



PAUL KREKORIAN

COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 2

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May 26, 2017

Re: Lankershim Boulevard Great Streets Proposal

Dear Neighbor:

Lankershim Boulevard is one of the most important arteries that runs through the heart of the East Valley and connects our communities to one another. In 2014, Mayor Garcetti announced his Great Streets Initiative and named a portion of this busy thoroughfare as one of the city's first 15 Great Streets. The Great Streets Initiative's stated aims are to improve pedestrian safety, enhance streets with improved infrastructure and add green space to areas that lack it.

As the Mayor's office and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation ("LADOT") evaluated options and prepared concepts for the Great Streets program along Lankershim, it became clear to me that they had not adequately reached out to residents, businesses and stakeholders along the Lankershim corridor to discuss the changes proposed for the area. I asked them to carry out a thorough and intensive outreach plan, and my office helped them organize five Great Streets community meetings where dozens of people learned about the options and gave valuable feedback on them.

Throughout my consideration of the various options for this corridor, I have emphasized the need to find ways to increase safety, mobility and economic vitality along Lankershim. I have also raised concerns about how particular proposed changes would impact the flow of traffic on this artery and nearby streets, how local businesses would fare and what would happen to our surrounding residential communities.

With these issues in mind, and having carefully considered the input of the community and other stakeholders, I believe that some of the changes proposed by the Great Streets staff should not be implemented at this time. In particular, I am concerned about the unintended consequences of the proposal to remove traffic lanes and parking from Lankershim.

This is why I am asking the Great Streets staff and LADOT to go back to the drawing board on their proposal and come back to the community and me with options that better suit the diverse nature of this North Hollywood corridor. I believe we can embrace safety and add more continuity for bicyclists without sacrificing lanes on one of the Valley's busiest thoroughfares. **What I am looking for is a proposal that preserves Lankershim's existing traffic lanes; improves continuity and safety for cyclists,**

pedestrians and drivers; and also includes beautification elements to spruce up the entire corridor.

It may take a little time to modify the proposal, but I believe we must do so in order to move forward in the best interests of the entire community and to align with the city's Vision Zero action plan.

In the meantime, my office isn't waiting to improve the area. Since 2014, we have worked with public and private partners to improve this Lankershim corridor, including partnering with the North Hollywood Business Improvement District to open and provide programming on the NoHo Plaza People Street; working with the Laemmle NoHo 7 to add a bike corral next to the theater; partnering with Metro to restore the historic Lankershim Depot and reopen it with Groundwork Coffee as a tenant; creating an underground pedestrian walkway between the Orange and Red Line stations to enhance pedestrian safety; and adding crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, and, most recently, a new traffic signal between Magnolia and Wedington to calm traffic and allow pedestrians to easily get to businesses on both sides of the street. Each of these projects has improved mobility, safety and connectivity, in keeping with my commitment to implement the goals and objectives of Vision Zero in the heart of the NoHo Arts District.

In addition, as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, I led the effort to set aside \$24 million in new investments in Vision Zero projects to improve safety on high-priority corridors, like Lankershim. Separately, I created the city's sidewalk repair trust fund and budgeted \$31 million that will be spent in the next fiscal year on pedestrian safety improvements.

Thank you for your input and engagement on this issue. I will continue to work with you and all community members to serve our vision of a safer, more connected North Hollywood.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me:
paul.krekorian@lacity.org or (818) 755-7676.

Very truly yours,



PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, Second District