

May 13, 2021

To: Mayor Alex Fisch
Vice Mayor, Daniel Lee
Council Member, Göran Eriksson
Council Member, Yasmine-Imani McMorris
Council Member, Albert Vera

From: Bike Path and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Michelle Weiner, Chair
Art Nomura, Vice Chair
Anne Diga, Member
George Montgomery, Member
Travis Morgan, Member
Robyn Tennesap, Member
Dane Twitchell, Member

Re: Requesting May 24th Action Item to Approve Jackson Gate Opening

The Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) respectfully requests City Council to place on its agenda for May 24, 2021 the opening of Jackson Gate as an action item for approval. In the last three years, BPAC has received information from both City staff and the community which supports the opening of Jackson Gate to the La Ballona Creek multi-use path for the following reasons:

- 1) It provides a protected route for CCUSD students, parents and other community members to ride their bikes and walk safely to Farragut Elementary, Culver City Middle School and Culver City High School, rather than the highly trafficked areas of Overland Avenue, Culver Boulevard, Farragut Avenue and Braddock Avenue where cyclist and cars are likely to dangerously interact;
- 2) It supports and promotes cycling and walking to work, school, or play as a more environmentally friendly and sustainable method of traveling throughout our community which lessens gas emissions, pollutants and other toxic particulates in the air;
- 3) It relieves heavily congested areas of traffic around Overland Avenue, Washington Boulevard, Culver Boulevard, Farragut Avenue and Braddock Avenue by providing an alternative cycling and walking route to work, home, school, recreation and daily activities throughout the community;
- 4) It creates another alternate access point for fire, medical and police vehicles to enter and park in order to provide emergency assistance to walkers, runners, cyclists and other users of the

Ballona Creek multi-use path, where in some cases the ability to rapidly access the area could mean the difference between life and death;

5) It promotes the principles of equitable access within our community, providing seniors and those physically challenged on Duquesne and Overland Avenues an entry to the Ballona Creek multi-use path that is less challenging and more level for ingress and egress purposes;

6) It fosters more visibility to and active monitoring of the path which results in a more secure environment for walkers, runners, cyclists and other users of the multi-use path; and

7) It preserves the philosophy of equity in offering diverse members of the community who may be bike dependent or limited in transportation options to freely move among our roadways.

While we have also heard comments from a smaller sub-set of the community expressing concerns over the opening of Jackson Gate, we believe that these concerns can be readily overcome and the benefit of opening Jackson Gate vastly outweigh any foreseen burden. Ultimately, the Jackson Gate opening will serve a greater, diverse population of the Culver City community with immediate and long-term positive impacts for the City and our adjacent LA neighbors.

In fact, there are currently five comparable bike path entrances in Culver City into residential neighborhoods around Fay, Cattaraugus, Caroline, Helms Avenues and Sherbourne Drive also next to the Expo Line Railway which have proven to be successful in their use since 2016 without the substantial problems anticipated by some of the Jackson Avenue neighbors.

Thank you for your support and your immediate time and attention to this matter. We believe that continuing to prolong the opening of the Jackson Gate would impede the progress of the City Council and BPAC to make Culver City an environmentally sustainable, equitable, accessible and neighborhood friendly community.