



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 7, 2018

Councilmembers Englander & Buscaino Introduce Expedited Infrastructure Plan in Run-Up to 2028 Olympics

Councilmembers Mitchell Englander and Joe Buscaino introduced legislation today to expedite the usage of existing voter and legislature approved revenues to fund major infrastructure improvements to L.A.'s streets and sidewalks.

"With the Olympics only 10 years away, we need a plan now detailing how we're going to get our City's infrastructure in shape for the games," Councilmember Englander said. "The voters of Los Angeles have given us an incredible opportunity to fix our broken streets and sidewalks and to do so in a timely manner. The revenues are there, it's up to us to make a game plan and execute."

"By accelerating the repair our broken streets and sidewalks, we also create the opportunity to simultaneously fix other areas of failing infrastructure including water mains, sewers, and the high injury network," said Councilman Joe Buscaino. "Whether you use public transportation, bike, walk, or drive, everyone uses LA streets and sidewalks. Any delay in repairing our streets will only lead to more injuries and deaths, and much higher construction costs which decrease the number of improvements. Now that we have the money, let's get to work!"

Currently, 38 percent of L.A. streets have a D or F rating and more than 8,700 lane miles of streets in the City need rehabilitation. Moreover, the City Council only recently passed a framework to start fixing the City's crumbling and buckled sidewalks. These infrastructure improvements will cost millions of dollars that the City does not currently have. Meanwhile, the cost of labor continues to increase and the City continues to pay out millions in lawsuit settlements for injuries caused by poor streets and sidewalks. Furthermore, L.A. residents spend an estimated additional \$900 annually in car maintenance due to the poor condition of roads.

In 2014, Save Our Streets LA (SOSLA) was published and presented to Council as a blueprint to front fund infrastructure investments throughout the city. While the SOSLA proposal considered creating new revenue streams, recently enacted policies such as Measure M Local Return and Senate Bill 1 present the City with options not available in 2014 to front finance and expedite massive infrastructure projects. By borrowing against future revenues, we not only speed up the improvements at no additional cost to the taxpayer, we ultimately save taxpayer dollars by preventing the further deterioration of streets and sidewalks which would otherwise increase the cost of repairs.

The motion filed today instructs the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst and Chief Administrators Office to report to Council with options to fund crucial street and sidewalk infrastructure improvements in advance of the 2028 Olympic Games.

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MOTION

For an unprecedented third time, the City of Los Angeles will host the Summer Olympic Games in 2028. During this 16 day event, Los Angeles will be the center of the world stage. Over 500,000 visitors and 11,000 athletes from across the globe are expected to flock to Los Angeles. For many, this will be their first time experiencing the City of Angels.

Visitors will be able to enjoy several new amenities such as the Banc of California Stadium and an extensive expansion of the public transit system including the People Mover at LAX. However, other integral aspects of our infrastructure are not ready to handle the influx that the Olympics will bring. Currently, nearly 40% percent of our City streets have a D or F rating and more than 8,700 lane miles of streets in the City need rehabilitation. Moreover, the City Council only recently passed framework to start fixing the City's crumbling and buckled sidewalks.

These infrastructure improvements will cost tens of millions of dollars that the City does not currently have. Meanwhile, the cost of labor and material continues to increase and the City continues to pay out millions in lawsuit settlements for injuries caused by poor streets and sidewalks.

In fact, in 2014 SOSLA was published and presented to the Council as a blueprint to front fund infrastructure throughout the City. While this proposal considered creating new revenue streams, today we have an opportunity to consider options that were not available at that time.

Since then, there are new policies such as the City's adopted sidewalk repair plan, and new tax revenues including Measure M Local Return and Senate Bill 1 that may allow us to expedite massive infrastructure projects in a more efficient and cost saving manner.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the office of the CLA and CAO to report back with various options to front fund crucial street and sidewalk infrastructure improvements to improve Citywide mobility in advance of the upcoming 2028 Olympic Games.

PRESENTED BY:


Mitchell Englander

Councilmember, Council District 12

PRESENTED BY:



Joe Buscaino

Councilmember, Council District 15

SECONDED BY:

