April 30, 2019

Dear Neighbor,

As your Councilmember, public safety is my top priority. Following the tragic death in 2012 of a young woman struck by a vehicle while attempting to cross Rowena Avenue, the four-lane road was reconfigured into two lanes with a middle turning lane and dedicated bike lanes on both sides of the street. After these changes were made, concerns were raised about the impacts of cut-through traffic on surrounding streets.

In an effort to better understand these issues, with the goal of prioritizing public safety, my office commissioned a third party, independent study to examine the conditions on Rowena Avenue and its adjacent streets. Between 2017 and 2018, Kimley-Horn & Associates conducted a study aimed at identifying safety and congestion issues, and provide recommendations for potential strategies to make our streets safe for all commuters. Throughout the study, working groups representing local residents and stakeholders convened to help facilitate an open dialogue and make sure the study addressed the issues that Silver Lake residents are experiencing every day.

Kimley-Horn’s Rowena Avenue, Waverly Drive, Angus Street Cut-Through Traffic Study was released in August 2018. Soon after, I introduced a motion instructing the Department of Transportation to review the study and report back to the City Council on the feasibility of implementing the transportation and infrastructure strategies highlighted in Kimley-Horn’s traffic study (Council File #11-2130-S4). The Department of Transportation has finalized their evaluation and report, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to both Kimley-Horn and the Department of Transportation for their thorough and expedient studies.

The next step is to gather community input. As stated previously, neighbors and community stakeholders are a crucial voice in this process and should be involved in any proposed changes to their neighborhood.
I am seeking community feedback on the proposed mitigations laid out in Kimley-Horn’s and DOT’s reports to ensure Rowena Avenue and the surrounding streets are safe for everyone. Members of the community are invited to attend an Open House with my office, representatives from the Department of Transportation, and Kimley-Horn on Wednesday, May 8 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Friendship Auditorium (3201 Riverside Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90027). Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the proposed traffic mitigations, ask questions, and provide input.

I’m happy with the conclusions in the Department of Transportation’s report and appreciative of their analysis. Safety on Rowena Avenue and the surrounding streets has been a top priority for me and I look forward to discussing the Department’s report and recommendations with community members in the coming weeks as we work to make Rowena Avenue, Angus Drive and Waverly Drive safe for all road-users. We request that you complete and submit this survey, either in-person at the Open House, or online by Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Thank you for your time and please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four