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Council File 11-1246-S1 - Atwater Village Bridge

1 message

Damian Robledo <damian.g.robledo@gmail.com>

Mon, May 22, 2017 at 1:42 AM

To: adam.lid@lacity.org, john.white@lacity.org, eric.villanueva@lacity.org

Dear Sirs,

I live, work and play on the Los Angeles River. I feel fortunate to live in Atwater Village and would like to voice my support of a multi modal bridge linking North Atwater to Griffith Park. As a 10 year resident in North Atwater Village, I see great value in creating additional access along and across the LA River. As traffic increases in the City, the bridge represents an opportunity for alternative transportation modes to be used to commute in and around Los Angeles linking existing biking infrastructure, horse trails and a future East Bank Riverway pedestrian path now in the planning stages.

Furthermore, the symbolic nature of the bridge at the Glendale Narrows Portion - the 11 miles of various wildlife and greenery will enhance the preservation of the river ecosystems by keeping horses and people up and away from disturbing the fragile ecosystems in the area, since now horses and people traverse the water to make the same connection.

With the US Army Corp barriers hindering access to the River, specifically at North Atwater Park where a monument from President Barack Obama commemorates the river as one of America's great waterways and even expresses the goal of "more unobstructed access" to the River, this bridge will bring more accessibility, more use of North Atwater Park, more stitching of communities together, and expanding the emerald green belt of parks and open space envisioned by the Olmsted-Bartholomew Plan for the Los Angeles Region which laid out a goal of traversing Los Angeles not by car, but by foot.

Lastly, there is an ongoing battle in Los Angeles to define and capture urban space -- with calls for more density and others championing preservation. This bridge will literally create a new urban space, and will be useful for redevelopment of North Atwater City Yards, but also creating more access for residents to the expansive Griffith Park and all its amenities. Furthermore, the bridge itself accesses heretofore unusable open space - above the LA River.

I therefore would like to urge Public Works Committee to provide the \$6.9 million in funds to allow this project to begin in June 2017.

I would also like to see a frugal management of construction funds by the BOE.

I hope that more bridges will be constructed as small scale access ways like Sunnynook Bridge and other existing bridges be rehabilitated and repaired rather than be demolished in order to attain federal highway funds for new, bland car-oriented bridges.

Thank you,

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