

Dear Members of the LANCC:

I ask this body to oppose legislative Item #2 on today's agenda.

The motion lacks merit, the presentation made in its support is asymmetrical without a proper opportunity to respond, and the consequences of affirming it are fatal to thousands of vulnerable road users in Los Angeles, among them myself and my clients.

I am a resident of Franklin Hills in Los Feliz, a father, a property-owner, a husband, a father, a bicycle commuter and an environmental attorney who represents cyclists injured on the streets of Los Angeles.

I regularly use the bicycle lane on Rowena Ave. and bicycled on it before the road diet was implemented. I feel safer now because there is a bicycle lane and the rate of speed on Rowena at which cars travel has been reduced. This is particularly important because there are two schools on Rowena exactly where the road diet has been implemented.

Having just found out about this motion yesterday I lack the time to respond substantively to each underlying claim asserted in its justification. I have looked at the Keep LA Moving website and see that many of Mr. LeGras' arguments against traffic calming measures are based on allegations that the dedicated public servants who implemented them are lying to the citizens of LA. This is a serious allegation that requires far greater process than one Saturday morning meeting without providing those servants the opportunity to respond.

For this body to support the draconian measure Mr. LeGras proposes would be an abdication of its duty to protect the most vulnerable citizens of our great city. This is particularly true in light of the gravity of the allegations made, and stakeholders' inability to timely and substantively respond.

I can tell you that, of all the hundreds of clients I have had in the last decade, NONE of them have ever been injured where traffic calming measures had been implemented. The overwhelming majority of serious injuries were caused by distracted driving and speed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joshua C. Cohen
Partner
Cohen Law Partners