

MOTION

The ongoing theft and vandalism of the City’s street lighting network remains a persistent problem across Los Angeles. This issue not only leaves Angelenos in the dark, but significantly increases the City’s maintenance costs. Despite the Bureau of Street Lighting's (BSL) concerted effort to fortify the network, copper wire theft continues to occur frequently, and few strategies have effectively deterred this vandalism. One approach, however, has shown success: the deployment of solar-to-battery streetlights. In Westlake North and Historic Filipinotown neighborhoods, BSL has converted more than 30 residential blocks to solar-to-battery lighting, resulting in a notable reduction in vandalism and theft.

Traditional streetlights are powered by copper wire housed in more than 7,000 miles of underground steel pipes, called electrical conduit, that connect each street light to the power grid. Solar-to-battery lights, by contrast, operate independently, eliminating its reliance on both copper wire and the conduit network, and opens a unique opportunity for the City to repurpose the available conduit network and infrastructure for other potential benefits.

Repurposing the conduit network could be transformative, especially given its scale, ubiquity, and value; installing new underground conduit can exceed more than \$1 million per mile. Some plans for the conduit network include developing a fully-fortified secondary power transmission for upgraded electrical vehicle (EV) stations; deploying fiber optics networks to help connect communities to the forthcoming State Middle Mile Broadband Network; and expanding communications cabling to augment the City’s smart transportation network.

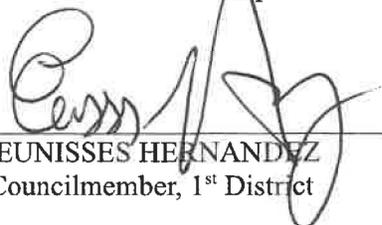
Additional opportunities include creating partnerships with private and non-profit entities to utilize the conduit network. Demand for electrical power and communications bandwidth in the public right-of-way continues to grow, and many public and private entities are increasingly looking to use this infrastructure. Exploring this option could bring new benefits to communities while simultaneously generating additional revenue to maintain the street lighting network.

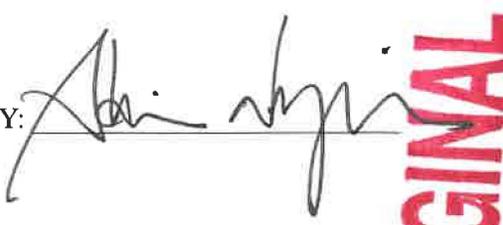
Over the years, the BSL has demonstrated their capacity to deliver innovative solutions, successfully delivering over 800 EV charging stations and more than 700 miles of underground high capacity fiber conduit and cabling. BSL is well positioned to explore alternative strategies for the conduit network in the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL), with assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), the Department of Public Works Bureaus, the Department of Transportation (LADOT), the Information Technology Agency (ITA), the Police Department (LAPD), and the Fire Department (LAFD), to report back in 45 days with the following information:

- Determine the total quantity and locations of street lighting electrical conduit available as a result of solar-to-battery conversions;
- Identify street light locations frequently targeted by vandalism and theft, and recommend opportunities to convert these locations to solar-to-battery lighting;
- Evaluate the condition and suitability of vacated street lighting electrical conduit for new uses; and
- Develop recommendations to repurpose the conduit network to support other City needs.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the BSL, with the assistance of the City Attorney and CAO, report back in 45 days with findings that explore the feasibility of utilizing vacated electrical conduit to lease to private organizations and the non-profit sector.

PRESENTED BY: 
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SECONDED BY: 

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