



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** October 15, 2013  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation  
**Subject:** Santa Monica Boulevard Blue Ribbon Committee Formation  
**Attachments:** 1. Initial Set of Concept Alternatives

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The City Council provided direction to form a Santa Monica Boulevard Blue Ribbon Committee at the September 10, 2013 Study Session. The intent of the Committee is to obtain community input and provide recommendations to the City Council on the design concept and any enhancements to be included along with the core reconstruction project (e.g., bicycle lanes and landscaped medians).

### **DISCUSSION**

Modeled after the City's Mass Transit Committee, the City Council agreed that each Councilmember would appoint three residents to serve on the Committee. Staff also recommends that the City Council approve a "Committee Assignment" and provide direction on the method to appoint a Committee Chair.

#### *Committee Appointments*

The City Council staff has received the following appointees:

Mayor Mirisch  
Howard Fisher  
Barry Bernstein  
Andy Licht

Vice Mayor Bosse  
Honorable Ed Brown  
Kathy Reims  
Mark Elliot

Councilmember Gold

Lester Friedman  
Lillian Raffel  
Robbie Anderson

Councilmember Brien

Craig Corman  
Barry Pressman  
name will be provided at or prior to the meeting

Councilmember Krasne

Antoinette Saleh  
Russ Levi  
Betty Harris

*Committee Assignment*

At the September 10, 2013 City Council Study Session staff presented public outreach options for the Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project and the Psomas team presented project goals and an initial set of six concept alternatives. The alternatives included maintaining the existing cross section and variations of bike lanes, landscaped medians and combined westbound crosswalk/bike path separated from traffic. Staff recommends the following Committee Assignment:

*Receive public input and provide the City Council recommendations for a concept alternative for the Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project.*

Staff anticipates that the Committee will recommend one of the six concept alternatives presented by Psomas or a variation of one of these alternatives based on public input and Committee discussion. Upon City Council selection of a concept alternative, the Committee would become inactive.

*Committee Chair*

Staff seeks direction regarding the method for appointment of a Committee Chair. For the Mass Transit Committee, the City Council appointed a Chair and Vice Chair. Another alternative is for the Committee to select a Chair and Vice Chair at the first meeting.

**Public Outreach Meetings**

Staff's plans for the Committee to hold two late October / mid-November evening meetings and two walking tours (one on a weekday and one on a weekend) prior to the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The third evening meeting would be held the second weekend of December and the fourth in early January. A fifth Committee meeting can be scheduled if needed.

**Construction Mitigation**

Per City Council direction, the Traffic & Parking Commission will evaluate and make recommendations on methods to mitigate impacts of construction. This will include:

- measures to minimize traffic dispersion into residential areas and maintain access to the City's commercial areas,
- work hour restrictions
- extent of lane closures allowed

In order to avoid conflict with the Blue Ribbon Committee meetings, staff and the consultant team propose that the Traffic & Parking Commission conduct their evaluation at their regularly scheduled meetings in December 2013 and January 2014. Special evening Commission meeting (s) could follow as needed following completion of the Blue Ribbon Committee's charge.

### **Public Outreach**

Community Development/Transportation staff, in coordination with the Communications and Marketing Office, will encourage public input by e-mail, standard mail and through the City's web page. A mailing of the public outreach process will be sent citywide to all residences, businesses and property owners between Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Notices will also be provided through postings on the City's web page and social media networks, and advertisements in the local newspapers. Additionally, updates will be provided to the City's Commissions, Mayor's Cabinet and Homeowner group meetings. Input will also be requested as part of the City Survey planned to be conducted by the City's Communications and Marketing Office.

### **City Council Updates and Action**

Staff will provide updates to the City Council on the progress of the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Traffic & Parking Commission. The goal is for the City Council to approve a conceptual design and construction mitigation plan by early April 2014 in order for Psomas to proceed with final design and preparation of construction documents to start construction by Spring 2015.

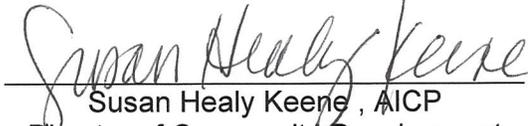
### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The agreement with Psomas includes funding to provide the necessary resource materials for the meetings. The cost of printing and mailing notices and newspaper advertisements will be between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the formation of the Santa Monica Boulevard Blue Ribbon Committee and Committee Assignment outlined in this report. Staff also seeks direction on the method of appointing a Committee Chair.

Approved By

  
Susan Healy Keene, AICP  
Director of Community Development

# **Attachment 1**

# Initial Set of Concept Alternatives

Alternative	Cross Section	1. Rehabilitate Infrastructure	2. Consider Safe Complete Streets	3. Respect Character, Preserve Green Space	4. Maintain Access to Business Triangle	5. Minimize Construction Impacts	6. Maintain Vehicular Flow	Composite Score	Disposition
Existing									
1. Existing Cross Section		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Consider
2. Eastbound Bike Lane Westbound Sidewalk		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Consider
3. Two Bike Lanes		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Consider
4. Two Bike Lanes with Median		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Consider (Refinement of Alt 3)
5. Off Street Bike/Ped Pathway		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Consider
6. Two Bike Lanes Eliminate Left Turns		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Drop
<b>Legend</b>									
● - Satisfies Project Goal		● - Partially Satisfies Project Goal		● - Does Not Satisfy Project Goal					