

Communication from Public

Name: Jon Christensen, LA Parks Alliance
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Council File No: 24-0011-S4
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter.



LA PARKS ALLIANCE

February 3, 2024

Via City Clerk Online Public Comment Form

Los Angeles City Council Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee
Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: **Support Motion 24-0011-S4**
Comprehensive LADOT Dodger Stadium Traffic Study

Honorable Councilmembers:

Los Angeles Parks Alliance¹ writes in strong support of Councilmember Hernandez’s common-sense motion to fund a “robust, holistic, and unbiased” study to assess Dodger Stadium traffic, and to suspend all City of Los Angeles actions that advance the proposed LA-ART gondola project until a fully informed recommendation can be made by decisionmakers and the public, including considerations raised by a comprehensive “Dodger Stadium Traffic Assessment.” (See Council File 24-0011-S4.)²

As Councilmember Hernandez’s motion notes, the last comprehensive study of Dodger Stadium traffic mitigations was completed in 1990. Since that time there have been major changes in the communities surrounding Dodger Stadium, including Solano Canyon, Elysian Valley, Echo Park, Chinatown, Angelino Heights, Lincoln Heights, and others. One of the most significant positive changes in the area has been the creation of Los Angeles State Historic Park. LA State Historic Park was created after decades of advocacy by local community members in a historically park-poor community. The proposed LA ART gondola project would co-opt almost two acres of the park “without seriously studying any potential alternatives.” (Motion, p. 1.)

It is LADOT’s practice to engage in comprehensive community outreach and study *before* selecting specific alternatives to address traffic mitigation. For example, in August 2023, LADOT launched its “Hollywood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project to improve traffic safety and accessibility on Hollywood Blvd.” Before announcing a proposal at a virtual community town hall on February 1, 2024, LADOT collected 1,800 surveys, held nine community briefings, walked and biked the Hollywood Boulevard corridor with community members, visited

¹ LA Parks Alliance was formed in 2019 as a response to land use threats to LA State Historic Park. Its members are park and public space advocates. See <https://www.laparksalliance.org>.

² The motion is available at: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2024/24-0011-S4_misc_01-24-24.pdf.

resource fairs and markets, and sent 20,000 mailers to local stakeholders to get their input.³ Compare the LADOT approach with Metro’s process for the proposed gondola.

Metro signed a private letter of intent in November of 2018 with Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies LLC for the unsolicited gondola proposal. Metro released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the LA-ART project EIR almost two years later in October of 2020. The NOP provided two alternatives: the EIR’s preferred gondola alternative (or a variation of the same project crossing the center of LA State Historic Park instead of its western edge), and the no-project alternative.⁴ Although the Final EIR for the proposal describes community meetings held *after* release of the NOP and DEIR, Metro performed *no* public outreach before the preferred project alternative was announced.

LA Parks Alliance agrees with Councilmember Hernandez that the “residents of Council District 1 and the Council deserve to understand the full scope of options available to mitigate the longstanding issues of the traffic caused by Dodger Stadium and events before considering the LA ART project,” which “would have profound ramifications on the lives of residents, prospectively removing the use of public open space, native wildlife, residents’ privacy, noise and light pollution, and accelerating gentrification, among other concerns.” (Motion, p. 1.)

Councilmember Hernandez’s motion sensibly calls for an independent review of traffic conditions and potential mitigations “[b]efore the City uses fiscal and staff resources to advance the Aerial Rapid Transit Project.” (*Ibid.*) In addition, her motion identifies readily available funding resources for such a study to be completed. (*Id.*, p. 2.)

LA Parks Alliance urges your committees to consider Motion 24-0011-S4 at the earliest opportunity and recommend approval to the full City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Christensen
jon.a.christensen@gmail.com

Encl.

³ See LADOT email re Hollywood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project, Jan. 30, 2024, attached.

⁴ The 8-page NOP can be downloaded from <https://laartsb44.net/api/files/4f551991-03ef-45c7-a112-b2116ced110a>.

Hollywood Blvd

Safety and Mobility Project



Dear Community Member,

Last August, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation launched the Hollywood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project to improve traffic safety and accessibility on Hollywood Blvd. LADOT identified this corridor because it has experienced a high number of crashes that resulted in death or severe injury.

Over the last few months, our team has been engaging community members through a variety of activities and settings to learn how people use the street as well as their concerns around safety. This includes **collecting 1,800 surveys, holding nine community briefings, walking and biking the corridor with community members, visiting resource fairs and markets, and sending 20,000 mailers** to local stakeholders.

We would like to invite you to a virtual community town hall, this **Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM** to recap what we've heard from our engagement and share a new street design concept for Hollywood Blvd between Gower St and Fountain Ave that prioritizes safety and responds to top concerns.

The new proposed design and street layout will:

- Help slow down excessive speeding
- Reduce pedestrian exposure to traffic
- Allow for safer turns
- Create dedicated space for people on bikes and scooters

Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Please RSVP [here](#) to attend and receive instructions on how to participate.

If you have already RSVP'ed, thank you! You will receive the Zoom information prior to the meeting.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, we will be sending out project materials after the event. If you received this email from a friend or neighbor and would like to be added to the project mailing list, [please click here to sign up](#).

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback about the project, please email visionzero@lacity.org.

You are receiving this email because you have engaged in planning or transportation initiatives in the Hollywood Area. To opt out of receiving messages, please click unsubscribe below.