

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Meaney

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Council File No: 15-0719-S26

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Committee members, This is exciting! This motion brings into focus to our urgent need for: • Safer streets • A way to make progress toward safer streets inevitable (by tying one action to another: if street work is happening, new safety measures must be included) • An overarching plan for maintaining and improving LA's entire public right-of-way infrastructure At Investing in Place, we have begun focusing much of our efforts on that third bullet – the need for an overarching plan for everything related to public works and transportation in Los Angeles. And the new motion brings that expansive vision towards equitable implementation by elevating the need for cross departmental and bureau collaboration, and most importantly, it calls for a system to prioritize the work by existing definitions of equity in a multiyear work plan that is tied to funding. The current motion is elevating an issue core to our hearts, creating a capital infrastructure plan. Many people are surprised to learn that the close to \$1 billion in funds the City of Los Angeles (and this isn't even counting State and Federal funding + Metro capital projects within the City) gets by formula every year has no long range plan for investing those dollars. Creating a Capital Infrastructure Plan for the City, is something Council President Martinez has been calling for (Council File 21-0039) and this new motion builds on those efforts. Five questions we believe that must be answered as this issue goes forward to policy discussion: 1. What is the single, unified vision for Public Works and Transportation from City policymakers? 2. How do the departments working in the City's public right of way coordinate today and why doesn't that work well? The agency leaders and those doing the work (as disjointed as it might be), need to share the barriers to doing this. As a first step in this process, in January 2022, General Managers of various departments including the Department of Public Works (DPW) and LADOT signed onto a, "Interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding: Improving Project Planning and Delivery in the Public Right of Way." 3. How does each department approach capital planning? (How far into the future do they look, do they maintain strategic unfunded project lists, how do they prioritize their own local resources? How do they get input from the public?) 4. What is the right way to bring communities in on planning for the public right of way without giving privileged

voices unfair influence? To what extent should local stakeholders be able to hold up projects with broader benefits? 5. How does this build on the existing work from the City's Administrative Office (CAO) to create a 5-year funding plan and prioritize funding by equity metric? (See January 26, 2022 CAO report)

This issue of public spending on public infrastructure is one of the top issues for our city. We are excited to see the City moving forward on this important work. Sincerely, Jessica Meaney
Investing in Place jessica@investinginplace.org