

Jeffrey M. Jacobberger

May 30, 2014

Los Angeles Police Department
201 North Los Angeles Street, Space 301
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Public Records Act Request: Bike Lanes and Emergency Response Times

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2011, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously adopted a Bicycle Plan that called for installation of a citywide network of bicycle paths, lanes and routes. Over the past three years, the Departments of Transportation and of City Planning have taken steps to implement the Bicycle Plan, based in part on input from the Los Angeles Police Department. This request seeks documents relating to the Los Angeles Police Department's positions regarding bike lanes.

Background

The City of Los Angeles is determining whether to install bike lanes on North Figueroa between San Fernando Road and Colorado Boulevard. Because portions of these bike lanes would require removal of a motor vehicle lane and/or curb parking, these lanes were required to undergo formal environmental review. A year ago, on May 30, 2013, the Department of Transportation issued a "Notice Of General Manager's Determination – North Figueroa Street Bicycle Lanes From San Fernando Road To Colorado Boulevard And Colorado Boulevard Bicycle Lanes From City Of Glendale To City Of Pasadena City Limits." In that document the LADOT General Manager "**Approve[d]** to install 5.1 miles of a combination of standard and buffered bicycle lanes along N. Figueroa Street, from San Fernando Road to Colorado Boulevard in accordance with the 2010 Bicycle Plan."

The LADOT General Manager's approval was based on the City's analysis, pursuant to CEQA, of the traffic and safety impacts of the North Figueroa bike lanes. The City's CEQA analysis included an "Initial Study" prepared by the Department of City Planning. That Initial Study states:

"The implementation of the proposed projects would not impede emergency access. Bicyclists would follow the same protocol as vehicles in surrendering the right of way to emergency vehicles. The design of all bikeway facilities will be governed by the Technical Design Handbook and applicable federal, state and local guidelines. The proposed projects would comply with all City of Los Angeles fire department requirements. **Less than significant impacts to emergency access are anticipated.**" (Initial Study, page 25 (emphasis added.)

I am informed and believe that this statement was based, in part, on information provided by the Los Angeles Police Department. Because the Initial Study concluded that the bike lanes would not have a significant impact on emergency access, this issue was not further analyzed or discussed in the Draft EIR,

or the Traffic and Safety Analysis for these proposed bike lanes. The Police Department and Fire Department did not present any data or analysis of alleged impacts on emergency access that could have been assessed and commented on in writing or at the public hearing on these bike lanes.

On May 8, 2014, the Office of Councilmember Cedillo held a meeting regarding the proposed North Figueroa bike lanes. At that meeting, LAPD Northeast Division Captain Jeff Bert appeared in uniform and stated his opposition to the bike lanes, asserting that they would impair LAPD response times. Captain Bert's statements directly contradict the Initial Study.

Pursuant to the Public Records Act, I request the following documents:

1. All documents relied on by Captain Bert in formulating his statement that North Figueroa bike lanes would impair LAPD response times.
2. When Captain Bert spoke at the May 8 meeting, he held certain documents and implied that they supported his opposition to bike lanes; this request seeks those documents;
3. All documents relating to Captain Bert's statement that police response times in the Northeast Division are the highest in the City;
4. All documents that related to any analysis of police response times in the Northeast Divisions, including but not limited to any analysis of the extent to which existing or proposed bike lanes adversely affect response times;
5. All documents referring or relating to any analysis of whether existing or proposed bike infrastructure anywhere in the City of Los Angeles might impact or does impact LAPD response times;
6. All documents referring or relating to any analysis or evaluation by LAPD of whether bike lanes impair emergency response times.
7. All documents constituting or referring to communications between any civilian or sworn employee of LAPD and any other City official, agency or department regarding installation of bike lanes anywhere in the City of Los Angeles.
8. All documents that refer or relate to any communications between Captain Bert and/or LAPD, on the one hand, and the Office of Councilmember Gil Cedillo, regarding the March 8, 2014 meeting and/or North Figueroa bike lanes.

Advocates of increased bicycling in the City of Los Angeles believe that decisions about installing bicycle infrastructure should be based on plans and policies adopted by the City Council, including the 2010 Bicycle Plan, and factual analysis of the benefits and costs of bike infrastructure. Because this request is made for the sole purpose of advancing the important public interest in ensuring the safety of bicyclists in the City of Los Angeles, I respectfully request that fees, if any, associated with this request be waived.

I ask for a determination on this request within 10 days of your receipt of it, and an even prompter reply if you can make that determination without having to review the record[s] in question.

I would not ordinarily trouble you with this written request, but I have received no response to my May 9, 2014 e-mail to Officer Jeff Kievit, the designated LAPD liaison to the bicycling community.

If you determine that any or all of the information qualifies for an exemption from disclosure, I ask you to note whether, as is normally the case under the Act, the exemption is discretionary, and if so whether it is necessary in this case to exercise your discretion to withhold the information.

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you redact it for the time being and make the rest available as requested. In any event, please provide a signed notification citing the legal authorities on which you rely if you determine that any or all of the information is exempt and will not be disclosed.

If I can provide any clarification that will help expedite your attention to my request, please contact me [REDACTED] I ask that you notify me of any duplication costs exceeding \$50.00 before you duplicate the records so that I may decide which records I want copied.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Jacobberger