Initiative on the ballot unless he thinks he will win.

6. Mobility Element

Gerda McDonough reported that the deadline for comments on the Mobility Plan 2035 is 05-13-14. The Mobility Plan is the Transportation Element part of the LA General Plan. Despite efforts of TC, the Mobility Element has gone under the radar in LA. The Mobility Element will change some ways that we use our streets. Each part of the City has its own plan, such as the Wilshire Plan. Hollywood Plan is being reworked. TC filed extensive comments on Notice of Preparation. Some things can be addressed in the Community Plan (sidewalks, street repairs, etc). City decided what is going in the Mobility Plan, but allowed us to comment. When get to the Community Plan for each neighborhood, we need to be vocal like Hollywood.

7. Federal Highway Trust Fund

Jeffry Carpenter reported that the Federal Highway Trust Fund (FHTF) is a program that began in the 1950s and was based on a vehicle and fuel tax. The program could have provided funding to help fix local streets, but Congress let it fall apart and it has been technically insolvent since 2005. Question remains on whether should substitute the funding with a property and/or sales tax? Fee can be on a statewide basis. Mr. Carpenter thinks that we need a tax that is user-based (drive more, pay more), such as the experiment on the Harbor Freeway (hot lanes, toll lanes, etc.). There has also been discussion of a sales tax to repair the roads. Has to be done on a statewide basis.

8. Update on Repair Status of Hancock Park Failed Streets

Cindy Chvatal-Keane reported that the City of LA was supposed to get back to the TC on the Trip Assessment in 3 weeks and that was 6 weeks prior to tonight's meeting. City would contribute based on Trip Assessment: How many people using streets who do not live in the neighborhood? In performing their assessment, the City only looked at interior streets, but they did not assess Rimpau Blvd. as asphalt. Assessment revealed that McCadden has most trips. City will pay up to 15% of the assessment, which is their cap. Prior to assessing Rimpau Blvd., however, they did not have 15%. The City only assessed concrete pavement and not asphalt. TC still waiting on a response from the City, but the City has repaired 6th Street.

Ms. Chvatal-Keane reported that federal funding for the Highland Blvd. Repair fell apart and now will reapply.

9. Extended Work Hours on Metro’s Purple Line Project

Issue tabled for next TC meeting.

10. Update on Carling Way Alley Repair

Stakeholder Joseph O’Heron reported that concrete center with gutter for drainage needed at Carling Way and is not present. If City performed this repair, would be treated as maintenance with no improvement (hence no center gutter). Mr. O’Heron explains that need to pay for alleyways via fees and assessments. However, the City of LA will not do a survey of the alleys to determine boundaries. Consequently, homeowners will need to incur costs of doing a survey. Mr. O’Heron discussed that homeowners could perform the repair on their own, but they will need to pay building fees, which can be costly. In addition, homeowners expose themselves to potential liability if they repair the alley. For example, if homeowners perform the repair and some homes, specifically garages, experience drainage or flooding issues, the homeowners would be liable. This area is in the jurisdiction of 4th District Council. Ben Seinfeld referred Mr. O’Heron to many people, including Randy Price. City says they have no money, but project is on their “to-do” list, but will not indicate where the project stands on their “to-do” list. Future action items on this matter include:

- (i) Mr. O’Heron looking into possible waiver of building fees;
- (ii) Consider asking Metro for help since this area is adjacent to a subway station (pedestrian access, emergency exit, etc.); and
- (iii) Continue communicating with Ben Seinfeld.

11. Review of Recent Notifications for Possibility of Further Study/Action and Committee Member Comments & Assignments

Michelle Owen will look into who is handling the newsletter and email blast for the TC. In the past, Liz Fuller handled the newsletter, monthly email blasts, and website.

12. Public Comments

None.

13. Announcements & Adjournment

No announcements. Meeting is adjourned at 8:00 p.m.