**NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**

Tuesday January 14th, 2020, 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Kerckhoff Hall, Room 317

308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

* Call to order at 7:11 pm. Peters, Parker, Lewis, Daboussi present, quorum met.

1. Announcements

* Daboussi: working at UCLA Transportation on fare free transit referendum, funded by student fees. Hopes that the committee will consider resolving in support of the referendum at a future date. Free transit incentivizes increased usage.
* Peters: would like the committee to consider the issue of parking minimums in the North Westwood Village Specific Plan at a future meeting.

1. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
2. Approval of 3/5/19 and 11/19/19 minutes.

* Peters moves to approve the minutes, Daboussi seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously.

1. Presentation by representative of Postmates

* Ilan Buckman, General Manager of Wheels.
  + Wheels has partnered with UCLA, has been operating on campus since July and off-campus since February. Since the last presentation, has raised another round of funding. Concerned about financial and environmental sustainability. New bike model includes built-in patented helmet that unlocks for use. Allows safe riding for those who decide to ride spontaneously, without having a helmet on them.
  + Recommends using myLA 311 app or 311 phone line to address issues, Wheels is notified by the city of problems and obligated to fix within 3 hours.
  + Scooter pilot program will be over soon, Wheels has visited many community organizations and neighborhood councils. Asks that the committee give input to the city’s transportation committee before final report to the city of Los Angeles is made.
* Parker: do you advocate for infrastructural improvements?
  + Buckman: currently focused on the end of the pilot program but generally supportive of protected bike lanes.

1. Safety Issues
   1. Public Safety Update
   2. Discussion and possible resolution with respect to hostile architecture in Westwood including dividers on public benches

* Lewis: seeing attention online towards city benches implementing anti-homeless measures and designs that prevent lying down or sleeping. Believes it infringes on constitutionally-protected right to sleep outside. Supreme Court recently upheld precedent that localities with insufficient homeless shelters cannot prohibit sleeping on public sidewalks.
* Parker: City contract for JCDecaux, the company that builds bus shelters, is coming to an end this year. Also aware of instances where HOAs and businesses have created hostile architecture. Sidewalk structures on sidewalk easements in Westwood Village may also be hostile infrastructure including one near the Broxton.
* Daboussi: Research shows that transit ridership decreases when bus stop when people feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including if people are sleeping on benches at bus stops. However, opposes hostile architecture.
* Lewis: Concerned about the lack of other places for homeless people to go.
* Peters moves
  + Whereas dividers on public benches may serve as hostile infrastructure and prevent people experiencing homelessness from sleeping comfortably
  + the Transportation and Safety Committee recommends that the Westwood Village Improvement Association remove any and all dividers from benches in Westwood Village not at bus stops which prevent people from sleeping on those benches, Lewis seconds.
    - Motion carries with 2 yeas and 2 abstentions.

1. Transportation Issues
   1. Discussion and possible vote with respect to letter addressed to LADOT and Caltrans requesting a traffic study at the intersection of Wilshire Blvd and Veteran Ave

* Peters moves to approve the following letter, Parker seconds.

To: [rudy.guevara@lacity.org](mailto:rudy.guevara@lacity.org) [ladot@lacity.org](mailto:ladot@lacity.org) [LADOT.WesternDistrict@lacity.org](mailto:LADOT.WesternDistrict@lacity.org)

To Whom it May Concern,  
  
I am writing on behalf of the board and Transportation and Safety Committee of the North Westwood Neighborhood Council to request a traffic study at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Ave in Westwood Village for the purpose of improving pedestrian, cyclist, and motorist safety.  
  
It is our understanding that LADOT currently lacks a traffic study for this intersection, which is often characterized by unsafe speeding and a concerning number of vehicle collisions. Both the North Westwood Neighborhood Council and the bordering Westwood Neighborhood Council have passed resolutions requesting that LADOT perform a comprehensive traffic study in order to identify both the reasons why the intersection is currently unsafe and possible infrastructural changes to improve safety.

With the upcoming end-wall piling for the Purple Line Extension Section 3, safety needs will be especially pressing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
Grayson Peters

* Motion carries unanimously

1. Adjournment at 8:20 pm.