

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Public Works / Transportation Committees, I am writing about Item #1 on your agenda today, June 22 — the motion by Council President Martinez addressing our Mobility Plan, with reference to the Healthy Streets LA Ballot Measure. This motion could be strengthened by lifting up the matter of street trees to a more prominent position in the text. Street trees are mentioned once, and very far down in the motion. For our streets to be HEALTHY for people — in addition to being SAFE — trees need to be thoroughly integrated into planning at the start and include protecting existing trees. Trees mitigate extreme heat with their shade canopies, and they clean our air. Trees buffer noise. Studies show that trees help calm traffic and people. Trees will make walking bearable here. Our Department of Urban Forestry needs to be closely partnered with DOT to be sure trees are thoroughly integrated and protected up front in all planning for mobility. Can the motion be amended to reflect this reality? Let's start to implement more creative approaches to finding space for trees, instead of just pouring concrete and installing plastic bollards. For example, trees can be planted in roundabouts and used for protected bike lanes. Trees can be integrated into street parking spaces. Many cities have a more robust partnership between transit departments and urban forestry, including adjacent Beverly Hills. Trees are essential for hospitable first and last mile access to the subway lines and all public transit. Any concept of "Healthy Streets" must feature trees. We must not squander this opportunity for sensible planning involving trees and roads while the city densifies. As we lose public and private space for trees, we can partially make up the reduced urban forest by creative plantings that complement DOT plans from the get-go, not as afterthought. Thank you kindly for considering these concerns as you work through this motion. Ann Rubin Los Angeles, CA 90048 cc: Shelley Billick, CFAC Chair and CFAC representative to CD 5