1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

In Attendance: Paul Emmons
Cameron Bard
Nora Goudsmit
Lena Najarian Kaderali

Co-chair welcome remarks:

Paul: “Welcome. Thank you all for coming. This special meeting is intended to provide in and around Angus St. the opportunity to express their opinions on the options to mitigate traffic density thru your neighborhood and to provide the LA City Council and Dept. of Transportation with the consensus of the area stakeholders on their plans to mitigate those traffic issues. At the request of Councilmember David Ryu, at the end of this process the SLNC will provide the results to city officials.

“Background: in 2013, the city implemented changes to Rowena Ave. lane configuration, reducing traffic lanes from two to one in each direction, adding a left turn traffic island and dedicated bike lanes. Following these changes, the city commissioned the engineering firm of Kimley-Horn to analyze traffic patterns in the area and make recommendations for reducing cut-thru traffic. In May of 2018, they released the ROWENA AVENUE, WAVERLY DRIVE, ANGUS STREET CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC STUDY. This study included various recommendations including: “Restrict through traffic on Angus Street between Moreno Drive and Kenilworth Avenue to one-way westbound traffic and restricting right-turn movements from Morena Drive onto Angus Street at the intersection of Moreno Drive and Angus Street. The city determined that these two options were mutually exclusive, since conversion of Angus to one-way would automatically mean it would not be possible to turn right onto Angus from Moreno.

“On June 12, I attended the LA City Trans Comm mtg where the committee voted unanimously to recommended implementation of the K-H study recommendations as identified in the pending council file. I subsequently met with David Ryu to clarify that those recommendations included the one-way conversion. He indicated that it did, that additional outreach to the community was necessary and that funding for the recommendations was still to be identified.

“On June 13, the SLNC T&SC meeting was largely focused on Angus St. Following extensive discussion on the subject, a motion was moved and passed by a unanimous vote of those in attendance to recommend support for the K-H recommendations, including conversion of Angus to one-way.

“Following this meeting, Councilmember David Ryu sent a letter to the SLNC to request we reach out to the community for additional feedback on the one-way option and alternatively, peak hour turn restrictions. The request was to determine consensus from the area residents and stakeholders who would be most impacted by these changes as to which option, or no changes at all, would be preferred.

“Following this meeting, the T&SC received extensive feedback from members of the community that felt they had not been aware of the issue and wanted an opportunity to weigh in on the matter. That brings us to the meeting today.”

Cameron: “Thank you all for coming. As Paul said, this meeting will focus on the proposed changes to Angus Street to mitigate cut-thru traffic. Question for the group: By a show of hands, how many of you have a strong opinions on what should done?” Approximately 15 attendees raised their hand. “Ok.
"We understand that there are differences in how people feel about this subject. Let’s do our best to keep this meeting civil. We will start with public comment on non-agenda items, then move on to general discussion on the main topic.” Cameron discussed the survey currently being conducted by the committee. He said that since the survey will not be complete until the end of the month, we will not be taking a straw poll tonight on the subject. In response to a question, he also discussed how people can respond to the survey.”

2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Jerome: Given the number of attendees and limited time, he recommended public comment be limited to 90 seconds rather than two minutes. Cameron asked the room if there was an objection… there was none.

3. Presentations:

Rachel Fox from Councilmember David Ryu’s office gave a brief presentation on the background of the options regarding cut-thru traffic in the neighborhood surrounding Angus St. and their work with the committee on preparing the survey to gauge majority support of the stakeholders on what should be done.

4. Discussion and possible action on conversion of Angus to one-way vs. peak hour turn restrictions or no changes:

(Note on these minutes: Many people who commented either did not identify themselves when they spoke or some of their names were not intelligible. Those comments are marked as “unk” in place of their names.)

Dave Gutierrez expressed concern that we are playing Waze wack-a-mole. There are 700 cars an hour, I’ve counted during rush hour. I’m afraid it will increase traffic.

Joe Escudero: Said he has lived there since 1976. Speed bump is a joke. It created a nightmare, there was an accident the other night, people were fighting in the street. He asked: why are there so many changes?

Brian Smith: I live between Silver Lake and Lakewood. This is bizarre solution, I don't understand.

Mark (unk): With either solution I will suffer doubly, I'll have to go around the block to get home and that all the people who live in the neighborhood will.

Couya (?) Buck said: three days ago I got a hit and run. I can’t get out of my driveway. I get called every name in the book. What else besides this issue is being done by city?

Jeremy (unk): I live at 2347 Moreno. As this solution is being presented, I object to the one-way street. It will just cause problem and will just move problem to another locations. Also, funding will be found if Councilmember Ryu wants it to be found. This is ridiculous.

Cameron commented: We've had a lot of feedback so far…

(unk): Has lived on Angus for 30 yrs, kindergarten starts next month, it's very dangerous for children, it's (conversion of Angus to one-way) worth a try for a year, a one year trial… let’s see what happens, to see if it would work, it’s inconvenient for us on Angus too.

Larry (unk): I oppose it (conversion of Angus to one-way)... the impact on west Silver Lake and Rowena is that residents will not be able to get thru… they will be the most impacted.

(unk): I live at 2755 Angus… I’m appalled at this idea. We can come up with a better solution.
Cathryn (unk): I live at 2934 Angus. I have three kids that go to three different schools. I have to make three drop offs. We live on a hairpin turn. (Conversion of Angus to) one way will kill us and cut off access.

Emily (unk): I live on Micheltorra. What about speed bump on Angus? To slow people down, people are speeding thru the area at high speed.

(unk): What about speed bumps? I live on Angus, I was on the original work group years ago (on the Rowena Road-diet). We cannot have speed bumps because, per DOT, the street is too narrow. Some of the people not in this room are causing the problem. WAZE is telling people to cut thru on Angus. Apps will redirect people to other ways to get thru.

Nina Sorkin: On July 18 I was in a meeting with LAPD SLO (senior lead officer). There are more cars…it's not just cut thru traffic causing the problem. It's just more cars, fast cars, big SUVS speeding thru the area, they are in too much of a hurry. Residents are being affected.

David Warren: I live on Micheltorina. What's missing from solutions is results from all these changes. How do I get too work? What are potential consequences of these changes?

Paul E. commented: As we have been told by the LADOT: Any major changes to street configurations such as this are always considered a pilot program by the city and are reviewed after one year. If the changes is determined by either the city of stakeholders that it was a bad idea, the change can be reversed. Rachel Fox confirmed this for the group and added that if there is major feedback from the community, the change can be reversed earlier than one year.

(unk): I live on Silver Lake. Fast cars are trying to race up the hill… it's a real problem. Speed bump is interesting. One-way for a year is interesting. Driving slower would help too.

(unk): Cut thru cars are trying to see how many seconds they can cut on their travel time. It is cut-thru traffic that is causing the problem. WAZE as well. Listening to this group, sounds like it's okay the way it is. It's not! This is very inconvenient for me but we have to do something. I don’t know of any other solution.

Penelope (unk): If you cut off Angus, I will have to go around. I don't think we should do anything else without funding. We should try speed bumps. Because of the wide turn, you can’t see the stop signs. There is too limited parking area on Moreno. There are simple things that could be done first. This should be tabled until other solutions are tried.

(unk): This is not a 24/7 issue… the problem is less than 15% of the time. This proposal should be the last option, not where we start. We should do turn restrictions, repainting lane striping, more space for cars, speed bumps, clearing of growth. People are comparing this issue to Baxter St. There are blind turns. They have side streets. I'm against it.

(unk): I live on Angus. This a problem effects everyone. I agree about the funnel effect: people will get the message that you can’t cut thru anymore and will back off. Children’s lives are at risk. This is a solution that can work.

Debbie (unk): I live at 2205 Moreno. My concern is with the one year trial… there will be a huge bump because of construction. We're just going to push problem to other neighbors. This is a public policy issue. This needs better policy solutions.

David (unk): This problem is not being caused by our friends and neighbors. It is because of the WAZE app from out of neighborhood. The only way to stop is to cut off traffic because people don't have exit. I'm willing to give up 5 mins to go around in order to make the problem better. During rush hour it will take longer. People get trapped on the hill but there are many ways off.

(unk): Were just pushing things around, we know this. Everyone needs to compromise. I was laughed at when I suggested a 15 mph speed limit on the hill. FedEx delivery trucks are also part of the problem. I love this neighborhood. We need to come together. Everyone needs to compromise.
(unk): I have lived on Angus for 21 yrs. We were told to just move... we did that. Do we know the success of Rowena Road-diet? What is the reason it was made permanent without input from the community?

(unk): The stop sign on Angus is illegal. The LADOT did not put it in but they painted curb red anyway after a resident painted it red themselves. “It’s a shame to waste a good crisis” quote. If we did this, we would be back here in a year. We need meaningful solutions.

(unk): I live on Moreno. If one-way is passes, it will be inconvenient to me. Maybe we should try speed bumps.

(unk): I live at 2811 Angus St. It is very rough and a Waze map user. If we try this (one-way) I believe cut thru traffic will go down. It might take a week or so. It's not just about traffic on Angus... kids get hit, dogs get hit, stop signs seem optional. I think this is worth trying.

Samantha (unk): I walk along the streets. Kids can't cross the street. We need to be more considerate: stop at stop signs. We just take pics but not help. Blaming traffic isn't working. We need to join together.

Jane (unk): I live on Moreno drive. We walk to school. Safety issue is not going to change with one-way.

(unk): I live on Angus at the stop sign. I appreciate the views expressed there. We are not traffic pros. We need to give it a chance. It will absolutely inconvenience me. It's not going to completely solve the problem but will be a small piece. People who do this for a living, traffic engineers have come up with this solution and we should give it a chance.

Howard (unk): If you put in the one-way, there will be room for a sidewalk. If you try it, it would be the best way to increase in traffic safely. It would be extremely worthwhile.

Jerome: How did they choose this one-way? It was understood if this clogs things up, WAZE will send people other ways. We should try it. Maybe there are other solutions, stay engaged, show up. DOT is very rigid in their ways... that's why we went to an outside firm. We have to demand that this is what we want to Councilmember David Ryu’s office. Did the Rowena Road-diet cause the problem? Waze made it worse. We also need to get street to 15mph speed limit. (applause from room)

Chris Hogan: I live on Angus. I worked with the councilman’s office to get stop sign called “Flying Bob”. I am a parent. I saw girl killed. I’m in charge of walking kids at Ivanhoe School. There are people here that grew up here walking. They’ve forgotten what it’s like to walk the neighborhood. In the future it will cause a five minute inconvenience. That is not a lot to ask for safety. I’m not traffic engineer. I’ve seen enough! We have to try something. We finally got them to do something. This choking might work. We owe it to the children.

Susan (unk): I live on Moreno. My daughter walks to Ivanhoe School. Collectively, it’s been Angus people vs. everyone else. If we start with a side walk alone, it may solve problems because people can’t get thru. If we start with that and address walkers, it may slow down traffic. We know who these cut thru people are.

(unk): I live on Micheltorina and Moreno. Kids don’t just walk on the streets. I have to go another way to get thru. So many of the kids are going to Ivanhoe… those kids are in danger.

Jason (unk): I live on Moreno. That’s where the problem starts. I love tricking WAZE, I want RC speed bumps with speed pass, curious way to do one-way street.

(unk): People are blaming Waze but what about uber, etc.

(unk): How is one-way at lake effecting it?

(unk): I live at 2411 Moreno. I am curious: Can you make Rowena two lanes again, possible adding sidewalk, 15 mph, etc.
Cameron commented on the survey. We made corrections to “turn restrictions”, changing it to “such as”. Hard changes like sidewalks take more than 5 yrs to implement.

Tony (unk): Are the options for peak hour turn restrictions? -Yes

(unk): I live at Angus and Lake View. Have street that drops down to Kenilworth. What if it is no from group? Q: Are these views going to affect the decision?

To Cameron: How can people who aren’t here turn in survey? A: They can hand them in here at library.

(unk): On the subject of the survey… we are just moving problem around. It’s not a real solution? How are we going to get notified? A: results will be published by the City and announced at our next meeting.

5. Motions and Resolutions: Recommend to Los Angeles City Council survey results for conversion of Angus St. to one-way, peak-hour turn restrictions or no changes. The survey results will be forwarded to the city when they are complete.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm

Submitted by Paul Emmons
Co-chair