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The Honorable Jose Huizar, Chair, Planning & Land Use Management Committee
The Honorable Mike Bonin, Chair, Transportation Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Support for Mobility Plan 2035 with No Amendments

Dear Councilmembers Huizar and Bonin and Committee Members,

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) writes in strong support of Mobility Plan 2035 as currently drafted. The Mobility Plan is a forward-thinking, balanced approach to Los Angeles's transportation challenges and provides the necessary framework for strategic investment in our city's transportation system for the next two decades. We urge you to adopt the Mobility Plan with no changes.

The last comprehensive update to the circulation element was adopted in 1999. Since then, we have come to realize that transportation is at the root of so many of the city's challenges. Traffic collisions—the 4th leading cause of premature death in Los Angeles County—kill over 200 people in the city every year, with the highest rates occurring in low-income communities of color. Obesity, caused primarily by lack of physical activity and lack of access to healthy food, continues to rise while also disproportionately afflicting low-income communities of color. Our cars and trucks generate almost half of the city's greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change, which poses one of the greatest threats to our health, security and quality of life. Our transportation system is deadly, unhealthy and unsustainable.

As we face these unprecedented challenges, we also have unprecedented opportunities to build upon promising trends: we now have regular CicLAvias, everyday bike ridership has spiked and the voter-approved expansion of the region's transit system is rapidly under construction. Our streets are now seen as places for people, not just thoroughfares for cars. Technologies like real-time transit info, ride hailing apps and bike share promise to give Angelenos new tools to take full advantage of the new infrastructure being built. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, adopted earlier this year, has grounded mobility conversations in the context of health and equity, recognizing that better transportation policy provides economic mobility for underserved residents while promoting community health and active transportation. Mayor Eric Garcetti's Sustainable City pLAn calls for increasing walking, biking and transit to 35% of all trips in just 10 years to help meet the city's greenhouse gas reduction goals. The LADOT Strategic Plan sets a goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities by 2025. The Mobility Plan embraces these challenges and opportunities by weaving together mobility, environmental, health and safety goals into a strong policy framework.



The plan before you was the result of years of thoughtful input, deep engagement and strategic compromise to achieve a balanced, multimodal network that puts safety first, while providing access, choice and reliable travel for all Angelenos. *It is critical that you maintain these carefully constructed networks in order to realize the benefits of this plan.* LACBC is deeply concerned about the efforts by a few vocal residents to jeopardize multimodal access to UCLA by removing the university from the proposed Bicycle Enhanced Network. An estimated 3,000 students, faculty and staff ride bicycles to campus every day for their commute, 800 of whom ride on Westwood Boulevard. There are currently no continuous bikeways to UCLA from the transit hub at Wilshire and Westwood or the soon-to-open Expo Line station on Westwood Boulevard south of Pico. Creating these multimodal connections is the primary means by which the Mobility Plan proposes to reduce congestion and increase transportation options. UCLA has been a tremendous partner in the city's efforts to reduce the number of commuters driving alone: 65 percent of students, faculty and staff already take alternative modes. Untangling gridlock on the Westside—and throughout Los Angeles—depends on the city doing its part to improve safety and convenience for people biking, walking and taking transit.

Maintaining the integrity of the proposed networks is a citywide imperative that requires leadership by City Council members that support multimodal transportation. Planning staff developed these networks in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, as reflected by the broad support demonstrated for the Mobility Plan among business, environmental and community groups across the city. The City Planning Commission and Mayor Garcetti concurred with staff's recommendation to keep Westwood Boulevard in the Mobility Plan, despite Councilmember Koretz's request to remove it. LACBC urges you to agree with Mayor Garcetti, the City Planning Commission and staff by adopting Mobility Plan 2035 with no changes.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (213) 629-2142, ext. 127 or eric@la-bike.org.

Sincerely,

Eric Bruins
Planning & Policy Director