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GARCETTI, LABONGE TURN ON SMART CROSSWALK IN HOLLYWOOD

Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Tom LaBonge crossed Hollywood Boulevard under the protection of a brand-new “smart crosswalk” this morning, joined by community activists, the Department of Transportation workers who installed the smart crosswalk technology, and community member Chuck Arnold’s young son, who flipped the switch on the improvement (see picture).

“Hollywood is the place to be,” said Councilmember Garcetti, “and it’s the place to be safe. These new smart crosswalks let cars know that you’re crossing the street, and tell them to slow down. You still have to look both ways before you cross – but now the yellow light is looking out for you too.”

“This crosswalk protects pedestrians and keeps traffic moving in Hollywood,” said Councilmember LaBonge. “Community members asked for it, and they got it – all a sign that Hollywood is growing with everyone in mind.”

“Smart crosswalks” have flashing yellow lights that are activated by sensors on either side of the street that detect the presence of a pedestrian in the crosswalk and turn on, alerting approaching traffic of the need to decrease speed. While cars must legally yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks, poor visibility often makes it hard for motorists to see pedestrians until they are very close.

Members of the Eastwood Coalition and the Franklin Hollywood Hills Community Council, who had sought the improvement, were also on hand.

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