

## Land Use + Public Safety Committees Meeting, August 31, 2017

### Agenda

- A. Call to Order- 6:08pm
- B. Roll Call- PRESENT: Antonio Castillo, Susanne Huerta, Melanie Freeland, Zacharias Gardea, Charlie Fischer ABSENT: Boo Caban, Steve Crouch (late), Trish Gossett, and Tina Gulotta-Miller
- C. Public Comments: Glen Sheldon-recently bought home on Ave 57 just north of Monte Vista; no regular street cleaning, wants more speed bumps, not enough street parking  
Laura- residential stakeholder lives on Mount Angeles drive- bought her home 20 years ago and had regular street cleaning; recently it stopped, wants to look into why her regular street cleaning stopped  
Joanna Anderson- has lived in Mt Washington and Highland Park for last 10 years; noticed lack of crosswalk on Figueroa and north of York where the school is; traffic on Figueroa moving fast; doesn't think the tunnel is adequate for the children to walk through; wants a crosswalk to make it safer for children
- D. Chairs' Report: No Report

### Action Items

- 1. Discussion and possible action to adopt the agenda:  
-Charlie motions to adopt agenda, Diego seconds, motion passes
- 2. Discussion and possible action to make a joint recommendation tot the HHPNC Board considering the mobility and safety of Figueroa Street in Highland Park, including but not limited to, lane reconfiguration, traffic lane removals, road diets, and bicycle lanes.

Antonio topic at hand has been a discussion for many years in the community; brought back to light because of Vision Zero and Councilmember Cedillo's recent motion in the City Council

Diego- remembers a meeting where HHPNC voted in support of Vision Zero but doesn't know the exact language of that agenda item; wants to know if that agenda item is similar to what is presently being discussed

Melanie- the Mobility Plan calls for a road diet on Figueroa; Cedillo's latest motion takes exception to the Mobility Plan; this motion should not be solely directed to the Councilmember; he is beholden to the community not the other way around; disagrees that reducing a traffic lane and/or adding a bike lane reduces emergency response times

Charlie- concerned for the loss of traffic lane on Figueroa because of so much traffic presently; Figueroa wouldn't be able to properly function with the constriction of lanes; Figueroa is a truck route and major traffic artery; another issue is the curb extensions; still sees fast moving cars on York even after road diet; opposed to removing travel lane on Figueroa, but supports an alternative bike route parallel to Figueroa on Marmion way; as part of Fig

Jam, one lane southbound was closed and it was a traffic disaster; adding a road diet will only push traffic onto smaller, residential side streets

Public Comment:

Harry- lives in South Pasadena, retired from DOT and has never seen one case where bike lanes was worthwhile on a public street; stupid idea, messes up traffic

Laura- Mt. Angeles resident for 17 years; there is a bike path down at the wash for those interested in riding their bike; bikes already have the right of way on public streets; already have to give 5 feet to bicyclists; doesn't see many bicyclists on either Figueroa or York

Mike McDonald- drives, bikes, and walks on North Figueroa; supports Vision Zero as the focus, and supports stopping traffic related deaths on North Fig; concerns for traffic should be concerns for life; Cedillo should support Vision Zero; the focus should be on saving lives and preventing more deaths on North Fig

Betsy- lives in Highland Park; supports Vision Zero plan; big focus should be making people safe and reducing the amount of deaths by crossing; the way to do that is to reduce speeds; apart from the Vision Zero plan, should look into increasing bike lanes, bulge outs, etc.

Amanda Meza- lives by Figueroa and Ave 57; excited for the Vision Zero plan; spends time on Figueroa and is concerned about traffic accidents

Elaine- is with citywide bicycle advocacy coalition; pedestrians are 16 times more likely to die in a crash than those behind the wheel

Leslie- lives in Highland Park; supports Vision Zero road safety for all; this Figueroa stretch was designed to be a highway for route 66 but now has a highway parallel to it; sickening that people are still getting killed as a result of high speeds and traffic; the focus should not be about traffic but reimagining our community and making it safer

Saul- born and raised in Highland Park and has lived here for 40+years; has seen the difference in the amount of accidents that were prevented and lives saved by the implementation of the road diet on York; made a big difference, and yes traffic is slower, but the main concern should be safety and not traffic; runners, pedestrians, and bicyclists are safer on York after the road diet

Felicia- grew up in Highland Park; York has been a success, 30% reduction in crashes; Franklin High School runners use Figueroa for practice; making Fig safer is not about bikes, but making the street safer for all people using it

Angela Garcia- 46+ years in community; previously thought that traffic was the priority; recently started biking and has a new appreciation for York Blvd after the road diet; previously was too scared with the high travel speeds of cars prior to the road diet

Sevrans- 50 years that his family has been in Highland Park; all in favor of Vision Zero; we should change our idea that streets should just be safe for motorists and pedestrians, but for bicyclists too

Carlos- used to be an EMT in Los Angeles; witnessed many traffic accidents and deaths as a result; is in favor of adding crosswalks; but not in favor of removing traffic lanes because of the delayed response time for emergency vehicles

Mando Medina- resident of Highland Park; started a petition against bike lanes on North Fig; included statement from a firefighter who stated that the impact on emergency response time is great; sacrificing a lane for slower moving traffic doesn't make community sense; the community has spoken and voted against bike lanes on Fig; slower response time for emergency vehicles

Harv- Northeast Los Angeles resident and stakeholder; forget about removing car traffic lanes; think outside the box, no dedicated bike lanes required; much off street parking off of Fig, widen sidewalk; bicyclists would have choice of safe sidewalk riding or faster street bicycling

Brian Oth-North Fig between York and Ave 43 is one of city's Vision Zero plan targets

Bill- new field deputy of area for Cedillo's office; speaking as field deputy for the Councilmember; notices a lot of people concerned about this issue especially those monolingual folks at the last full board HHNC meeting and doesn't notice them at this committee meeting; very concerned about the cost of translators for NC's, so the Council office is looking into possibly allocating funds for that; only concern for this particular issue is before any decisions are made that all the stakeholders' input are included

#### Committee members

Diego Silva- born and raised in Highland Park and works at Occidental College and co-chair of the Public Safety Committee; rides his bike and is all about safety; supportive of the Councilmember's motion to not install bike lanes or a road diet on Fig because he doesn't see it working on that street; maybe in the future but not now; point of this meeting is to tell Cedillo our input when it comes to his motion

Trish Gossett- City of Los Angeles has a robust bike share program; bike lanes are necessary if we're serious about them

Susanne Huerta- safety is of utmost concern; there is an option after the first year for Vision Zero to revisit and see if it is working; would've been great to have someone from the city present more information for those at this meeting

Boo Caban- visual issues with bike lanes in general; husband would never ride bike on Fig because people don't obey rules on street; maybe certain hours should be implemented to compromise for bicyclists and motorists like during rush hours; bicyclists have to wear a helmet in order to protect themselves, just like a seatbelt in a car; doesn't believe our outreach for this committee was sufficient

Melanie Freeland- lives in Highland Park; supports Vision Zero plan for north Fig because it supports science; as a community we can support science; our

neighbors are dying on north Fig; we can put a stop to it and demand a safer street; wants our Public Safety Committee to prioritize public safety  
Charlie Fisher- the recently installed two new traffic signals have been a great help to Fig; installation at Ave 51 positive improvements; flashing yellow lights for the crosswalk are dangerous for the pedestrians because they can't tell if the lights are on during the day; bike riders themselves often don't pay attention to the traffic signals  
Steve Crouch- Marmion way can be reconfigured for bicyclists; road diet on Fig can cause more deaths on the side streets like near schools; during rush hour bicycle lanes wouldn't be used for bicyclists

**The Takeaway:**

-Give the full board the meeting's minutes and let board members take formal action at next HHPNC meeting

3. New Business: None
4. Adjournment: Charlie motions, Melanie seconds, motion passes at 7:31pm