



MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, Eleventh District

April 13, 2020

Ms. Seleta Reynolds, General Manager
Los Angeles Department of Transportation
100 South Main Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Social Distance Accommodations on City Streets During COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

I am writing to ask you and LADOT to use our streets to help Los Angeles residents cope with dramatically altered lifestyles and public health protocols during the COVID-19 crisis. Your department manages a resource that can give residents an opportunity to improve their physical and emotional well-being during a time of significant stress.

The COVID-19 crisis has placed extraordinary strain on our city, our neighborhoods, and our residents. To protect public health and flatten the curve, public officials have issued "Safer at Home" orders. This has included the closure of our beaches, numerous hiking trails, playgrounds and parks. Angelenos have met this moment with determination and resilience, but are feeling the strain, and seeking new ways to cope. Following directions to remain in the neighborhoods, residents in need of fresh air or exercise are using our streets and sidewalks. With 6 foot social distancing protocols, that has often proved challenging.

During the past month, we have all experienced the ways in which our neighborhood infrastructure does not support new patterns of local essential travel, and does not provide sufficient space for local recreation. Our sidewalks are too narrow, our streets continue to be unsafe for biking, and some motorists are taking advantage of congestion-free streets to speed recklessly even as more people are moving around on foot and bike.

Residents in Council District 11 are asking that the City immediately take measures to facilitate social distancing and improve safety for people who are now walking, biking, jogging, and playing in the streets. The Del Rey Neighborhood Council has formally requested a "temporary emergency safe streets network" to support essential travel while constituents in West Los Angeles have developed an idea for neighborhood slow zones so that residents can exercise safely on local streets while following social distancing directives.

In the first couple weeks of Safer At Home, we learned just how much Angelenos value their open space as they flocked to parks and beaches. In order to sustain the current directive for the next month, Angelenos need alternative outlets for recreation while staying in their neighborhoods and complying with social distancing requirements. I am inspired by ideas taking place in Minneapolis and Oakland to temporarily convert some streets to open space or slow streets that meet these needs. I would like to work with you to bring these ideas to the City of

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Los Angeles, CA 90045
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City Hall

200 N. Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012
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West Los Angeles Office

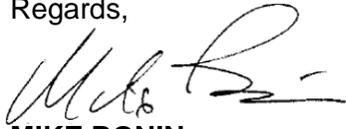
1645 Corinth Avenue, Room 201
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 575-8461
(310) 575-8305 Fax



Los Angeles and Council District 11 as soon as possible, starting in Del Rey and West Los Angeles.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please coordinate with my Transportation Director, Eric Bruins, to follow-up on this request. He can be reached at eric.bruins@lacity.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bonin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Matt Wersinger, President, Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Jamie Keeton, West LA/Sawtelle Neighborhood Council

Attachment