

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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January 14, 2009

Cecilia V. Estolano
Chief Executive Officer
The Community Redevelopment Agency of LA
354 South Spring Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, California 90013

RE: Washington Boulevard Conceptual Plan Project

Dear Ms. Estolano:

At our regularly held public meeting on January 13, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to submit the following letter of support and comments regarding the above-mentioned Washington Boulevard Conceptual Plan Project ("Project") proposed by the CRA/LA and Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative ("LANI"), pursuant to the motion passed on December 16, 2008, by DLANC's Planning & Land Use Committee.

DLANC strongly supports the Project's goals of transforming Washington Boulevard (Between Figueroa Street and Alameda Street) into a pedestrian-friendly and transit-safe corridor. Further, we appreciate the extensive community outreach efforts by LANI and CRA/LA to engage stakeholders in the design process.

DLANC supports the Project's comprehensive approach to re-design of this critical transportation pathway, including consideration of sidewalk and crosswalk enhancements, street lighting, landscaping, new bus stops and other transit-related improvements, community banners, gateway monuments, and other design elements to improve neighborhood identification. In addition, we note the following specific comments received from DLANC stakeholders:

1. Bicycle parking facilities should be improved, particularly at bus stops and other transit locations.
2. Street lighting should be carefully chosen to ensure sufficient light is provided for pedestrians. To the extent that neighborhood stakeholders prefer historic-style lighting, DLANC encourages the selection of down-lighting, especially as street trees may block light penetration from up-lighting fixtures.
3. Guidelines for sidewalk setbacks should be clearly established to ensure that future development along the corridor maintains or improves existing sidewalk widths.
4. Consider street tree forms that strike a balance between providing shade and allowing light penetration from street lights.

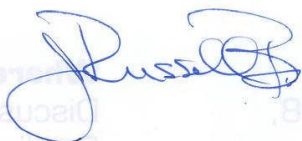
5. The text and images used in the proposed identification medallions should be carefully reviewed to ensure that colors and materials used allow for easy reading and recognition.
6. Landscaping guidelines should adhere to the City's proposed Green Streets standards, and encourage xeriscaping or other drought-tolerant plant materials.
7. Incorporate new lighting and/or landscaping to improve the aesthetics of the Metro Blue Line right-of-way median area.
8. Consider incorporating the identification medallion logo into crosswalk patterns, street furniture and other streetscape improvements.
9. Creation of public green space/open space is critical to the enhancement of this corridor for pedestrians. The Courthouse site should be prioritized as an opportunity site for a new public park.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to working with you as this Project moves from design to implementation.

Please provide a copy of any Project-related notices or approvals to DLANC at the address listed above. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,



J. Russell Brown
DLANC President



Shiraz D. Tangri
DLANC Planning & Land Use Committee Co-Chair

CC: Greg Fischer/Marie Rumsey (Council District 9)
Marie Cobian (LA City Planning Department)
Oscar Ixco (CRA/LA)
Norma E. Fernandez (LANI)
Pat L. Smith