



543 N Fairfax Avenue Suite 106 Los Angeles CA 90036 323.651.3512
www.midcitywest.org

Transportation, Parking, and Streetscape Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday January 19, 2010

**543 North Fairfax Avenue, Room 101
Los Angeles CA 90036**

1. Call to Order AT 7:05 PM
2. Roll Call.
 - a. Present: Jacobberger, Darner, Darrin, Diamante-Vera, Deegan, Feldman
 - b. Absent: Eisenhauer, Barba
3. Minutes of Dec 15, 2009 Meeting: Approved by unanimous consent.
4. Public Comment: Stakeholders Christine Yamagata and Christine Roach spoke about concerns for the project proposed at the northeast corner of Crescent Heights and Wilshire. Of concern to them were proposed project landscaping, particularly in the parcel facing Orange, access to the project, displacement of parking for adjacent businesses. It was noted that LUC recommended approval of the project with conditions and the stakeholders were urged to voice their concerns when the project comes before the full Board in February. Stakeholder Bob Abrahams noted that MCWCC elections will be coming up this year, with filing in February.
5. Discussion: Presentation of Third Street Pilot Community Valet Parking Program
 - a. The Third Street Pilot Community Valet Parking Program was presented to the Council at large at the January Board meeting. Theresa Feldman noted that the presentation did not address documentation of use, or streetscape improvements, which were part of the original MCW committee discussions and recommendations regarding the program. Darner suggested that we invite the consultant and head of the Third Street Business Association to our next meeting for a follow-up discussion on these questions. Jeff Jacobberger will contact Mott Smith about availability.
6. Discussion: Site Access at Town and Country Center
 - a. Discussion focused on review of issues of access at the Town and Country Center. It was noted that the remedies listed by the committee will be forwarded to LUC as information for their review of future projects at the site or adjacent to it. To be added to the previous list are:
 - i. Emphasis on multi-jurisdictional coordination in resolving these problems
 - ii. Potential for closure of Fairfax Ave access
 - b. The committee will out-reach to LUC prior to this month's meeting as a point of information on this matter.
7. Discussion re: transportation, parking and streetscape improvement "wish list".
 - a. Darner and Jacobberger will compile the "wish list" issues for improvement that could be presented as guidelines to the public and developers as possible mitigation measures for both residential and commercial projects, based on the committee input of the last three sessions. The list will be forwarded to LUC for their input and review.
 - b. Darner will propose to the Chair of LUC that LUC and TPS meet in joint session to review and discuss the list. From these discussions, a final list will be prepared for review with the Board at large. Darner to contact LUC about potential for scheduling the session.

8. The regular meeting was temporarily suspended to allow for a special meeting to discuss a motion proposed by Board Member Bob Abrahams regarding the Movietown Plaza development in West Hollywood, adjacent to residential areas within the MCWCC district.
 - a. The project will create a new mixed use development which currently does not have traffic mitigations proposed relating to the residential neighborhoods to its south in our district.
 - b. Bob's motion proposed that MCWCC request and recommend that West Hollywood City Council and the developer Casden Movietown LLC include provisions to help protect these residential areas from any additional traffic caused by the project. A number of remedies were proposed, including signage and curb design at the project exits directing traffic away from the neighborhood, as well as consideration of the potential for a cul-de-sac on Poinsettia at Romaine.
 - c. Board Member and stakeholder Paul Lerner spoke in support of the motion.
 - d. The motion was unanimously passed by the committee.
 - e. Nina Diamante-Vera noted that she would speak with SAG representatives to make certain they are aware of the project and its potential impact on parking for casting calls in the area. She will urge they attend the West Hollywood City Council meeting when the project comes before it for review.
 - f. The special meeting was closed and the regular meeting resumed.
9. Discussion: re Closure of the Fairfax and Hollywood/West Hollywood Dash lines.
 - a. LADOT has been studying potential closure of many bus lines because of budgetary problems. A recommendation is to go forward to LA City Council within the next month or two which would ask that, among others, the Fairfax and Hollywood/West Hollywood Dash service be suspended.
 - b. It was noted in discussion that ridership statistics for these two lines are among the lowest levels for this type of service, and that given budgetary constraints, other services might in fact benefit from its closure.
 - c. Alternately, it was discussed that the lines, particularly the Fairfax line, are integral to our community, help give it definition, and remain a viable, economic, transportation service in a congested part of the city, particularly for seniors. It was considered that since its inception, conditions have changed in the neighborhood, but the routings for the two services have not necessarily kept pace with these changes. It was suggested that before they are eliminated, a local public relations effort should be made to encourage utilization, and LADOT asked to look at updating the routings.
 - d. Tim Deegan noted that Paul Koretz has indicated support for the line's continuation, and there may be support from Tom LaBonge.
 - e. A motion was proposed for the MCWCC Board to strongly urge reconsideration of elimination of the lines by Darner, seconded by Diamante-Vera. The motion also asks for a minimum of one year's continuance of the lines to allow for its promotion and use by the community.
 - f. Darner, Darrin, Diamante-Vera, Feldman and Deegan voted in favor of the motion. Jacobberger opposed. The motion carried and will go to the Board for approval.
 - g. It was also noted that all council members should be notified as soon as possible of the potential for the line's elimination, and should if so inclined, offer their comments to LADOT through internet, telephone or mail. Darner will post the access info on the website.
10. Discussion: re Move LA effort to expedite the 30 year Measure R Transportation plan in 10 years.
 - a. An independent effort is underway to call for faster implementation of finance and infrastructure improvements to the LA Metro system, including the subway, through cooperation with the Federal Government and current funding opportunities. Measure R will pay for enhanced public transit, including completion of the Wilshire Blvd subway, six new and extended light rail systems as well as provide for several new Bus Rapid Transit lines, and an expansion of our bus fleet.
 - b. The committee in general supports this effort and proposed a motion that MCWCC support Move LA in its efforts to expedite the provisions of Measure R in 10 versus 30 years. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Due to the lateness of the evening, discussion of the Melrose Street Tree program and the Wilshire Bus Lane was postponed to the next meeting.
12. Future Agenda Items:
 - a. Other

13. Member Comment: Diana Darrin suggested that the committee obtain a map showing fault locations in the community so that we are aware of them as we consider action on future projects. She will contact Tara Brown of Public Safety for input.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

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DASH: Fairfax DASH (last bus approx. 6 pm) Schedule at www.ladottransit.com/dash/routes/fairfax/fairfax.html.