**NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**

Tuesday November 19th, 2019, 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Kerckhoff Hall, Room 317

308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

* Peters, Daboussi, Arciniega, Parker, Lewis present. Quorum met.

1. Announcements

* Arciniega
  + At UC Board of Regents meeting, Student Regent asked a question about safe parking to administrator of community colleges during the Basic Needs Committee meeting.
* Peters
  + NWWNC board recommended that UCLA Transportation explore the possibility of a safe parking program. UCLA does not have a good handle on the number of students experiencing homelessness.

1. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
2. Approval of 4/29/19, 8/6/19, and 10/1/19 minutes.

* Peters moves to approve the 4/29/19, 8/6/19, and 10/1/19 minutes, Arciniega seconds
  + 3 - 0 - 2 abstentions, motion carries.

1. Safety Issues
   1. Public Safety Update

* Lt. Kilgore: Donald Trump Jr. went well, no physical violence requiring police intervention, approximately 100 demonstrators outside, small disturbance from protestors inside. AFSCME strike went as well as expected with no police intervention.
* Skiles arrived
  1. Discussion and possible resolution on the subject of UCPD's proposed use of facial recognition cameras (Policy 133).
* Lt. Kilgore
  + Policy drafted by UCLA (AVC Michael Beck), not UCPD. Designed to monitor faces and only respond to people with stay-away or restraining orders. Camera indicates face match, compared to photo, then in-person comparison. No arrests made solely on facial recognition. Facial recognition would be helpful to enforcement. Stay away orders issued for threats made to staff and students, or disrupting university business. One case is a longtime homeless person from the Village who has repeatedly come onto campus and steal food from events, refused to leave when asked, and begun verbal and physical altercations.
* Skiles supports the policy, recommends facial recognition use at university apartments to prevent stalking, domestic violence.
* Lewis concerned about increased surveillance and potential abuses, wants to wait for the finalized language.
* Peters suggests holding off on any resolution or recommendation pending finalized language and an upcoming town hall.

1. Transportation Issues
   1. Presentation by representative of Wheels.

* Arturo Gonzalez, representing Urban Strategy Group, government strategy specialists and lobbyists.
  + Currently 30,000 rides a day, 1 million last month in Los Angeles. Over 36,000 scooter/electric bikes as part of the one-year pilot program under the City of LA. Required by that program to talk to neighborhood councils and stakeholder groups. Currently, Wheels is the only bike company approved for use on campus.
  + MyLA 311 app recommended to monitor compliance with the laws, Wheels mandated to correct violations within 2 hours and actually correcting them within 1.5 hours. Predominantly in West LA, Venice, Downtown, Mid-Wilshire/Koreatown. Qualifying people can get free rides of up to 30 minutes under an equity program. LADOT has a plan to reach out to low-income areas less-served by existing transit. For the first time, city recorded less vehicles on the streets because of increased scooter/bike use. Illegal to ride on the sidewalk, $197 fine, can only ride in the street. 6 months remaining in the pilot program before City Council makes a further evaluation.
* Skiles: Wheels is an important micro-mobility option, respecting the sidewalks, can rely on the committee/council for support.
  1. Follow-up discussion regarding bike parking, a protected bike lane on Gayley, and pedestrian priority on traffic lights
* Peters
  + Spoke with Jay Greenstein, Koretz’s office is only willing to support a protected bike lane on Gayley if the First Mile/Last Mile makes that recommendation.
  + Strongly recommends that the board of the NWWNC take a position with respect to the possibility of a protected bike lane on either or both Gayley Ave or Westwood Blvd at its next meeting so as to opine in time for First Mile/Last Mile recommendations.
* Parker
  + Committee should push for more bike parking in the Village, especially outside of Trader Joe’s and in the residential areas.
  + Lewis: New bike corral at Westwood/LeConte
  + Peters: Believes there’s new bike parking on Broxton near CPK.
  + Parker will reach out to LADOT to advocate for further bike parking and pedestrian priority on traffic lights.
  1. Discussion of current proposals for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Alternative and possible recommendations.
* Skiles: Previously, NWWNC asked for direct stop at UCLA, subterranean through Westwood, and with Purple Line connectivity.
* Daboussi: BYD contractor advocating for monorail aboveground, over Westwood. Trying to argue that UCLA is a hindrance to completing the project before the 2028 Olympics.
* Skiles: Now, BYD wants to build monorail over Sepulveda, not only over 405. Undermining its support base in the Valley. UCLA offering to pay for Westwood/UCLA themed design elements at its station.
  1. Discussion of and possible request for traffic study at the intersection of Wilshire and Veteran.
* Peters: WWNC traffic committee recommended traffic study given danger of vehicles merging onto Wilshire from the 405 and trying to get into the left lane to turn left at Veteran.
* Skiles: emphasizes the importance of improving bicyclist and pedestrian safety
* Peters moves that
  + Whereas the intersection of Wilshire Blvd and Veteran Ave represents a direct juncture between Westwood and the 405 freeway
  + Whereas pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists are endangered by the excessive speed and other unsafe behaviors by motorists merging from the 405 onto Wilshire Blvd
  + the transportation and safety committee requests a traffic study for the intersection of Wilshire and Veteran from LADOT and Caltrans and recommends that the board of the NWWNC make the same request at its next meeting
    - Lewis seconds
    - Motion carries 5-0-0
  1. Discussion and possible resolution with respect to Council File 19-1273-S1, LAX and Rideshare Pickup Policies / Taxis / Curbside Passenger Pickups / Central Terminal Area / Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), introduced on October 29, 2019, and referred to Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee. Motion is instructing the Los Angeles World Airports to allow taxis to resume curbside passenger pickups within the Central Terminal Area of Los Angeles International Airport.
* Peters moves that the committee oppose Council File 19-1273-S1, support the rideshare/taxi policy implemented by LAWA on October 29, 2019, encourage LAWA to further improve the ride-hailing and taxi user experience, and recommend that the board of the NWWNC file a CIS in opposition, Skiles seconds.
  + 3-0-1 abstention, motion carries.

1. Adjourn at 8:53 pm