


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: April 8, 2025
TO: The Honorable City Council
FROM: Keith Mozee  for
Executive Director and General Manager
Bureau of Street Services

SUBJECT: PROTECTED BICYCLE LANE SWEEPING (CF 24-0947)

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file this report, as it is provided for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY

As directed by Council File 24-0947, this report provides information regarding the existing practices for protected bicycle lane maintenance, as well as the additional resources (equipment and staffing) needed to sweep existing protected bicycle lanes every other week. In order to achieve a bi-weekly sweeping frequency for all protected bicycle lanes Citywide, while still maintaining the current frequency for non-protected bicycle lanes, BSS would require an additional four crews. These four crews would consist of a total of eight additional personnel, as well as additional equipment. This equates to approximately \$640,928 in on-going costs, as well as \$1,060,000 in one-time costs for equipment acquisition.

DISCUSSION

Current Bicycle Lane Sweeping Program

The Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 provided the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) with funding for two crews, consisting of six personnel, assigned to the Bicycle Lane Sweeping Program (Program). The Program conducts sweeping of all on-street bicycle lanes Citywide, both non-protected and protected (673 centerline miles of non-protected bicycle lanes, and 58 centerline miles of protected bicycle lanes).

The six personnel assigned to the Program consists of: (2) Street Services Supervisors; (2) Motor Sweeper Operators; and (2) Truck operators. The equipment assigned to the Program consists of: (4) Dulevo Electric Mini-Sweepers for sweeping protected bicycle lanes; (2) full size CNG Motor Sweepers for non-protected bicycle lanes; (2) Pickup Trucks and (2) Trailers for hauling the Mini-Sweepers to the job site; and (2) Over the Cab Front Loaders for loading and hauling the collected debris.

One crew is assigned to the Valley region, and one crew is assigned to the Metro region. On average, one crew can sweep approximately 1.5 centerline miles of protected bicycle lanes a day, or six centerline miles of non-protected bicycle lanes a day.

The City's non-protected bicycle lanes are swept using the standard motor sweepers that are used for BSS' street sweeping program. The standard sweepers are driven straight to the sweeping site, and have a larger capacity to hold debris. However, the sweeping of protected bicycle lanes requires the use of mini-sweepers due to the space constraints created by the protective barriers. Furthermore, the mini-sweepers cannot be driven to the sweeping site, and need to be hauled via trailer. The mini-sweepers also have a smaller capacity to hold the debris, requiring more frequent emptying. Thus, depending on the level of debris, protected bicycle lanes may require multiple passes using the mini-sweeper to ensure cleanliness. It should also be noted that bulky items and larger debris cannot be picked up by the mini-sweepers nor the standard sized sweepers, and at times can inhibit sweeper access to bicycle lanes.

Given the current budgeted resources, the sweeping frequency of the on-street bicycle lane network is listed below:

Bicycle Lane Type	Frequency	Equipment Type
Downtown LA Protected Bicycle Lanes	Weekly	Dulevo Electric Mini-Sweeper
Protected Bicycle Lanes Outside of Downtown	8 Weeks	Dulevo Electric Mini-Sweeper
Non-Protected Bicycle Lanes Citywide	8 Weeks	Full Size CNG Motor Sweeper

Necessary Resources for Bi-weekly Sweeping of Protected Bicycle Lanes

According to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the City of Los Angeles has approximately 58 centerline miles of protected bicycle lanes. On average, one crew can sweep 1.5 centerline miles of protected bicycle lanes per day.

In order to achieve a bi-weekly sweeping frequency for all protected bicycle lanes Citywide, while still maintaining the current frequency for non-protected bicycle lanes, BSS would require an additional four crews. These four crews would consist of a total of eight additional personnel, as well as additional equipment. This equates to approximately \$640,928 in on-going costs, as well as \$1,060,000 in one-time costs for equipment acquisition.

The following two tables detail the additional staffing and estimated costs of equipment needed to sweep each protected bicycle lane on a bi-weekly basis, while still maintaining the current frequency of sweeping non-protected bicycle lanes every eight weeks:

Additional Staffing Needs - Bi-weekly Sweeping of the Protected Bike Lanes			
Job Classification	Quantity	Avg Salary	Total
Motor Sweeper Operators	4	\$88,781	\$355,124
Truck Operators	4	\$71,451	\$285,804
Total	8	\$160,232	\$640,928

Additional Equipment Needs - Bi-weekly Sweeping of the Protected Bike Lanes			
Equipment Type	Quantity	Purchase Price	Total
Trailers	2	\$40,000	\$80,000
Over the Cab Front Loaders	2	\$350,000	\$700,000
Pickup Trucks	4	\$70,000	\$280,000
Total	8	\$460,000	\$1,060,000

Optimum Practices for On-Street Bicycle Lane Sweeping

An optimum on-street bicycle lane sweeping program would be staffed and equipped to provide weekly sweeping of the entire on-street bicycle lane network. In order to achieve this, the proposed staffing for an on-street bicycle lane cleaning program would consist of a total of 18 positions, representing an increase of 12 positions beyond the six positions currently assigned to the Program. The staffing configuration would provide two Motor Sweeper Operators, and two Truck Operators for each of the four geographic areas of the City (East Valley, West Valley, North Central, and Bay Harbor).

The following two tables detail the staffing and equipment resources required for weekly sweeping of the entire on-street bicycle lane network:

Additional Staffing Needs - Weekly Sweeping of the Entire Bike Network			
Job Classification	Quantity	Avg Salary	Total
Motor Sweeper Operators	6	\$88,781	\$532,686
Truck Operators	6	\$71,451	\$428,706
Total	12	\$160,232	\$961,392

Additional Equipment Needs - Weekly Sweeping of the Entire Bike Network			
Equipment Type	Quantity	Purchase Price	Total
EV Mini-Sweeper	1	\$384,000	\$384,000
Trailers	4	\$40,000	\$160,000
Over the Cab Front Loaders	4	\$350,000	\$1,400,000
Pickup Trucks	4	\$70,000	\$280,000
Total	13	\$844,000	\$2,224,000

FISCAL IMPACT

Receiving and filing this report has no fiscal impact on the City's general fund.

Should you require more information about this report, please contact Craig Shaw, Street Services General Superintendent II, at craig.shaw@lacity.org.

SL/CS:ay