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GREUEL, T-COMMITTEE UNVEIL FIRST CITYWIDE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN SINCE 1980'S

Officials launch website to encourage public input

(Los Angeles) - In a critical first step towards reducing traffic and gridlock in the City of Los Angeles, Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Transportation Committee members unveiled Phase One of the City's Transportation Strategic Plan today. The Councilmembers were joined by city officials and community leaders in releasing the first phase of this plan, which will provide the basis for transportation projects in Los Angeles over the next 20 years.

"We are never going to solve our transportation crisis with a piecemeal solution," said Councilwoman Greuel, Chair of the City's Transportation Committee. "During the last 20 years, the City's transportation leadership has failed Angelenos by focusing on short-term political gains rather than long term investments. In order to create the kind of transportation system we need – we must have a comprehensive citywide vision and invest in long term planning."

The City of Los Angeles last updated its transportation strategic plan in the early 1980's according to Department of Transportation. Councilwoman Greuel led the City's Transportation Committee in launching the 18 month process that will yield a 20 year plan for transportation projects and priorities in Los Angeles.

In addition, City leaders kicked-off a two month public comment period during which community members will be able to read and comment on the mission statement and preliminary plan documents at the city sponsored website <http://www.lacity.org/council/cd2/strategicplan.htm>. Additionally, the City's transportation committee will hold a special meeting dedicated to hearing public input on the strategic plan in late January, 2008.

"This kind of citywide vision will allow us to use the resources we have to strategically fund projects that will truly get Los Angeles moving forward," said Rita Robinson, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

The Transportation Mission Statement commits to improving accessibility and mobility in Los Angeles, but also addresses key transportation issues such as the need to reduce air pollution, protect neighborhoods through sensible management of City streets, and the improvement of goods movement.

The Mission Statement, timeline and scope of work approved by the transportation committee will be submitted to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in order to contract a consultant to craft the comprehensive citywide plan. The City has secured \$275,000 from SCAG to complete the plan.

(more)

NEWS

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILWOMAN WENDY GREUEL



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The final plan, to be released in May 2009, will identify innovative transportation strategies for the City, sustainable funding streams, a prioritized list of transportation projects, and specific steps necessary to achieve the goals laid forth in the mission statement.

Councilmembers Greuel and Weiss introduced a motion in August, 2007 asking City departments to prepare a Los Angeles transportation strategic plan that articulates the City's current transportation vision and goals, including initiatives, priority projects and programs that the City should undertake, as well as benchmarks for implementation.

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