

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Franklin Avenue between
Talmadge Avenue and Saint George Street

Date: December 30, 2005

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Honorable Wendy Grueul, Chair, Transportation Committee

From: Frances T. Banerjee, Interim General Manager
Department of Transportation



Subject: REDESIGNATION OF FRANKLIN AVENUE BETWEEN TALMADGE AVENUE AND SAINT GEORGE STREET IN THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY PLAN (CF 05-2257)

This report is an update to the Department of Transportation (DOT) previous report on the subject Council Motion. With regards to the proposed downgrade of Franklin Avenue from Secondary Highway to a Collector Street, DOT has reviewed the traffic demands and circulation requirements for Franklin Avenue between Talmadge Avenue and Saint George Street. This segment of Franklin Avenue is currently designated as a Secondary Highway in the Transportation Element and in the Hollywood Community Plan.

With regards to the evaluation of traffic calming measures, DOT conducted an investigation and met with the staff of Council District 4 to discuss various possible traffic mitigation measures. Council District 4 staff support the mitigation measures proposed by DOT and some of the work has already been completed. The additional work will be completed in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE the motion by Councilmembers LaBonge and Garcetti to amend the Hollywood Community Plan, and the Transportation Element of the General Plan to reclassify and downgrade Franklin Avenue between Talmadge Avenue and Saint George Street from a Secondary Highway to a Collector Street.

DISCUSSION

Throughout the Hollywood Community Plan, Franklin Avenue is designated a Secondary Highway. The subject roadway segment (from Talmadge Avenue to Saint George Street) is approximately 1,350 feet (0.25 miles) long with a speed limit of 25 miles-per-hour and serves a hillside residential area made up of single-family dwelling units. Included in this segment is the historic Shakespeare Bridge, which was extensively refurbished.

The standard cross-section of a Secondary Highway is a 70-foot wide roadway within a 90-foot right-of-way and includes two lanes in each direction with full-time on-street parking and a 10-foot wide sidewalk/parkway on each side of the street. The standard cross section of a Collector Street is a 44-foot wide roadway within a 64-foot right-of-way that includes one lane of traffic in each direction, full-time on-street parking and 10-foot sidewalks on each side of the road. Secondary Highways are intended to serve traffic volumes between 10,000 and 30,000 vehicles per day. Collector Streets are intended to serve traffic volumes of up to 10,000 vehicles per day. Currently, the study segment of Franklin Avenue carries approximately 12,800 vehicles per average weekday, which is within the daily traffic volume standards of a Secondary Highway.

The existing roadway width along Franklin Avenue in this segment is substantially below the standards of a Secondary Highway. Between Talmadge Street and Hollyknoll Drive the roadway is 40-feet within a right-of-way of 60-feet. This segment carries one lane in each direction separated by a single dashed yellow centerline. West of Hollyknoll Drive to east of Monon Street, the two lanes (one in each direction) on Franklin Avenue are separated by a raised landscaped median within a right-of-way that varies between 60-feet and 73-feet. East of Monon Drive to Saint George Street, which includes the Shakespeare Bridge segment of the roadway, Franklin Avenue carries one lane in each direction separated by a solid yellow centerline within a roadway width of 21-feet within a right-of-way that varies between 60-feet and 73-feet. The 73-foot right-of-way width along some segments of Franklin Avenue are the result of right-of-way dedication that have been processed by the City.

Franklin Avenue has an existing roadway characteristic that is more typical of a Collector Street that serves a hillside residential area of single-family dwelling units. Further, the amount of development possible along this restricted stretch of roadway is nearly completed, without possibility for significant traffic growth. Therefore, DOT supports the proposed downgrading of Franklin Avenue between Talmadge Avenue and Saint George Street from a Secondary Highway to a Collector Street. With the proposed downgrading, the subject segment of Franklin Avenue would not be subject to street widening to Secondary Highway standards and the prevailing roadway characteristics, particularly that of the Shakespeare Bridge, would be preserved.

Assuming that the Collector Street designation gets approved, the current traffic

volumes (12,800 vehicle per day) would be high for a Collector Street. DOT conducted an investigation and met with the staff of Council District 4 to discuss various possible traffic calming measures to reduce the traffic volumes and improve traffic safety on this segment. Council District 4 staff support the mitigation measures proposed by DOT and some of the work has already been completed. The additional work will be completed in the near future.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed action would not have an impact on the General Fund.

COORDINATION

Coordination with the Department of City Planning is required. The Department of City Planning is in the process of updating the Hollywood Community Plan. The recommended action should be processed with the amendment of the Community Plan and approved by the City Planning Commission.

Attachments

- Exhibit 1 - Motion (CF 05-2257)
- Exhibit 2 - Street Designation Map

c: Councilmember Tom LaBonge, CD #4
City Planning Commission
City Planning, Robert Sutton, Mary Richardson
DOT (Hollywood/Wilshire District Office), Jeannie Shen