

To: LA Bike Advisory Committee:

We ask for your support to the alternatives for the proposed LA Riverway bike path segments 1 & 2, (phase2). and ask Public Works, BOE and LA City council to reconsider the proposed path and to redirect this bike path to make it safer for all who will be utilizing this path. We ask for your support to recommend a plan to secure Maintenance and security before construction starts no matter what side it is on.

The proposed LA Riverway bike path, Phase 2, is a bike and pedestrian path that is slated to go from Vanalden Ave in Reseda to Balboa Blvd in Encino. This section of the bike path is 3.5 miles and the cost is \$66 million. It will cost \$22 million a mile for this particular section of the bike path. BOE stated they will be starting construction at Balboa Blvd and work their way towards White Oak, going backwards towards the existing portion of the bike path at Vanalden. We ask that you support the start of construction at Vanalden, not Balboa, and work east instead of starting at Balboa which would be going backwards.

Construction cannot be done at all, in or around the river, during the months of October thru April. If any part of the construction is not done and the dog park is closed during those months, the dog park, which serves 3 council districts, will also remain closed.

The proposed bike path continues from Vanalden Ave on the south side of the river, then, at White Oak, it is proposed to go under the White Oak overpass, loop around, under then back up to street level. It continues on White Oak to the north side of the river and back onto the riverway proposed riverway path. It then takes you adjacent to the Sepulveda Basin Off Leash dog park, One Generation and the Skatepark. BOE has stated they did not do any study for keeping the bike path on the south side of the river. It would be a straight ride instead of circling under the bridge, and not interfering with the dog park if it continues on the south side.

There are alternatives that can work for everyone who will be using this bike path and will not conflict with the dog park, One Generation and the skatepark. Going past these 3 areas goes straight into an isolated area where anyone in danger would not even be heard. Every bike advisory blog will tell both men and especially women to avoid paths this isolated for their own safety.

*The most beneficial alternative is to continue on the south side of the river and not cross over at all to the north side. The service road is wider and there are no conflicts at all.

*If kept on the south side of the river, east of white oak, it can continue up to the orange line bridge, which crosses over the river and connects to Balboa Ave. There is a plan already in place to build a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the orange line bridge and that should be used for the bike path to cross over the river to the north side where it will not conflict with the Dog park, One Generation and the Skatepark. It will also allow the bikers to have a straight ride instead of looping under the white oak overpass to get to the north side. This will not interfere with the baseball fields adjacent to the river on the east side of the orange line bridge.

*Another alternative is to loop under the white oak overpass, as they have proposed, then continue on white oak approximately 340' to Victory Blvd., where a bike path already exists. This bike path takes you straight to Balboa Blvd where it meets up with the riverway.

As it stands now, there are over 100 unhoused people living in and around the service road just east of the orange line bridge. Our own city representative would not go down to that area alone, feeling unsafe herself. Included in this plan is landscaping right up against the fence of the dog park they call a barrier that same landscaping was removed in CD 3 due to the unhoused nestling in and sleeping in it. Right now, we do not have many homeless issues at all and they are not sleeping right outside our fence, but taking 10 feet from the dog park and replacing it with landscaping, that has already been proven that it attracts them for a place to sleep, will cause major problems.

There are no plans for any type of security and or Maintenance for any part of this 3.5 mile stretch of bike path. BOE has stated it is not in the budget and it could possibly be worked out after the 3-year project is finished. A project as costly and promoted as this and there are no plans for Maintenance and security.

This bike path, if adjacent to the off-leash dog park, will create reactive barrier frustration for the dogs and create injuries to dogs as they continually run and chase after any bikes on the path next to the dog park. It is also a danger to seniors who cannot walk their dogs elsewhere and depend on the dog park for their dogs to get exercise.

As stated by the City of Los Angeles for Standards for Dog Parks:

“Be situated in areas of parks that are not heavily used for other recreational activities so as to reduce the potential for conflict.” Creation of a bike path directly adjacent to the park would drive many dogs to chase bikes, skateboards and even people on the other side of the fence, even by sound. It will cause disturbance and conflict for the dogs, and cause disturbance and conflict for the bike riders, skateboarders and pedestrians. No other dog parks in the city of Los Angeles have designated bike paths next to any dog parks and that is why we are asking for your support for the redirection of this bike and pedestrian path, for the safety of bike riders. We all want to be good neighbors and be able to work together.

Thank You,
Jill Haber
Friends of the Dog Park