

WNC Town Hall Draws Hundreds to Hear About Pico/Olympic Plan

Over 400 people, many from Tract No. 7260, turned out for a town hall meeting at Temple Isaiah to listen to John Fisher of DOT speak about the Pico/Olympic plan. As many in the audience noted (by yelling 'Where's Jack'), Jack Weiss was not in attendance at this critical community meeting. Many noted that Bill Rosendahl had attended a similar meeting in his district.

Though the community has been promised "input" and that all questions would be answered and concerns addressed, Tract No. 7260 has still not had its key questions answered or even acknowledged. Questions were sent to both the DOT and the council office. Further, causing people to think this is a "done deal," the Mayor sent out a transportation press release that stated that other transportation corridors were being modeled on the Pico/Olympic plan. This is despite the fact that DOT has plainly stated that the plan's concepts have never been tried anywhere in the country before and is wholly unproven.

The issues for Tract No. 7260 are potentially critical. As noted in a past monthly *Update*, the permissive left turn from eastbound Olympic to northbound Beverly Glen would be removed as part of the plan. There is also deep concern for residents of Beverly Glen, who already experience severe safety concerns and difficulty getting out of their driveways.

Beverly Glen may find itself significantly challenged as it is a "crossover" street between Pico and Olympic. A crossover street is part of the envisioned counter-clockwise circular traffic pattern sought by DOT. As drivers want to transition to either Pico to go east or Olympic to go west, they would take Beverly Glen. The same is true for Westwood and Sepulveda.

DOT has also confirmed that it has not studied secondary effects of the plan nor has it studied impacts on north/south traffic. For example, the plan states that the left turn from Olympic westbound to Overland southbound will be metered to just two cars per left turn.

While DOT expects drivers to take Olympic west to the Centinela onramp to get on the 10 west or the La Brea/Crenshaw onramps to get to the 10 east, many believe drivers will still find a way to get to the nearby Overland onramps to the 10.

Will drivers cut through on Selby, Pelham, Prosser and Parnell? Will they gain entrance to southbound Overland via Santa Monica Blvd. past Westwood Charter School? None of these possibilities has been studied.

The full list of questions prepared by Tract No. 7260 is listed on the Pico/Olympic page of the www.tract7260.org website. Please send email with your opinions to PicoOly@Tract7260.org. Hundreds of petitions submitted to Tract No. 7260 have already flowed to the fax machines of elected officials.

For a larger view of the issue, you can also visit a website sponsored by a coalition of residents and businesses called www.FixTheCity.Org.

Lights out on 7260 – Mississippi

Street lights in all of Tract No. 7260 went out for a brief period when a major malfunction of one light occurred on Mississippi. Sparks and flames erupted from the light as Fire Station 92 firefighters waited for the City to cut power to the lights. Power to all local streetlights was interrupted for 30 minutes.

Officer Ali Recovering...Slowly.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Munif Ali is recovering from a car accident that left him with several back injuries. He hopes to be back to work soon. The Tract No. 7260 board wishes Officer Ali a speedy recovery and return.

Bellwood Update

Tract No. 7260 has submitted hundreds of petitions in opposition to the Bellwood Project.

The project would demolish 112 affordable rental units and replace them with 158 one, two and three-story high-end condominiums. The developer is seeking an affordable housing density bonus because they are designating eight of the units as "affordable" housing. In this case, that means that the developers are going to SELL the "affordable" units for \$250K – far more than the current residents can afford.

Most egregious is the dramatic impact the project would have on residents of Kerwood, Kelton and Orton.

Sober Living Homes Issue Addressed by City of Newport Beach

The Los Angeles *Times* reported that the City of Newport Beach was expected to pass an ordinance regulating sober living homes within its boundaries.

Sober living facilities have been a persistent issue in Tract No. 7260, especially on Benecia with two such facilities existing within 100 feet of each other.

The article reports the Mayor of Malibu stating: *"It's this daisy-chain effect that we're concerned about. At some point, instead of living in a residential neighborhood you begin to live in something like a hospital zone."*

Tract No. 7260 has been working with the operator of the facilities on Benecia to try to minimize the impact of parking and loitering associated with the facilities.

Despite those efforts, parking issues persisted and residents of Benecia have now instituted 24/7 parking restrictions.

Westfield Uses Paid Signature Gatherers to Seek Support for Its New Major Expansion Project

Westfield is continuing its aggressive search for supporters of its mall expansion project. Signature gatherers were out in force telling people about the project and asking them to sign in support.

The signature gatherers are telling people that the project will reduce traffic in the area. However, Westfield has not released its environmental impact report which would allow the public and homeowners associations to validate that claim.

The project will:

- Add over 300,000 square feet of retail to the mall.
- Replace 7-story 1930 Century Park West with a parking structure.
- Replace 14-story 1901 Avenue of the Stars with a 40-story mixed-use structure with 4 stories of retail and 37 stories of residential housing including 267 high-end condominiums.

The signature gatherers are employed by Burnside & Associates, the same political firm that was cold-calling community members a few months back.

Tract No. 7260 has not taken a position on the project and continues to have a good working relationship with Westfield. Tract No. 7260 supported Westfield's last successful expansion and renovation.

Keep up to date on Tract 7260 issues at www.tract7260.org. Police action, power outages, traffic problems, community meetings, and other community issues are updated regularly.

Tract No. 7260 No. 7260 Association, Inc.
2057 Kerwood Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Resident

Tract No. 7260
Homeowner's
Association, Inc.

www.Tract7260.Org



Neighborhood Update

February 2008

www.Tract7260.Org has
updated neighborhood
news and information.

Outreach@Tract7260.Org