

Decriminalizing Mobility Through Implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan

A 2021 analysis conducted by the Los Angeles Times revealed that out of more than 44,000 cyclist stops made by the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department since 2017, 70 percent involved Latino bicyclists. According to that analysis, the stops have been used by the Sheriff’s Department as a tool to “fight crime.” However, searches conducted during these stops resulted in finding illegal items just 8 percent of the time and seizing weapons less than 0.5 percent of the time. These stops also occurred at greater rates in communities of color, such as unincorporated East Los Angeles, when compared to more affluent neighborhoods throughout the County.

On November 16, 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a motion authored by Supervisor Solis to report back on immediately implementing recommendations from the County’s Vision Zero Action Plan pertaining to cycling on sidewalks and on preparing an ordinance to allow the safe operation of bicycles on sidewalks. In response to the motion, the Director of Public Health reported back to the Board on April 19, 2022, and the Chief Executive Officer reported back on June 24, 2022.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

MITCHELL _____

The reports propose County Code updates to allow the operation of bicycles on sidewalks, specify processes and partners for establishing a diversion program for persons cited for infractions related to walking and biking, provide recommendations from the Vision Zero Action Plan to further decriminalize and enable alternative modes of transportation in unincorporated communities, and compared Los Angeles County's policies with other local and national jurisdictions. The April 19, 2022 report also includes a draft ordinance that will update County Code to legalize riding bikes on the sidewalk with exceptions where signage is posted. Action by the Board of Supervisors is necessary to implement the recommendations included in the reports and to move forward with an ordinance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors

- 1) Direct the Director of Public Works, in collaboration with County Counsel and the Department of Public Health, to immediately commence a full review of the draft ordinance provided as part of the April 19, 2022 report back;
- 2) Direct the Chief Executive Office to coordinate the implementation of Recommendations 1 – 6 and 8 proposed in the June 24, 2022 report back;
- 3) Direct the Anti Racism and Diversity Initiative to consult with ~~convene a work group~~ as mentioned in Recommendation 7 in the June 24, 2022 report back comprised of representatives from the CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch, Public Health, District Attorney, Public Defender, County Counsel, Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, Public Works and other affected Departments to identify and explore legislative options that would limit searches associated with minor traffic or pedestrian infractions for which there is not a strong

causal connection to a collision. These minor infractions might include, but would not be limited to, technical violations, equipment violations, proper lighting, jaywalking, and broken taillights;

- 4) Direct the Director of Public Works, in partnership with Public Health, to explore other County Code changes related to other human-powered forms of transportation and micromobility devices with the goal of improving safety on roadways and sidewalks; and
- 5) Direct the specified Departments to report back on their respective directives in December 2022.

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HLS:mr:bnf