

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMBERS

AURA GARCIA
PRESIDENT

M. TERESA VILLEGAS
VICE PRESIDENT

DR. MICHAEL R. DAVIS
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

VAHID KHORSAND
COMMISSIONER

SUSANA REYES
COMMISSIONER

TJ KNIGHT
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

KEITH MOZEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
GENERAL MANAGER

SHIRLEY LAU
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STEPHANIE CLEMENTS
ANA TABUENA-RUDDY
NICK LOPEZ
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

1149 SOUTH BROADWAY, STE 400
LOS ANGELES, CA 90015

REQUEST FOR SERVICE
TEL: (800) 996-CITY OR 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 847-3300
BSS.BOSS@LACITY.ORG
STREETSLA.lacity.org

April 24, 2024

Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Chair, Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee
Honorable Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee Members

RE: BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES (STREETSLA) FY 2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET RESPONSE

StreetsLA serves a critical role in the quality of life for Angelenos. On a daily basis, our Bureau ensures the City's public rights-of-way are safe, clean and passable for all, including first responders, and consistently heeds the call during emergencies. StreetsLA also plans, designs and implements transformative street infrastructure projects that improve communities. The Mayor's FY 24-25 Proposed StreetsLA Budget consists of \$199.3 million, which is a \$30.0 million or 13.1% reduction from the FY 23-24 Adopted Budget. The Proposed Budget eliminates 417 positions, adds only 34 new positions, for a net reduction of 383 out of a workforce of 1,560 positions (25% reduction).

The Proposed Budget eliminates a total of 2,139 positions across City departments. **StreetsLA's 417 eliminations account for 20% of all position cuts Citywide.**

In her budget summary, Mayor Bass prioritized the delivery of basic, high-demand City services that are important to all Angelenos – including pothole repair, a critical function of our Bureau. In order for StreetsLA to fulfill the Mayor's stated commitments, positions must be restored.

As it stands, the Mayor's FY 24-25 Proposed Budget will inevitably and significantly impact delivering the services on which Angelenos rely. Should these budget cuts and elimination of positions move forward, the lack of resources will directly affect our Bureau's ability to continue to deliver important functions that make the City's street network safe, mobile and sustainable.

For example, in the current fiscal year, StreetsLA will expend \$20 million in overtime to complete work that fulfills metric goals and meets grant deadlines. This funding comes primarily from the Adopted Budget's overtime allocation, salary savings from vacant positions, and off-budget money. The Proposed Budget reduces the overtime account by 41%, eliminates most salary savings and reduces off-budget money significantly. Without these funding sources, StreetsLA will simply not be able to maintain the level of service it has provided in recent years, and to which Angelenos have become accustomed.



The Bureau also utilizes salary savings for Hiring Hall staff to fund expense accounts that are under-resourced due to inflation. If the positions and associated salary savings are eliminated, StreetsLA may not have sufficient funding for Hiring Hall and other expense accounts.

Additionally, over the past two years, a series of major storms and intense weather events, likely exacerbated by climate change, have required an unprecedented response from StreetsLA. In order for the Bureau to efficiently respond to the thousands of emergency-related service requests, all field staff were diverted from their normal duties for weeks at a time. This included repairing potholes seven days a week, with much of the work performed on overtime.

With regards to equity, when preparing its budget requests StreetsLA carefully considered impacts to historically underserved communities, with the goal of ensuring adequate services are provided to disadvantaged neighborhoods. Decreased funding of StreetsLA crews will result in reduced services to all communities, further impacting historically underserved areas.

The reductions in the Proposed Budget will hinder StreetsLA's ability to both maintain our current level of service delivery as well as respond to emergencies at the standard that has been expected of our Bureau.

The impacts of the Proposed Budget are as follows:

Elimination of 176 positions in StreetsLA's Core Service Programs

StreetsLA is consistently relied upon to provide critically needed services including emergency response, street resurfacing, potholes and street maintenance, bicycle lane maintenance, risk and liability mitigation, street sweeping, special events, investigation and enforcement, and payroll and fiscal support.

Elimination of 75 positions in StreetsLA's Grant-Funded Programs

Eliminating construction personnel for capital improvements will reduce the rate of project delivery for an already under-resourced program. This will further impact StreetsLA's ability to complete the \$550M+ in existing grant-funded projects.

Elimination of 73 positions in the Pavement Preservation Program Access Ramp Construction Program (Formerly Complete Streets and Great Streets)

The Bureau is currently utilizing this funding (including positions and associated salary savings) to construct legally-mandated access ramps in conjunction with resurfacing projects. Elimination of these positions will impact our resurfacing schedule and hinder the efficient implementation of Measure HLA. StreetsLA will also no longer be able to construct access ramps through our Pavement Preservation Program.

Elimination of 23 positions supporting the Sidewalk Repair Program – Willits Settlement

StreetsLA reconstructs sidewalks and access ramps as directed by the Bureau of Engineering and as legally required by the Willits Settlement. This work accounts for some of the most requested services performed by the Department of Public Works.



Elimination of 29 positions in the Urban Forestry Programs

These positions amount to three Urban Forestry crews, whose services include tree trimming, watering, dead tree removal, and planting; elimination of this funding allocation will further delay reaching tree trimming cycle goals. In addition, the Proposed Budget does not include \$1M in Council discretionary overtime funding for “on-demand” tree trimming services. This funding has been a staple of previous budgets in recent years.

Elimination of 24 positions in the Citywide Sidewalk & Park Vending Program

StreetsLA is currently working to improve access to vending permits and overall customer service, in conjunction with the stated goals of the Board of Public Works, City Council and the Mayor’s Executive Directives 4 and 5. This proposed elimination of funding will directly impact the Bureau’s ability to advance our vending education and outreach program, and will reduce our ability to enforce required ADA clearances in the public rights-of-way.

Elimination of 17 Entry-Level Positions that Support Workforce Development Initiatives

StreetsLA supports various City workforce development initiatives aimed at providing City employment opportunities for Angelenos from disadvantaged communities, including Targeted Local Hire (TLH), Bridge to Jobs, the Clean L.A. Jobs Program, and the Workforce Equity Demonstration (W.E.D.) Program. These programs help promote equity across the City and serve as pre-employment training pathways into City employment that provide vital opportunities for disadvantaged populations, including low-income youth and adults facing barriers to employment, to access living-wage careers with the City of Los Angeles. In order to continue StreetsLA’s support of these equity programs, we respectfully request that vacancies in key classifications be restored and allowed to be filled by referrals from the City’s workforce development programs.

FY 24-25 Expected Accomplishments

StreetsLA acknowledges the City’s budgetary constraints and will continue to ensure services are delivered to the maximum extent possible while also staying within budget. Our top five priorities in FY 24-25 will be as follows:

1. Respond as needed to all City emergencies;
2. Fill potholes as quickly as possible;
3. Continue the implementation of the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) at highest priority transit stops;
4. Complete street maintenance and resurfacing in compliance with Measure HLA; and
5. Continue the deployment of the Enterprise Asset Management System (EAMS) to improve operational processes and holistic planning efforts.

FY 24-25 Recommendations

StreetsLA requests that the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee make the following changes to the Mayor’s Proposed Budget:

- Retain all 179 eliminated positions that are currently filled, and reinstate them to their original assigned FY 23-24 program;



- Consider increasing the General Fund and Special Fund salary savings rates instead of reducing the number of position authorities to be eliminated;
- Appropriate additional funding for Overtime and Hiring Hall salaries, to replenish eliminated salary savings that previously funded these expenses;
- Consider replacing proposed reductions with Bureau-requested alternatives and offsets, which will better maintain our ability to deliver core services;
- Repurpose StreetsLA crews assigned to BOE's Sidewalk Repair Program, and assign them to the Pavement Preservation Program Access Ramp Construction Program, by utilizing available Capital and Technology Improvement Expenditure Program (CTIEP) funding (\$37M, Reserve for Capital Projects); and
- Preserve 17 vacancies to demonstrate support for the City's workforce development initiatives.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these items further, please feel free to contact me at (213) 847-3333. Thank you in advance for your continued support of StreetsLA.

Sincerely,



Keith Mozee
Executive Director and General Manager
Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA)

cc: Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure
Matt Hale, Deputy Mayor of Finance, Operations and Innovation
Aura Garcia, President, Board of Public Works
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer

