

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Councilmembers to Speed Up City's Street Repair at Unprecedented Pace

Los Angeles - Councilmembers Greig Smith and Tony Cardenas proposed a \$1.5 billion infrastructure that would repave over 4,000 miles of dilapidated streets, or 60 percent of the City's 6,500 miles of streets.

"For decades, City government has underspent on keeping our streets at an acceptable level," Councilman Smith said. "It is time to give residents the option to have the streets repaired and maintained and mandate that the City keep the streets in good condition."

The bond would enable the City to repave the over 4,000 miles of road that are considered badly in need of repair in eight years. Without this bond, at the current rate of repair, it would take 80 years to repair all of the damaged streets.

The City not only has the largest municipal street system in the nation, but the most congested. So the poor condition of our streets is a constant burden on our vehicles, mobility and commerce. It is a safety hazard for residents and a liability for the City.

"The community has been calling for too long to have the streets repaired," Councilman Smith said. "Because of the scale of this endeavor, the decision should be given to the power of the voters."

Repaving streets before they reach a critical point of deterioration condition would save 50 percent on repair costs, according to the Bureau of Street Services.

Cardenas and Smith also want to mandate the council to allocate a steady stream of funding in year nine to maintain acceptable street standards. The City Council has to pass the motion before August 10, 2006, the County's deadline of consolidation requests for the November 7th General Election ballot.

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