

MOTION

Los Angeles has many pedestrian walkways and jogging paths that are beloved by their local neighbors and important community recreational assets. These facilities—which range from informal dirt use trails to fully developed rubberized tracks—are commonly in the public right of way and at properties owned or operated by the City. Some pedestrian facilities, like the track around Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights and the walking trail around Silver Lake Reservoir, are well-known destinations that draw users from miles away, while others are primarily known only to neighbors.

As part of promoting community health and environmental sustainability, the City should encourage walking for recreation and transportation through the construction and maintenance of pedestrian pathways, including supporting historical use of informal facilities. Maintaining and upgrading informal facilities, which may be unimproved dirt trails today, may require especially careful design to maintain the historic and/or natural character of the pathway while ensuring equal access to all pedestrians.

For example, the City’s Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan envisions a paved bike path along the south and west sides of the River, and multi-use paths on the north and east sides of the River constructed using permeable natural surfaces, such as decomposed granite.

The City lacks clear guidance for the design, construction, and maintenance of alternative surface walkways within the public right of way, including determining which surfaces are appropriate for which contexts and how to ensure accessibility standards are achieved in the public right of way. Communities and City staff alike should have the information needed to be able to know when a pedestrian walkway can be constructed with alternative materials, the specific technical requirements applicable to the walkway, and its required maintenance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), StreetsLA, and Department of Recreation and Parks to report in 90 days with a process and timeline for the development and adoption of policies and/or standards for the construction and maintenance of alternative surfaces for pedestrian walkways in the public right of way and at City owned or operated facilities, as well as criteria for when the use of these alternative surfaces is appropriate.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:




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