

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

Six years ago, a roadway widening project was initiated at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue in Sherman Oaks. This project was advertised and awarded and ready to begin construction early this year. Since the inception of this project, the City of Los Angeles and the State of California have both refined and reprioritized their mobility goals to emphasize reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), increasing our transit ridership, improving active transportation safety and comfort, and improving accessibility for those with mobility disabilities. These priorities reflect an overarching goal of reducing our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions; according to 2020 California Air Resources Board data, 38% of our GHG Emissions come from the Transportation sector.

In the City of Los Angeles, the Circulation Element of the General Plan (Mobility Plan 2035) explicitly reorients our approach to intersection treatments and the transportation projects we undertake. Policy 1.1 of Mobility Plan 2035, is the first policy listed and is our guiding star: “Roadway User Vulnerability: Design, plan, and operate streets to prioritize the safety of the most vulnerable roadway user.” Roadway widenings for the purpose of adding vehicular capacity and throughput are typically counterproductive to pedestrian safety and comfort. Additionally, the increase in vehicular capacity generally increases VMT, contrary to the current State and City goals.

Some elements of the project are in line with improving pedestrian safety and some elements reflect a demonstrated engineering need. Namely, the improvement of existing curb ramps with accessible unidirectional curb ramps and the reconstruction of existing catch basins on the east side of Woodman Avenue, south of Ventura Boulevard. These project elements should remain. However, the widening of the roadway should be removed from the project scope, and replaced with other features and improvements, in line with the City’s mobility goals.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instructs the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services, the Bureau of Street Lighting, and the Department of Transportation, to report back within 60 days with a rescoping of the project at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue to prioritize safety and accessibility for people walking, bicycling and taking transit, and for persons with mobility disabilities. The following features should be considered for inclusion:

- Reconstruction of catch basins on the east side of Woodman Ave and improvement of the flowline;
- Construction of ADA accessible unidirectional curb ramps for all four corners of the intersection of Woodman Avenue and Ventura Boulevard;
- Shortening of the crosswalk at Woodman Avenue along the north leg;
- Widening of the sidewalks on Woodman Avenue north of Ventura Boulevard to the alley north of Ventura Boulevard and improvement of the ADA path of travel;
- Curb extensions at all corners and bus bulbs or islands at any transit stop located on the near side or far side of the intersection of Woodman Avenue and Ventura Boulevard;
- Planting and establishment of as many street trees as possible; and
- Recommendations for lighting improvements or additions at the intersection including street lighting and pedestrian-scaled lighting, especially at transit stops.

PK

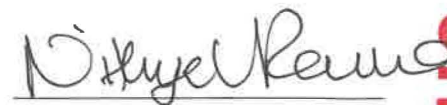
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instructs the Bureau of Engineering to terminate the active project entitled “Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue Improvements,” Work Order No. E1908174 and terminate the construction contract awarded as Contract No. C-138493.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instructs the Bureau of Engineering to negotiate all associated costs with the termination of Contract No. C-138493 and any remaining funds in the Engineering Special Services Fund No. 682, Department No. 50, Appropriation Unit No. 50MVBW entitled “Ventura at Woodman Intersection Improvements” be transferred / appropriated as a new project at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue.

I FURTHER MOVE that Fund No. 682, Department No. 50, Appropriation Unit No. 50MVBW, be renamed to be entitled “Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue Mobility Safety Project”, for the new project at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering be authorized to make any corrections, clarifications or revisions to the above fund transfer and amendment instructions, including any new instructions, in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion, and including any corrections and changes to fund or account numbers; said corrections / clarifications / changes may be made orally, electronically or by any other means.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN

Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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