

MOTION

In March 2020, City operations were abruptly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Safer At Home order, with staff reprioritized to emergency response duties and personnel shifted to remote work. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) quickly evaluated its programs, paused nonessential work, and launched several emergency programs, including L.A. Al Fresco, food and retail temporary pick-up zones, and Slow Streets. As the pandemic has worn on, LADOT has gradually resumed regular programs and adapted them as necessary for the current situation.

The Preferential Parking District (PPD) unit has resumed processing applications for new and expanded PPDs that were submitted prior to March 19, 2020. These applications could be handled safely and required no further face-to-face interaction, which could potentially spread COVID-19 among applicants and department staff. However, the Department's moratorium on new PPD petitions remains in effect due to the lack of a safe way to distribute and collect petition signatures remotely. While the Safer At Home order is still in effect, the gradual reopening of businesses, returning traffic volumes, and ongoing development activity has triggered resident demand for new PPDs. LADOT needs to develop procedures to respond to this demand and safely resume the PPD program.

Furthermore, LADOT should digitize and modernize the program to be easier for residents to access and for staff to administer, even after the pandemic ends. For example, changing procedures to include a virtual petition option would streamline both circulation and signature verification, saving City staff time and resident effort. A public-facing tracking system would reduce the need for correspondence to update residents on the status of their applications.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to report in no later than 30 days with solutions that allow the Preferential Parking District (PPD) division to resume normal operations while protecting residents and City staff from COVID-19 exposure, including a virtual petition option. This report should also include the status of efforts to modernize program procedures for the digital age.

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