

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares

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Council File No: 15-0719-S26

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Public Works / Transportation Committees, I am writing in support of Item #1 on your agenda for the Wednesday, June 22 meeting, a motion in support of Healthy Streets LA. Our City's Mobility Plan has been neglected for too long, and the City has only implemented 3% of it in 7 years, a rate that means it will take the City 200 years to do the entire 20-year plan. It makes sense to create an ordinance to mandate its implementation when repaving streets; doing so will greatly speed up implementation and also make it cheaper by aligning the improvements with planned repaving projects. Healthy Streets LA, a citizen-led initiative, began collecting signatures four months ago and is about to turn 120,000 signatures into the City Clerk; this motion is a great step in support of these efforts. The reason why I feel strongly about this is that I too am a Bicyclist. I ride my bicycle for recreational use (for fun) and many parts of the city make me feel unsafe due to the road hazards that bicyclists face from motorists who drive recklessly on surface streets. I have bicycled many times on the streets and many parts of the San Fernando Valley are lacking bicycle safety, and bike paths/lanes. There have been times when I almost got hit by a motorist while bicycling on my bike on streets even while riding on the bicycle lane. I fear for my life and safety. I ask that you please pass the Healthy Streets LA, especially the one proposed by Streets For All's Michael Schneider. I know Michael and he is a good, knowledgeable person who cares about safety for all, including myself. I am a volunteer for Streets Are For Everyone (S.A.F.E.), an advocacy organization advocating for bicycle and pedestrian safety. I have been actively involved in activism and advocacy work in Los Angeles for the past three years. I want to see life improve for everyone. I encourage you to vote yes on this motion (including any proposed amendments to further strengthen it), and I also ask for your vote to adopt the citizen-led version of Healthy Streets LA as an ordinance when it reaches the City Council sometime in August. Thank you, Lionel Mares, MPA