

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 23-0722

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Phase IV Riverway Bike Path on LA City Council Agenda Tuesday, February 11, 2025 - 23-0722 Re: Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Raman - Blumenfield) I have attached a pdf for y'all to read to show you why it's a bad idea to add a bike path to the 80+year old Mariposa Trail. Thank you for taking the time to make sure riders and horses are not injured or killed. PLEASE READ IT! PS: I should also point out that, based on 40+ years of dealing with bicyclists and the trails in Griffith Park, once the bicyclists gets to the "end" of the bike path next to the maintenance gates by the Forest Lawn 134 exits, they will cut through the fence, put their bikes over, under or through the fence and continue on the trail.

Phase IV Riverway Bike Path on LA City Council Agenda Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Re:

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Raman - Blumenfield):

1. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services and the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), to report to the Council within 45 days on implementing a design for the LA RiverWay Phase IV Project that prioritizes maximizing space and enjoyment for all uses, and forms a continuous segment with an outlet at Forest Lawn Drive or another identified bicycle/pedestrian facility. This report should include encroachments/easements or other agreements necessary with other jurisdictions in order to eliminate mixing modal uses, maintain **a minimum 10 feet equestrian-only path, construct fencing**, bend cycling segments to slow cyclists at trail junctions, and any other needed design elements. The report should also outline steps to protect the trail from the negative impacts of the CA-134 freeway. The report should outline anticipated costs of any needed encroachments/easements and elements to protect the trail from the negative impacts of the CA-134 freeway and methods to cover those costs.

WHAT Y'ALL NEED TO KNOW

A: the 80+year old Mariposa Trail (Equestrian/Pedestrian Trail, Bridle Trail, Horse Trail) has a whole section that from the chain link/barbed wire fence on the wall of the Los Angeles River to the chain link fence between the trail and the 134 Freeway (that gets cut open regularly) is around **24.5 feet** wide.

B: for safety's sake there should be(AT THE VERY LEAST!!!) **1.5 feet** between a horse and rider and a fence and from a horse passing by so you're looking at, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE at least **4 feet** of trail. The average horse and rider from the outside of the rider's right foot to the outside

C: the width of space one horse and rider take up going East on the Mariposa Trail is around 3 feet and one horse and rider going West takes up around 3 feet so that's 6 feet. Add on the 4 feet for the least amount of safety you're looking at 10 feet for two horses to be on the trail passing each other.

However, the average **LENGTH** of a horse from the tip of its forehead to the back of its tail is **10 feet**.

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS NEXT PART.....

D: The first instinct for a horse when it feels threatened is turn and run (and sometimes kick). And being herd bound animals when one horse says danger, run, so do the others. A crash on the freeway, a backfire, a piece of trash blowing across the trail, the horse passing by trying to bite or kick....is all it takes. So when horse and rider #1, going West on the Mariposa Trail and horse and rider #2 going East on the trail both turn at the same time you are looking at the need for (based on the LEAST amount of safety) **1.5 feet** between the freeway fence and horse #1, **10 feet** of horse #1, **1.5 feet** between horse and rider #1 and horse and rider #2, **10 feet** of horse #2 and **1.5 feet** between horse and rider #2 and the "proposed" fence between the horse trail (aka bridle path, equestrienne trail) and the proposed bike path making a total (again, least amount of safety) amount of space needed **24.5 feet**.

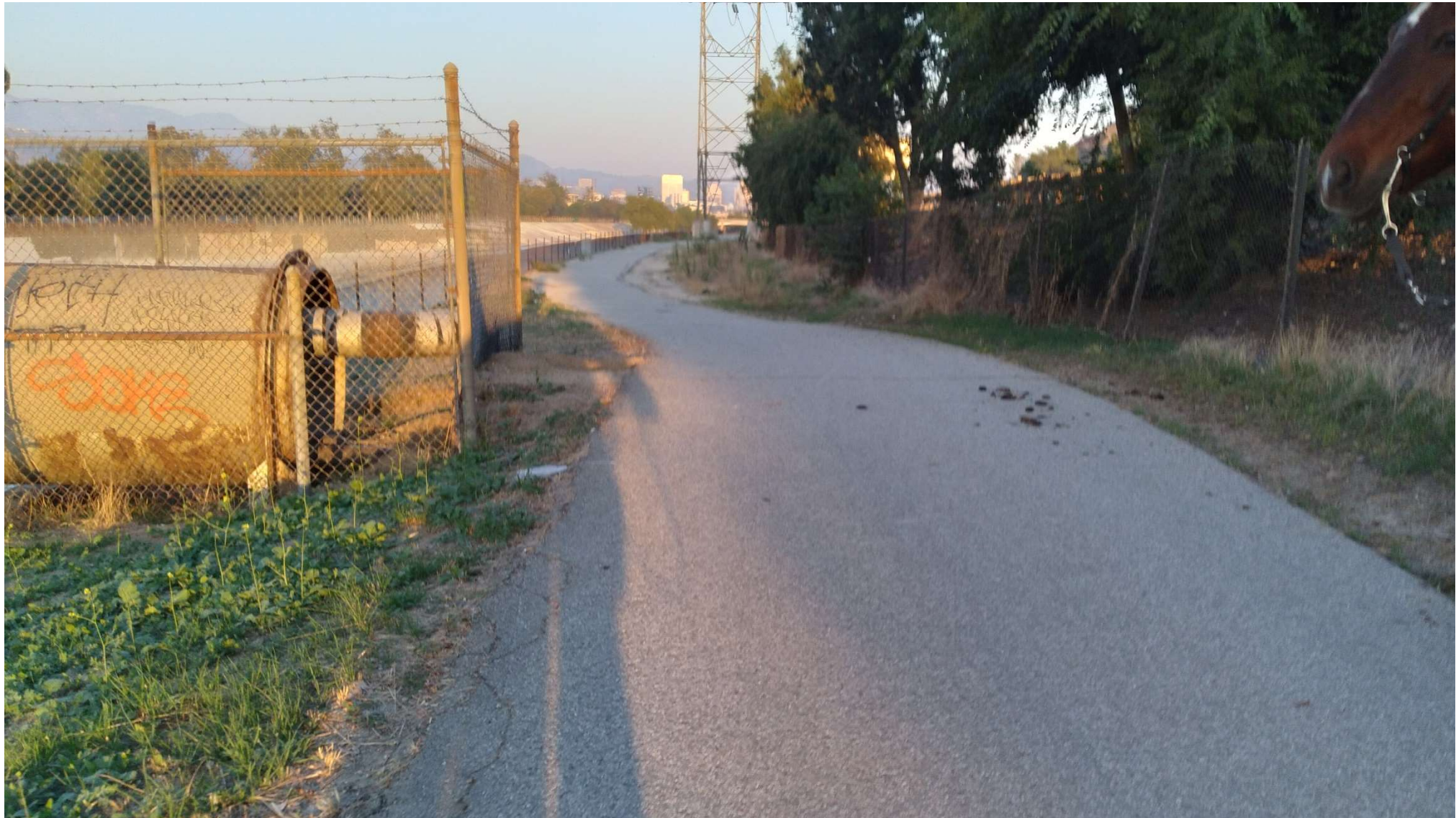
WHERE DOES THE BICYCLE PATH GO?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO THREATEN THE LIVES OF THE HORSE AND RIDERS?

LOOK WHAT YOU DID WITH THE FINGER BRIDGE IN ATWATER!!!!

AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?

THE TRAIL BY THE PIPE [34.156856, -118.302896]

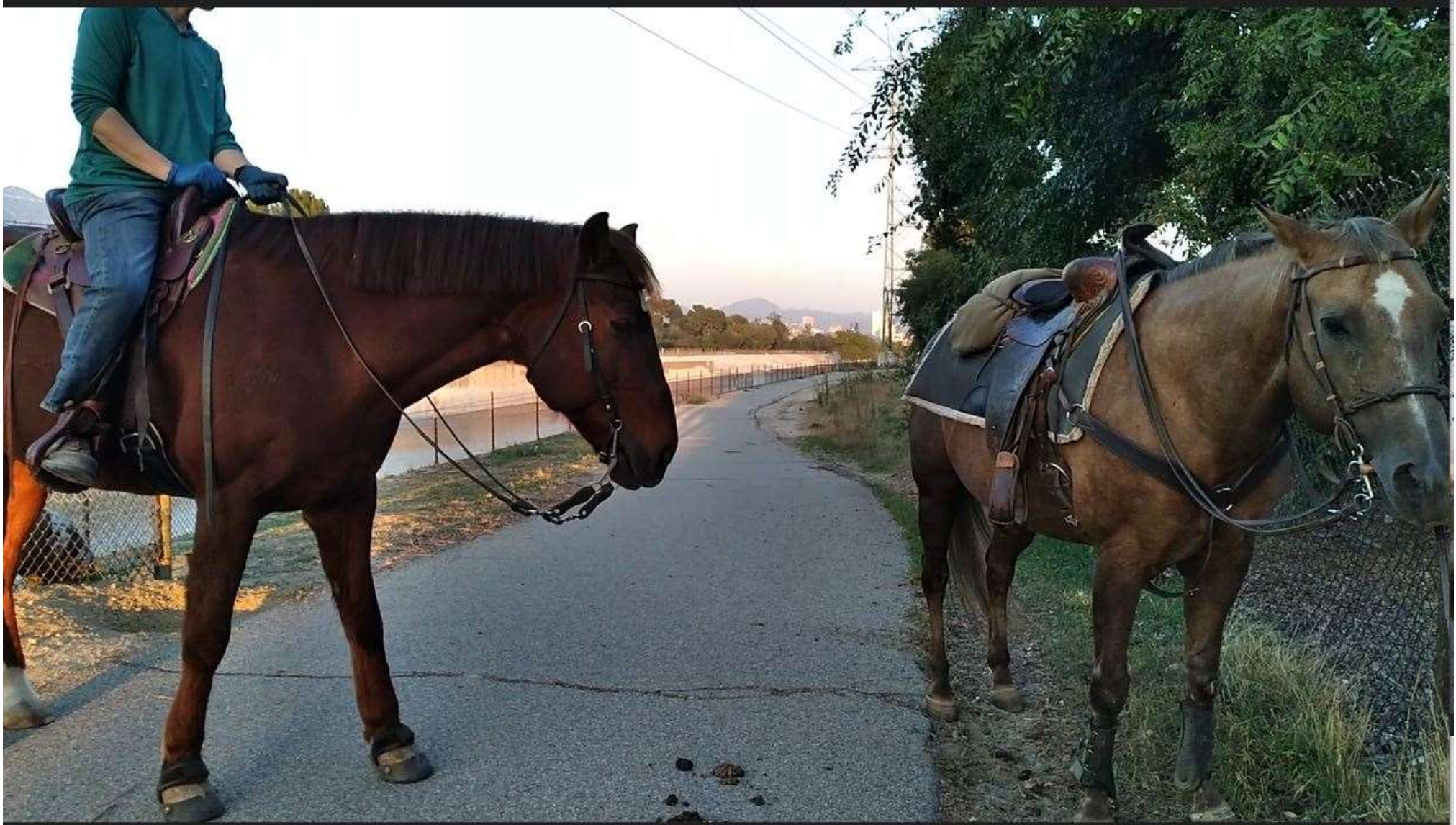


btw, this 80+ year old bridle path was paved in the mid 1980s most likely to make life easier for the maintenance truck drivers who were maintaining the river crossing for horses at the Riverside Bridge - but in the mid 1990s it was decided to make the LA River "au natural" and that river crossing for horses was no longer maintained however was still usable as a way home if something happened to the 80+ year old Mariposa Bridge....BUT then it was decided to make life easier for the bicyclists and the LA River Bike Path was changed to go under the Riverside Bridge and the dirt ramp for the horses was removed so the escape route for getting home is now very dangerous.

A HORSE GOING EAST AND A HORSE GOING WEST BY THE PIPE - **NOTE:** AS CLOSE TO EACH FENCE AS POSSIBLE (not the safest way to ride). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



ONE HORSE GOING EAST, ONE GOING WEST BUT TURNING AROUND BY THE PIPE (NOTE: if a horse is startled, spooked or reacting to the another horse, their first instinct it to turn and leave.)). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



ONE HORSE GOING EAST, ONE GOING WEST BUT BOTH TURNING AROUND BY THE PIPE (NOTE: horses are herd-bound animals, if one turns to leave the other will want to do the same.)). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



THE SECTION OF THE TRAIL JUST EAST OF THE PIPE AND BEFORE THE MAINTENANCE GATES BY THE FOREST LAWN EXIT/ENTRANCE FROM THE 134 FREEWAY, BOTH EAST HORSE AND WEST HORSE TURNING (NOTE: unsafely close to each fence) [34.156830, -118.303388]. AND THIS SECTION OF THE TRAIL GOES TO 34.156233, -118.307287 ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



As you can see when the safety for horses and riders is taken into account (and that includes the psyche and physics of equines) there's no place for bicycles to "share" this trail.

OR if measurements are easier to understand: the trail at this section goes from around 25' to 22'. A horse with a rider going East (safely with no "issues") takes up around 5'. A horse with a rider going West (safely with no "issues") takes up around 5' a horse going West. That equals 10'. **BUT** if the horse going East is startled,

spooked or reacting to the horse going West, the first instinct is to turn and leave. The length of a horse from the tip of its nose to the back of its tail averages 8' so if the East horse turns that's 8' plus 5" which equals 13'. **BUT** horses are herd-bound animals and if one turns to leave the other will want to do the same. Now you're looking at the East horse (8') turning at the same time as the West horse (8'). That equals 16'. You also need to take into account, there'll be space between the horses because they're not going to want to hit each other so add 2 more feet to the total and now you have 18' for two horses to somewhat safely pass each other on this trail. That brings up the question:

WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?

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