



Pacific Palisades Community Council

August 27, 2023

Sent via email to:

Hon. Traci Park, Los Angeles City Councilmember, Council District 11

Rudy Guevara, Transportation Engineer, Los Angeles Department of Transportation Western District Office

Subject: Temescal Canyon Road and the Re-Striping Creating a Lane Drop

Hon. Councilmember Park and Mr. Guevara,

The Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based, representative voice of the Pacific Palisades since 1973. At our most recent publicly noticed board meeting, we took a position to call for the immediate re-striping of Temescal Canyon Road (TCR) to provide two continuous lanes going up- and down-hill.

In recent months, BSS barricaded a portion of TCR to protect drivers and bicyclists from severe asphalt combustion emanating from water seepage from the northern hillside. The barricades proved unsafe for drivers and our community asked for a better, more permanent, mitigation plan. We were then informed that the seepage can be managed by installing a drainage pipe beneath the road and re-laying the roadway. Until such a time when the plan can be implemented (funding source pending), we ask that the road be re-striped in a way that accommodates the necessary two lanes of car traffic, flowing in each direction.

The PPCC has profound concerns with the way TCR has been re-striped, and in light of recent natural disasters (storms close to home and fires in Hawaii) as well as the start of school, we believe the current striping of TCR compromises public safety – with drivers now attempting to skip lanes and drive along the yellow median or make unsafe U-Turns in the middle of this fast-paced road, creating perilous traffic conditions for all. CD11 informs us that there is enough space along the road to create interim lanes that would provide for two lanes of traffic in both directions. Therefore, we encourage LADOT to collaborate with CD11 on a better restriping scheme that would save two lanes of traffic in each direction.

We urge any lane restriping change to incorporate one bicycle lane in each direction on Temescal Canyon Road.

Further, TCR is an Avenue I “Significant Road” for which both LA City Municipal Code and LADOT guidelines support the implementation of a short-term Transportation Control Management Plan during prolonged, disruptive events. TCR is a major feeder to and from Pacific Coast Highway for which signal timing at the intersection is limited to a 67 second green phase to limit overflow congestion on PCH. Therefore, PPCC urges Caltrans to consider allowing a temporary (or permanent) increase in signal timing at PCH during peak periods, as well as incorporation of the #3 lane to accommodate a safe left turn onto S/B PCH.

Again, CD11 informs us that there is enough space along the road to create interim lanes that would provide for two lanes of traffic in both directions. We support this alternative, rather than the arrangement of lanes DOT has currently implemented, and believe it would be a vast roadway safety improvement. The current striping of TCR poses public safety concerns beyond immediate commute and traffic worries. As such, we ask that you immediately consider this alternative interim lane configuration providing for two continuous lanes in both directions on Temescal Canyon Road and implement a plan that ensures public safety.

Thank you and best,

Sincerely,

Maryam Zar

Maryam Zar, PPCC President

Executive Committee:

Sue Kohl (VP), Jenny Li (Treasurer), Beth Holden-Garland (Secretary)

David Card (Chair Emeritus)

Joanna Spak (Elected Rep.), John Padden (Organizational Rep.)