



PLANNERS will seek community input, draft environmental documents and test closures over the coming year in a bid to permanently shut down the portion of Wilshire Boulevard that cuts through MacArthur Park.

‘IT’S BOLD’: A MOVE TO BLOCK OFF WILSHIRE

To redress the harm caused by roads that fracture communities, L.A. will test closure of the stretch that bisects MacArthur Park

By Rachel Uranga

One of Los Angeles’ most iconic streets may soon be car-free — or at least a small section of it.

City leaders announced the first step Tuesday toward eliminating vehicles on a less than half-mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard bisecting MacArthur Park. Over the coming year, planners will seek community input, draft environmental documents and test closures in a bid to permanently shut down that portion of road.

If achieved, the closure would mark a watershed moment for a region that has been grappling with what public space means in the center of car culture. And it would be the most significant closure of a major arterial street in recent memory.

The span of Wilshire targeted for closure is in the heart of a dense, immigrant



THE EFFORT is mostly covered by a federal grant and comes as the nation rethinks its reliance on cars.

community marked by poverty and a teeming street culture. With its playgrounds and grass fields, the palm-tree-dotted park has welcomed families — but also has been a haven for drug use.

“It’s about opening up this neighborhood to the possibilities that come when we center people’s needs over the needs of cars,” said Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, whose district spans a swath of the Eastside. “It’s about dreaming bigger and better for a community in critical need of deep investment.”

Planners hope to eventually extend the greenbelt toward Lafayette Park, less than half a mile west.

“It’s bold,” said Michael Schneider, who ran a successful campaign to pass ballot Measure HLA, which forces Los Angeles to build

Pelosi warns Biden on time amid anxiety in their party

Ex-House speaker sends a pointed signal as Democrats flip-flop or avoid questions about the president.

By Noah Bierman

Americans experiencing whiplash over Democratic leaders’ desire to nudge President Biden out of his reelection campaign can be forgiven.

Just as it seemed Biden had beaten back congressional pressure to withdraw this week, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco ushered in another wave of doubt Wednesday, warning Biden that “time is running short” to reconsider a decision he has said repeatedly and defiantly that he has already made.

The party has contorted itself over the last two weeks

Harris seeks to shore up president

Amid a show of support for Biden in Vegas, some at rally look to her to run in his place. **NATION, A4**

as it contends with competing forces: Biden’s pride, the party’s sinking poll numbers, fear of chaos, elected lawmakers’ personal ambitions and the overwhelming anxiety among Democrats of all stripes that former President Trump will win a second term.

Democratic lawmakers have tried all manner of responses to their Biden dilemma — some evasive, some creative.

The Tuesday walk-back from Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, who had called for a new candidate only two days earlier: “Whether I have concerns or not is beside the

A cold war of sorts over probe findings

Pentagon intervenes in a misconduct inquiry into a top leader of California National Guard.

By Paul Pringle and Alene Tchekmedyan

The secret investigation of a California National Guard officer focused on small and large matters — the colonel’s Dalmatian and the mess the dog made in a military building, but also her handling of another high-ranking officer’s drunk-driving crash and reports of plummeting morale among firefighting pilots she oversaw.

Inspectors general for the California Guard con-

ducted more than three dozen confidential interviews and pored over financial records and other documents. They came to a clear conclusion: Col. Lisa Nemeth, the target of the investigation, had engaged in conduct unbecoming an officer.

That judgment, issued behind closed doors in 2022, endangered a planned promotion of Nemeth to general, according to two sources familiar with the inquiry who requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly.

But then came an extraordinary telephone call from the Pentagon — one that ignited a seething cold war between the California Military Department, which is the parent organization of the Guard, and both the Na-

An unlikely battleground for abortion rights

Group’s campaign to block clinic in Beverly Hills may offer playbook for similar efforts

By Sonja Sharp

Emma Craig was outside the Beverly Hills Medical Center on Wilshire Boulevard, spoiling for a fight.

Armed with a bullhorn, sidewalk chalk and “giant photos of dead babies,” the Bay Area art teacher and antiabortion activist had arrived with her confederates last summer to pray and protest against a clinic seeking to expand its services to California amid a flurry of national restrictions on reproductive care.

Construction on the DuPont Clinic, a highly specialized abortion provider based in Washington, D.C., had halted weeks earlier. But members of Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust — who received confirmation of the development from Beverly Hills officials, emails show — decided to keep protesting anyway.

The Survivors, as they call themselves, were geared up for weeks of aggressive street outreach, in-your-face pickets and guerrilla free-way banner drops. Their Beverly Hills campaign would offer a playbook on future efforts to shut down a clinic even in the nation’s cities and states that most support abortion rights.

“We wanted to demonstrate to the building management and to the city, if this clinic goes in here, it’s not going to be good,” Craig said. “You’re gonna have protesters in your beautiful town with these terrible giant photos.”

Almost as soon as Beverly Hills officials were approached, public records show, they moved swiftly to address the concerns of a group considered extremist even within California’s anti-abortion movement — “the redheaded stepchild,” as



ACTIVISTS, from left, Heather Fels, Gay Abrams, Andrea Grossman and Amanda Smith say the city colluded with an antiabortion group to scuttle a clinic.

NATO summit puts off Ukraine

Allies offer more military aid — but not the membership Zelensky seeks amid war with Russia. **NATION, A4**

Big DWP fee hike is forecast

Advocate urges L.A. to delay 2035 goals, calls predicted 7.7% boost “not reasonable.” **CALIFORNIA, B1**

NBA TV deals are finalized

League is said to have agreements with NBC, Prime Video, ABC, ESPN. TNT could lose its rights. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather

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