Dear Neighbors,

Public safety along 6th Street is an area of concern and priority for my office. The stretch of roadway between La Brea and Fairfax Avenues is particularly unique because of the combination of residential, commuter, and museum traffic that runs through the corridor. Along with the LADOT and members of the community, I have walked and studied this stretch of 6th Street to identify issues and potential fixes. However, there has been some incomplete and inaccurate information circulating, and we would like to make sure all residents are provided with the same comprehensive information compiled by the City.

First, the LADOT’s records show three fatal crashes within the last five years on this section of 6th Street. Any fatal accident, or potential for an accident, is something we want to eliminate and we’re reviewing the full array of improvements available to us. Unfortunately, there isn’t a quick fix or easy solution, and based on the information and data we’ve collected, simply slowing down traffic wouldn’t have prevented these collisions. Our office has been working with the LADOT and Mid City stakeholders to identify effective solutions that we hope will not only minimize the severity of accidents, but reduce the number of collisions altogether.

Second, it is important to note that comparing activity on 6th Street to other arterials may not produce an accurate picture of road and traffic conditions. There are 2,600 miles of "arterial roads" in Los Angeles, which include a large number of smaller streets (approximately 2,000 of the 2,600 miles) such as "collectors" which are generally going to have lower crash rates.

Third, there’s a significant amount of construction in the area, and there are traffic management plans in place for each — the recently completed Purple Line construction at La Brea as well as the next phase of Metro work; the upcoming LACMA construction and the Academy Museum which is set to open next year.
We’ve been working with the LADOT, Metro and City Planning to determine what impact any reconfiguration would have on ongoing and proposed construction, but what we do know is that pushing vehicles onto other east-west corridors would create additional congestion on nearby north-south and east-west running streets.

Public safety concerns on 6th Street must be addressed. As part of reviewing the best and most effective improvements, we want to take all community input into consideration and get the fix right. Our office has been working with the LADOT to develop a plan of action, but community input throughout this process will be of the utmost importance.

Once again, thank you for joining us today and providing your input. Public safety along 6th Street is an issue that affects residents, commuters, and pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike. And as such, it’s an issue that deserves a community wide solution. My office will be releasing an on-line survey to gather additional feedback from residents and I look forward to working with you to implement improvements to make 6th Street safer.

Sincerely,

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, 4th District