

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/22/2023

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/06/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-1230-S2

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: On 3/22/23 NoHo NC voted unanimously to voice its support for the Livable Cities Initiative. Please see the attached letter for more details.



PASSED 13-0-0 on 3/22/23

Council File: 21-1230-S2

Title: Livable Communities Initiative / Transit-Rich Corridors / Analogous Citywide Regulations / Mid-Scale Development

Position: SUPPORT

Summary:

Los Angeles is facing multiple crises at once. We have a dire housing shortage that is driving up rents and housing costs across the city, displacing people from once affordable communities, and leading to lengthy commutes, which adds to the city’s unsustainable traffic congestion. Los Angeles has the highest percentage of cost-burdened renter households of any major American city, with 59% of Angelenos spending more than 30% of their income on rent, and homelessness tracks with rent burden. It’s a devastating correlation: as rents go up, families on the edge fall into homelessness. We’re simultaneously grappling with an urgent global climate crisis *and* a crisis of street safety that impacts all Angelenos, but disproportionately affects low income communities of color in Los Angeles.

[The Livable Communities Initiative \(LCI\)](#) attempts to address all of these issues holistically and equitably. In LA’s eight-year [Housing Plan](#), Los Angeles has committed to adding nearly half a million homes, within the decade, to meet state requirements to address our housing shortage. We believe we can significantly mitigate the traffic and climate impacts of new housing by making it easier and less costly to build healthy, walkable, car-light communities on job-rich commercial corridors, with safe micro-mobility options, near transit and amenities. The goal is to create affordable, mixed- and moderate-income communities throughout Los Angeles – what are often called [15 minute communities](#), where virtually all of a resident’s weekly needs can be found within a short walk, bike or mass transit ride away. So often in Los Angeles, we will drive to a walkable shopping area, find parking, do our shopping and our walking, then drive home. We

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argue: why not have these small walkable, *livable* communities all over L.A., where people actually *live*?

Angelenos deserve beautiful, livable, affordable communities with tree-lined streets, wide sidewalks and micro-mobility infrastructure – streets that are safe for people of all ages and income levels to walk, bike and enjoy. This starts with reimagining how we design our buildings, as well as our streets – where 132 pedestrians were killed in traffic-related incidents last year alone. Our antiquated zoning regime is convoluted, outdated and overly restrictive, preventing much-needed multifamily housing projects on vibrant commercial streets. Our broken zoning hinders the City's ability to create greener, safer, and more affordable communities. Our pressing housing crisis requires us to approve projects more quickly, creating cost-efficiency.

The Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) is included in Los Angeles' [2021-29 Housing Element \(Program 131\)](#). [And now a Livable Communities motion has been introduced before the City Council](#) to help implement the program. We ask the City Council to support an ordinance implementing LCI based on the motion 21-1230-S2, which passed unanimously and directed the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety and Los Angeles Department of Transportation to study and report back on all regulatory changes needed to implement the LCI vision. One viable option is the creation of a Livable Communities Overlay facilitating mid-scale transit-oriented development, incentivizing the creation of housing units where they do not currently exist, and promoting development that is consistent with and/or enhances existing commercial, mixed-use character. These development and zoning standards and street improvements should include:

- An inclusionary housing requirement
- A minimum density requirement to promote multifamily development
- A waiver or reduction of setbacks, unit floor area, and other development standards
- An exclusion provision for any parcel of land located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), within an identified historic district, or areas designated as open space
- An exclusion provision for covenanted affordable and rent-stabilized units

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- Street and transportation improvements including complete streets with wide sidewalks, safe bike infrastructure for all ages, dedicated bus lanes, traffic calming or removal of traffic lanes for cars, tree canopy, transit shelters, public seating, access to fast and frequent transit.

The motion asks the city to enact a plan to streamline administrative clearance for LCI/LCO projects through objective design standards, and to develop a community outreach plan to help select appropriate streets. We believe LCI has the potential to add much-needed multifamily housing in job-rich, high-opportunity areas that have not historically built enough housing, and it can add amenities, walkability, protected bike lanes and safe streets to communities that have been under-served. We call on the city to adopt the LCO and make the street improvements needed to make LCI communities safe, livable and walkable for everyone.

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