

MOTION

COVID-19 INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR

As the City of Los Angeles grapples with this pandemic, we find ourselves with “non-essential” businesses having temporarily closed their doors. These closures, coupled with the Mayor’s emergency order calling on residents to stay in their homes and limit all activity beyond what is necessary for essential tasks, has created an environment where the traffic jams that characterize the City of Los Angeles are a thing of a not too distant past.

This phenomenon is not unique to the City of Los Angeles and cities across America experiencing this dramatic drop in traffic are taking advantage of it to expedite infrastructure projects. Whereas a typical right-of-way project often places peak hour restrictions on construction activities to mitigate traffic impacts, the reduced traffic of the current environment creates an opportunity to use full street closures to complete projects more quickly.

The City of Beverly Hills for instance, seeing this lull in traffic, is capitalizing on the situation to expedite its capital projects by authorizing temporary full closures of its major corridors in furtherance of projects such as the Metro’s Purpleline Subway extension. Not only will this approach help to finish infrastructure projects more expeditiously, completing them will accelerate the City’s economic recovery.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation, Department of Water and Power, Bureau of Street Services and any other relevant City departments, be directed to reprioritize capital project schedules that may be accelerated through the use of full street closures.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Bureau of Engineering, with Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Street Services, and any other relevant departments, be directed to consider full street closures when reviewing their traffic control plans to accelerate telecommunication and utility projects in the right-of-way.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



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