

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 12, 2023

Establishing A New Los Angeles County Transportation Commission To Ensure Transparency and Equitable Mobility Outcomes

On August 30, 2022, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the motion titled, "County Response to Windsor Hills Fatalities and Fast-Tracking Solutions to Increased Traffic Fatalities Countywide." The County Chief Executive Office (CEO) issued a report back in response to the motion on June 30, 2023.

The report back details strategies to improve communication and coordination among County Departments related to transportation services. It states, "Communication among departments, the Board offices, and the public is key to being transparent. Although the County established the Highway Safety Commission (HSC), managed by Public Works, the HSC is used for the community to appeal decisions regarding requests for traffic control measures or for school crossing guards. The CEO recommends that a Transportation Committee/Task Force be created with representatives from each Board office, the State of California Department of California Highway Patrol, and other County departments, to hold public meetings at least twice a year. The purpose of a Transportation Committee/Task Force would be to review plans for major transportation projects, development or modification of policies related to transportation services, hear presentations on major projects or developments, review after-action reports on major accidents, and have meaningful discussions on legislation, policies, and developments

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

related to transportation. This would also allow the County to follow clear strategic priorities and coordination between departments and entities, and to engage the public.”

The Board of Supervisors should adopt this recommendation, with modifications, to advance its ambitious goals around transportation services, including, but not limited to, those detailed in the County’s adopted Vision Zero Action Plan, Our County Sustainability Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, and County Pedestrian Step by Step plans.

The County is overdue for renewed attention and investments in its transportation services. As articulated in the Board approved “Our County Sustainability plan,” “Most County residents take trips in private vehicles, emitting vast quantities of harmful pollutants into the air. By developing programs that focus on reducing the number of miles people travel in private vehicles, the County will help people choose alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles. These programs will expand residents’ mobility, including those residents whose limited automobile access translates to stifled economic opportunity.”

A Board established Transportation Commission will provide the necessary accountability for all of the County’s transportation services, and will illuminate opportunities for improvement and expansion, efficiencies, best practices, and a space for discussion on how to improve transportation services for those that need them the most.

Further, the County has an existing advisory body for topics related to traffic safety, which has been historically underutilized. In October 2014, the Board voted to extend the Highway Safety Commission (HSC) sunset review date from October 2013 to 2017. Since then, there has not been a holistic evaluation of the HSC. In fact, between January 2017 and June 2023, the HSC met just 13 times, an average of about twice per year and despite continued increases in traffic violence. The majority of HSC discussions have focused on individual appeals rather than holistic plans to promote safe, walkable communities. Meanwhile, between 2013 and 2017 (the most recent period for which complete data was available), 219 people were severely injured and 86 were killed while walking in unincorporated communities. Pedestrian-involved fatal and severe injury collisions were concentrated in the southern parts of the unincorporated County, largely in communities of color and low-income communities. With such a pressing need to address traffic violence, the County needs an oversight body to ensure equitable and

effective implementation of transportation projects and programs, particularly the Vision Zero Action Plan.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Director of Regional Planning (DRP), in consultation with County Counsel, to prepare an ordinance amending Title 15 Vehicles and Traffic of the Los Angeles County (County) Code to dissolve the existing Highway Safety Commission and, in its place, establish new a Transportation Commission for the County (hereafter referred to as “the Commission”). The purpose of the Commission shall be to advise and assist the Board of Supervisors (Board) on all matters pertaining to transportation policies, State and federal legislation, goals, plans, processes (particularly those related to service requests), contracts, and mobility-related major capital projects. The ordinance shall come back to the Board for approval within 120 days and the Commission shall have its first meeting no later than within Fiscal Year 2025. The ordinance shall specify, as appropriate, the following conditions:
 - a. The Commission shall consist of eleven voting members appointed by the Board, with expertise in any of the following fields:
 - i. Mobility/Transit planning
 - ii. Transportation engineering
 - iii. Public health
 - iv. Sustainability
 - v. Racial equity and justice
 - vi. Aging and Disability advocacyMembers with lived experience in the unincorporated County, transit dependence, and exposure to traffic violence are strongly preferred.
 - b. Technical experts from each of the following fields shall attend Commission meetings, but shall not be members of the Commission, and shall provide technical assistance to the Commission, as appropriate:
 - i. the Director of DPW or a designee shall serve as a technical expert for transportation engineering, as well as traffic safety, goods movement,

- transit planning, and parking management. The Director of DPW or a designee shall serve as the lead technical expert for the Commission
- ii. the Director of DRP or a designee shall serve as a technical expert for mobility planning
 - iii. the County Sheriff or a designee shall serve as a technical expert for parking management
 - iv. the Director of the Department of Aging and Disabilities or a designee shall serve as a technical expert for aging and disabilities
 - v. the Director of the Department of Public Health or a designee shall serve as a technical expert for public health
 - vi. the Chief Sustainability Officer or a designee shall serve as a technical expert for sustainability
 - vii. the Director of the Anti-Racism Diversity and Inclusion Initiative or a designee shall serve as the technical expert for racial equity and mobility justice.
- c. The Commission may also invite technical experts from outside of the County to attend Commission meetings and assist the Commission, including but not limited to:
- i. the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) or a designee to serve as a technical expert for transit planning
 - ii. the State of California Department of Transportation or a designee to serve as a technical expert for emerging technology, as well as goods movement and speed enforcement.
- d. The Commission shall not have the authority to make final decisions, but may make recommendations to the Board on items related to transportation matters within the unincorporated communities of the County.
- e. The Commission shall establish a relationship with related Commissions, including the Regional Planning Commission, the Airport Land Use Commission, and the Aviation Commission, as well as a coordination strategy with LA Metro on overlapping issues and priorities. Further, the Commission

- shall only advise on matters connected with the General Plan Mobility Element upon referral by the Board or by another County department and shall not advise on subdivisions and land use entitlements.
- f. The Commission shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair. The Commission shall host an election during its first meeting for officers and vote on how future elections shall be held.
 - g. The Commission shall establish two-year terms for all voting members and a compensation policy consistent with County Commissions for voting members that are not full-time employees of the County or another government body. The Commission shall also establish a policy for removing a member of the Commission before their term ends, if necessary.
 - h. The Commission shall meet bi-monthly (with a virtual option for members of the public to participate) at the same time and in an easily accessible location central to the County and accessible via public transportation.
 - i. The Commission shall post agendas, developed by DPW and approved by the Chair of the Commission, and include standing items such as:
 - i. DPW Verbal Report
 - ii. Transportation Policy Planning Update
 - iii. Legislative Update
2. Direct the Director of DPW, in consultation with the County CEO, the Director of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Executive Officer of the Board, to develop a proposed budget, with potential funding sources for training and travel, administrative support staff, equipment and location space lease and/or rentals for the newly established Commission. The proposed budget shall be presented to the Board in writing within 180 days.
 3. Direct the Director of DPW to work with the CEO and the Director of DHR to initiate the necessary steps to create a new dedicated Transportation Planning Division within DPW and provide to the Board within 180 days recommendations on the proposed budget with potential funding sources, staffing plan, and list of responsibilities for DPW Transportation Planning Division. The Transportation Planning Division shall be primarily responsible for coordinating administrative support for the Commission.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 12, 2023

Page 6

#

(LO/KaS)