

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
YEAR-END REPORT TO GOVERNING BOARD
December 13, 2006 Draft (not yet reviewed by full Committee)

To: Governing Board
From: Public Safety and Traffic Committee

The members of the Committee for 2006 were: Stacy Antler, Barbara Broide, Rich Cahalan, Shannon Burns, Alan Levine, Annette Mercer, Nancy Samovar, Ty Vahedi.

The Committee met on the following dates in 2006: Feb. 21, April 11, May 9 , June 5, July 11, August 8, Sept 12, Oct. 30, and Nov.27. At each meeting, the Committee considered issues related to transportation issues, traffic congestion and public safety. It was involved in participating in programs, drafting correspondence and taking part in initiatives that address these areas of concern.

This report summarizes the actions of the Committee during 2006.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ HEALTH

2005 vs 2006 CRIME STATS WESTSIDE AREA FOLLOW AT END OF REPORT

CERT: Promoted the participation of local stakeholders in the CERT trainings. Shared info about CERT trainings to HOAs, Chambers and others. Continue to build a core of volunteers in this important emergency response network. Maintained contact with CERT volunteers and invited them to participate in any scheduled review classes.

Future priority: Identify one volunteer for WNC who will coordinate CERT volunteers trained and host periodic meetings with these volunteers. Provide CERT volunteers with regular contact with WNC. Investigate whether a CERT page should be established on WNC Website.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: *Future action:* Identify volunteer to serve on new Neighborhood Council Emergency Prep committee. Also need to recruit a chair/subcommittee core of volunteers interested in addressing emergency prep in WNC area (and defining roles, relationships between CERT volunteers, block captains, HOA's, etc.).

POLICE/FIRE SUPPORT: As part of recommendations made to CD 5 on expenditures of the \$300,000 Trammell Crow fund, vote taken to support paying for mobile license plate reading equipment for the basic cars in the westside area. Also recommended the funding of Pico/Prosser signal pre-emption device for LAFD station but that is already slated to be done by LADOT/City. Those

funds are to be recommended for purchase of battery powered jaws of life instead.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: *Future Priority:* Identify a subcommittee of volunteers who will work to help promote the recruitment and training of block captains and the formation of ongoing neighborhood watch groups. Work with LAPD to ensure ongoing training of block captains.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT: Worked with CD 5 office to address constituent requests regarding sidewalk, street and other maintenance issues in the community. Attended Street Services meeting to review recommendations for future street paving in the WNC area.

TREES: TREE PLANTING – Watering cans purchased for merchants who need them to support their street trees planted in 2005. Followed up on reports of illegal tree trimming on City Street Trees.

UNHITCHED TRAILERS: Followed up on new City ordinance that provides a tool to seek the removal of unhitched trailers from our City streets. Signs to enable enforcement have been posted on Olympic Blvd.

PARKED VEHICLES/VANS: Publicizing existence of new City ordinance that bans the parking of oversized vehicles on City streets (with few exceptions by permit).

TRAFFIC

OVERLAND BRIDGE: Circulated information to the community about this pending construction project. Fielded and wrote questions for submission to project team in advance of community meeting. Promoted community meeting and shared meeting results with those unable to attend.

Future action: Continue to monitor progress, share info with interested/affected stakeholders. Represent community concerns as/if raised.

FBI/FEDERAL BUILDING: WNC rep attending ongoing Coalition for Veterans' Land meetings. WNC allocated funding to help pay for the first traffic study done in conjunction with the FBI DEIS review. Attended meeting with VA administration 12/4/06 with other NC reps to learn more about land use issues there.

Future action: Determine level of support/participation of WNC in future actions to protect VA Campus land. Respond to requests to share info with our stakeholders. Final EIS for FBI HQ proposal is expected within the coming month.

COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD (CPAB) TRAFFIC COMMITTEE: Committee representative(s) attended monthly meetings of the WLA Police Dept.

CPAB Traffic Committee to report issues of concern and to share/gather information.

WNC TRAFFIC STUDY: At June WNC meeting, presented community update on Traffic Study with consultant Tom Brohard reporting to a standing room only audience. All survey and meeting input has been documented and summarized. Data has been and is being distributed to relevant community agencies (DOT, CALTRANS, MTA, etc.) for review and discussion so that we can identify which community concerns are being addressed and which are not. After meetings or conversations with those agencies are concluded, a report on the Phase IA activities will be submitted to WNC with recommendations as to future work to be done to implement short-term and to coordinate Traffic Study work with other studies/committees in formation to address similar issues.

SANTA MONICA BLVD. PROJECT: Continued to monitor progress of this project and worked with local organizations to reduce impacts of the project on local residents and businesses.

Future action: Attend anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony. Outreach to local HOA's regarding their involvement in local traffic management plan development as part of the post-project mitigation process.

MACERICH LANDMARK PROJECT: *Future action:* Be involved with task group to be formed to address traffic/circulation issues raised at time of project approval.

MIXED USE: Attended meetings on various mixed use projects to identify community concerns and to develop generic list of issues to pursue with City as it embarks upon its review of mixed use project regulations, particularly as these projects impact local traffic. (Coordination with Land Use Committee will be done as it pertains to the land use concerns.) Review of Festival, Halavi, and SM Blvd./Midvale projects as well as info related to Motor/National area projects.

Followup: Did WNC ever receive feedback from a question posed in 2004 as to whether neighborhood and specific plans take precedence over inclusionary zoning/mixed use ordinance?

Future Action: Discuss with DOT their instructions to mixed use project applicants to use alleys as method for exit and entrance for many of the newly proposed mixed use projects.

SCHOOLS: Participated in addressing concerns related to traffic and/or parking near schools (or buses from): Westwood Charter, Notre Dame, Archer.

BILLBOARDS: Reported concerns of the community to CD 5 as they pertain to the proliferation of "mini" billboards on street corners and attached to local business locations. These signs as well as the PAK's are creating distractions

for drivers. City cites pending litigation as barrier to addressing the presence of illegal signage on our streets.

MOBILE SPEED RADAR PROGRAM: Helped to publicize pending legislation sponsored by Sheila Keuhl to establish a pilot program in the City of Beverly Hills for mobile speed enforcement on residential streets and on streets adjacent to schools. (That legislation was pulled due to labor union opposition that could not be resolved.)

CITY OF LA EIR REVIEW/Traffic Study: Upon recommendation of Committee, WNC Board approved a letter to DOT raising concerns about the manner in which the Traffic Study was done for the JMB 10131 Constellation proposed project. The letter requested DOT consideration to use actual (as opposed to ITE estimated trip calculations). No response has been received to date.

Future action: Review and following review of that letter, resend it to the new DOT Director with a short cover letter.

WNC PUBLIC SAFETY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPRESENTED TO:
Coalition for Vet Lands, CPAB Traffic Advisory Board, Mobility 21, Westside Council of Governments Transportation Committee.

WEST LAPD BUREAU POLICE STATISTICS:

2006 saw the following trends from 2005:

Accidents with fatal injuries	no change
Accidents with serious injuries	down 20%
Injuries due to DUI (alcohol)	up 6%
Hit and run accidents	down 6%
DUI arrests	up 25%
Total traffic collisions	down 4%
Crime in 2005 (over 2004)	down 13%
Crime in 2006 (over 2005)	down 12%

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Remember these safety tips: Watch for pedestrians. December sees the highest rate of pedestrian accidents. If driving, watch for pedestrians. If walking, be aware, don't be distracted and cross at marked intersections. Do not park in marked gridlock zones. (This will cost you approximately \$270 in fines and tow fees.)

Starting in January, LA City DOT will be enforcing no parking across driveway aprons in the Westwood Village area. They will also be deploying anti-gridlock strike teams from time-to-time to ticket drivers blocking intersections.