

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to prohibiting the use of digital applications and digital infrastructure to re-route vehicular traffic that is inconsistent with official City street designations.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Krekorian – Koretz):

REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) and/or Administrative Code (LAAC) to provide that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) has exclusive authority over the provision of digital infrastructure that regulates traffic; and, to expressly prohibit the addition, deletion, or other modification of digital traffic control by other entities.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

## SUMMARY

On October 8, 2019, Council considered Motion (Krekorian – Koretz) relative to prohibiting the use of digital applications and digital infrastructure to re-route vehicular traffic that is inconsistent with official City street designations. Motion states the California Vehicle Code authorizes local governments to regulate traffic at locations that may require traffic direction for orderly flow. LAMC Section 80.03 states that no one, other than a Police Officer, a person deputized by the Chief of Police, a Traffic Officer, an off duty or retired police officer, or a member of the Fire Department shall direct traffic. This requirement is intended to ensure drivers are directed toward appropriate roadways that are adequate to handle the volume of diverted traffic.

Motion goes on to state that Waze is a Global Positioning System navigation software application owned by Google. It provides detailed navigation information and user-submitted travel times and route details. Based on the information collected, Waze provides routing and real-time traffic updates. Any Waze user can also change the designation of local roads and suggest edits to segment attributes such as traffic direction, unpaved roads, and allowable turns.

By allowing untrained, civilian application users to suggest edits to City's road designations and direct traffic, Motion movers believe that Waze usurps the authority explicitly granted to the City. Motion movers recommend that Council request the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to prohibit the use of digital applications and digital infrastructure to re-route vehicular traffic that is inconsistent with official City street designations. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held October 23, 2019, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with LADOT staff and a representative of the City Attorney's Office. The representatives of LADOT and the City Attorney stated that the California Vehicle Code authorizes the City to regulate traffic flow. Further, re-directing traffic to streets not designed for congested traffic and to areas closed due to fire emergencies are hazardous to public safety. It was further stated that LADOT's authority to post traffic signs and speed limits on City streets is analogous to regulating traffic in

the digital realm. Committee recommended that Council request the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the LAMC and/or LAAC to state that LADOT has exclusive authority over the provision of digital infrastructure that regulates traffic; and, to expressly prohibit the addition, deletion, or other modification of digital traffic control by other entities, substantially as recommended by Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



MEMBER   VOTE

BONIN:   YES

MARTINEZ: YES

KORETZ:   YES

jaw

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**