

Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee

Letter of Support and Recommendation

To: Mayor Karen Bass and Members of the Los Angeles City Council

Subject: **Recommendation to Advance the San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop Utilizing the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash Greenways**

Dear Mayor Bass and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council covering the San Fernando Valley,

The Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee (LABAC) respectfully submits this letter in support of the planning, design, funding, and implementation of a San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop utilizing the existing and future bicycle facilities along the *Los Angeles River* and *Tujunga Wash Greenway*, connected through a network of protected bicycle facilities and Complete Streets improvements.

The concept for the “***San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop***” originated through the graduate research and master's thesis of USC graduate Catherine Sabotta. Her research explored the opportunity to connect the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash Greenways into a continuous regional bicycle network, demonstrating how existing infrastructure can be integrated to improve mobility, recreation, environmental sustainability, and neighborhood connectivity throughout the San Fernando Valley. LABAC recognizes the value of Ms. Sabotta's academic work and its potential to inform future planning, policy, and implementation efforts by the City of Los Angeles and its regional partners.

Building upon this vision, LABAC recommends that the regional bicycle loop incorporate the G Line (Orange) Bike Path and related bicycle improvements as a critical east-west connection within the San Fernando Valley. The G Line corridor provides an essential opportunity to connect communities between the eastern and western Valley while linking major destinations, employment centers, residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and future transit investments.

By integrating the Los Angeles River Greenway, Tujunga Wash Greenway, and the G Line Bike Path into a connected bicycle network, the City can create a comprehensive regional loop that provides safer bicycle mobility options and strengthens connections between existing and planned transportation infrastructure, including the G Line Busway, the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project, Metro stations, Metrolink, and local bicycle facilities.

This project would support numerous adopted City policies and regional initiatives, including the LA River Master Plan, Los Angeles Mobility Plan 2035, Vision Zero, the City's Green New Deal and Climate Action goals, Healthy Streets policies, and Metro's First/Last Mile objectives. The bicycle loop would also strengthen multimodal connections to Metro rail stations, the G Line, the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project, Metrolink stations, schools, parks, employment centers, commercial districts, libraries, and neighborhood destinations.

Beyond improving transportation, the San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop would provide lasting public benefits by:

- Expanding safe and connected bicycle infrastructure throughout the Valley.
- Encouraging active transportation and reducing automobile dependency.
- Improving public health through increased opportunities for walking and bicycling.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.
- Supporting local businesses by increasing bicycle and pedestrian access to commercial corridors.
- Improving equitable access to parks, recreation, public services, and community resources.
- Enhancing resilience through investments in sustainable transportation infrastructure.

LABAC also encourages the incorporation of complementary public realm improvements, including parklets, shade trees, native landscaping, lighting, cultural monuments, seating areas, drinking fountains, bicycle repair stations, public art, educational signage, and comprehensive wayfinding. These amenities would improve user safety and comfort while creating a destination-quality greenway that celebrates the unique character of the San Fernando Valley.

The Committee further recommends that implementation occur through a collaborative effort among the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Metro, community organizations, Neighborhood Councils, the University of Southern California, and other public and private stakeholders. Coordinated planning will help identify strategic connector routes that close existing gaps between the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash corridors while prioritizing safety, accessibility, and equitable access for all users.

As Los Angeles prepares for continued growth and future international events, including the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, investments in regional bicycle infrastructure are increasingly important. A completed San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop would become a lasting civic asset that improves mobility, supports climate resilience, enhances public health, expands recreational opportunities, and strengthens neighborhood connectivity for generations to come.

Accordingly, the Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee respectfully recommends that the Mayor and the Los Angeles City Council:

1. Direct the appropriate City departments to initiate a feasibility study and corridor plan for the San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop.
2. Identify funding opportunities through local, state, and federal active transportation, parks, and infrastructure programs.
3. Prioritize construction of missing bicycle network connections between the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash Greenways.
4. Coordinate implementation with Metro and ongoing transportation, park, river revitalization, and greenway improvement projects.

5. Engage Neighborhood Councils, community organizations, educational institutions, residents, and other stakeholders throughout the planning and design process to ensure a safe, equitable, and community-supported project.

The Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee appreciates your leadership in advancing safe, connected, and sustainable transportation throughout the City of Los Angeles. We look forward to working collaboratively with your offices, City departments, Metro, community organizations, and educational institutions to make the San Fernando Valley Regional Bicycle Loop a reality.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Kadota
President of Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee (LABAC)