

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the Expo Bike Path Northvale Gap Closure Project.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT):
 - a. In conjunction with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), to begin real estate acquisition required to construct the Expo Bike Path Northvale Gap Closure Project between Overland and Motor Avenues.
 - b. Expend funds for this purpose, as needed, from the \$4.2 million appropriated in the Measure R Local Return Fund No. 510, Expo Bike Path Northvale Gap Closure Project Account.
2. DIRECT the LADOT to work with the City Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to identify funding sources to bridge the projected funding gap that currently ranges from \$4,946,000 to \$11,475,000, depending on real estate acquisition needs.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LADOT reports that the City must address a project budget shortfall in order to complete the project. Inasmuch as various funds are eligible for this project, the General Fund should not be impacted. If the City fails to deliver the project, it may be required to return the amount of Federal grant funds already reimbursed for expenditures.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In a report to Council dated June 5, 2019, LADOT discusses the status of the Expo Bike Path Northvale Gap Closure Project. LADOT reports the Exposition Light Rail project included a contiguous bike path from Downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. However, a gap in the bikeway network remains between Overland Avenue and the bike lanes on Motor Avenue. As an interim solution, LADOT placed shared pavement markings or sharrows on Northvale Road to facilitate bicycle travel between Overland Avenue and Motor Avenue. However, a permanent bicycle facility is necessary to establish a continuous bicycle network. Closing this 0.7-mile gap will achieve a regionally-significant bikeway network for a distance of over 14 miles from USC / Exposition Park to the beach in Santa Monica.

LADOT secured a \$4.4 million grant through Metro's 2009 Call for Projects for the design and construction of the Expo Bike Path Northvale Gap Closure Project. In November of 2011, the City executed a lawsuit settlement agreement with the owners of eight of twelve residential parcels affected by the bike path project. As a result of this settlement agreement, the scope of the project broadened to include a sound wall between the bike path and the homes, as well as compensation to the plaintiffs for the portion of each parcel containing the sewer easement. In December, 2018, Council authorized LADOT to receive a \$4.2 million refund from the Metro Exposition Line Construction Authority to support the completion of the design and construction

of this bicycle facility, but a budget shortfall ranging from \$4,946,000 to \$11,475,000 remains.

LADOT goes on to report that in order to refine the project's cost estimate, and reduce risks and uncertainties, it is necessary to initiate real estate acquisition and to complete the construction documents as soon as possible. The Department recommends using the \$4.2 million Metro Exposition Line Construction Authority refund, or a portion thereof, for real estate acquisition to supplement project costs. LADOT will work with Metro to extend the lapse date and/or re-program the funds to ensure that these existing Metro grant funds are secure, and to identify projects that had previous financial commitment from Metro but are no longer viable and re-purpose these funds to this project. Other possible funding sources may include Measure R, Proposition C, West LA Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Funds, developer fees, and other grant opportunities.

At its meeting held June 12, 2019, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with a representative of LADOT. Councilmember Koretz stated that the project timeline can be accelerated, suggesting that property acquisition should be done sooner than what it is stated in the LADOT report. The Department representative stated that the timeline in the report is conservative. LADOT will work with BOE to acquire needed properties sooner than what is projected in the report. Committee recommended that Council approve LADOT's recommendations to provide funding necessary to proceed with the Expo Bike Path Northvale Gap Closure Project.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

BONIN: YES

MARTINEZ: YES

KORETZ: YES

jaw

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-