

14-0711

MAY 30 2014

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH, AGING & RIVER

MOTION

Revitalization of the Los Angeles River is a priority of the City as expressed in the Council's adoption of the long-range Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (C.F. 07-1342) and direction to the Bureau of Engineering to oversee implementation of the Plan. The Plan prioritizes expanded public access to the river for recreational purposes and specifically recommends a continuous bike path as part of the Los Angeles River Greenway trail system. Implementation of the Plan and its projects has involved the contributions of many partners in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.


Consistent with this momentum and with the support of the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation (LARRC), a coalition of organizations in Downtown Los Angeles is studying an "In-Channel Downtown Los Angeles River Bike Path" project, which will serve as the interim solution to connect the existing bike path in Elysian Valley through Downtown LA and the City of Vernon to the existing LA River Bike Path in the City of Maywood. The project will be implemented on the river's western bank and involve construction of at least three new non-motorized river access points. The In-Channel Downtown Los Angeles River Bike Path meets the goals set forth in *Greenway 2020*, a campaign to create a seamless 51 miles of bike path trails along the Los Angeles River by the year 2020.

The project will involve close coordination with other agencies and organizations, including Los Angeles County (County) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which are partners in the ongoing Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee, formalized by the Los Angeles River Memorandum of Understanding (C.F. 07-1342-S4). The City Engineer co-chairs the Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee along with the Los Angeles County Director of Public Works and the Committee approved the project concept at its April 7, 2014 meeting.

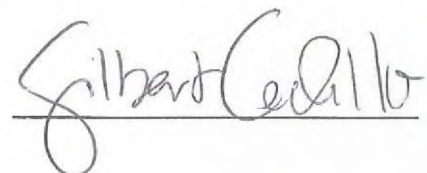
The City and County are also partners in the leadership of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA or Metro). Like the City and County via their respective 2010 and 2012 Bicycle Plans, Metro has prioritized active transportation and river linkages and identified the Downtown Los Angeles portion of the Los Angeles River Bike Path as Gap. No. 37 in its 2006 Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan. Metro is also partnering with the US Environmental Protection Agency and Global Green to look at sustainable development planning in the neighborhood around Union Station, which includes the Los Angeles River.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council authorize and instruct the Bureau of Engineering to work with the Departments of City Planning and Transportation, and other departments and agencies as necessary, to prioritize implementation of the In-Channel Downtown Los Angeles River Bike Path in partnership with the LACMTA, the County of Los Angeles, the Army Corps of Engineers, FoLAR, LARRC, and other community stakeholders, including identification of funding and assistance with California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable compliance requirements.

PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:


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ORIGINAL