



GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

University of Southern California

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Sponsoring Senator(s): Traci Gillig (Annenberg Graduate Communication Student Association Senator)

Date: October 19, 2015

RE: Resolution for Improvement of Campus Bicycle Infrastructure by Implementing the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California's mission is the "cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit"² and students are encouraged to embrace alternate forms of transportation for their own health, spirit, and well-being;

WHEREAS, bicycle ridership in Los Angeles is up 7.5 percent since 2011³;

WHEREAS, a majority of USC students (80%) self-identify as bicyclists⁴, and 75% of undergraduate students and 50% of graduate students have ridden a bike one or more times on campus⁵, totaling to over 20,000 bicycle riders at USC (not including faculty or staff);

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are between 6,000 and 9,000 bicycles on campus during any given weekday⁶;

¹ USC Bicycle Coalition website, <http://usc.edu/bike>

² USC Policies and Core Documents - Role and Mission of USC, <http://about.usc.edu/policies/>

³ Bicycle Findings & Recommendations from the 2013 L.A. Bike and Pedestrian Count, <http://la-bike.org/bikecountreport>

⁴ USC Bans Bicycles on Bike Lane, More Restrictions to Come, <https://ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com/2010/09/15/usc-bans-bicycles-on-bike-lane-more-restrictions-to-come/>

⁵ USC Bicycle Master Plan (Summer 2012), <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B4tJAQfiDxIUMUU1Z0xXNEVtRm8/edit?pli=1> p. 9

WHEREAS, the number of USC employees who ride bicycles to work is *seven* times higher compared to employees in the rest of Los Angeles⁷;

WHEREAS, the USC student body has continually brought up issues of safety and poor bicycle infrastructure on campus to the administration^{8 9};

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods on and surrounding USC's campus have exhibited the some of the highest numbers of cyclist injuries in the past decade¹⁰;

WHEREAS, a majority of bicycle parking racks are outdated on campus¹¹, and the university recently removed newer bicycle parking from in front of the Student Affairs building, a heavy-traffic area for bicycles;

WHEREAS, the USC campus is seen as an insecure neighborhood for bicycle commuters due to the high rate of bicycle crime and theft¹²;

WHEREAS, between 40% and 60% of students have reported being hit by bicycles on campus¹³;

WHEREAS, the university currently does not provide educational materials about bike safety, security, or culture to students at orientation or at any other point in their educational tenure at USC;

WHEREAS, the USC administration has voiced greater concern about "university aesthetics" when considering the addition of safer, marked bicycle lanes on and around campus;

WHEREAS, UCLA makes a concerted effort to provide funding for the implementation of improved and new bicycle infrastructure¹⁴, including the addition of an official bicycle transportation program¹⁵, a campus bicycle shop¹⁶, and a permanent bicycle counter¹⁷;

⁶ USC Bicycle Master Plan (Summer 2012), <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B4tJAQfiDxIUMUU1Z0xXNEVtRm8/edit?pli=1> p. 10

⁷ USC Bicycle Master Plan (Summer 2012), <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B4tJAQfiDxIUMUU1Z0xXNEVtRm8/edit?pli=1> p. 9

⁸ Bike policy changes exaggerate problem, <http://dailytrojan.com/2012/08/30/bike-policy-changes-exaggerate-problem/>

⁹ Adding bike racks a simple solution, <http://dailytrojan.com/2011/10/11/adding-bike-racks-a-simple-solution/>

¹⁰ Why Does USC Have So Many Dangerous Intersections?, <http://collision.jackpine.me/blog/2015/09/01/dangerous-intersections-of-usc/>

¹¹ See the USC Bicycle Resource Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=z4TmWNwGiZss.kY76RwPe0Src>

¹² A campus full of steal-able bikes at USC may be a sign of bigger problems, <http://bikinginla.com/2012/03/28/a-campus-full-of-steal-able-bikes-at-usc-may-be-a-sign-of-bigger-problems/>

¹³ USC Bicycle Master Plan (Summer 2012), <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B4tJAQfiDxIUMUU1Z0xXNEVtRm8/edit?pli=1> p. 14

WHEREAS, the League of American Bicyclists “recognizes institutions of higher education for promoting and providing a more bikeable campus for students, staff and visitors” with Bicycle Friendly University awards, and – while there are, as of 2014, *thirteen* universities in California that have been awarded (of which 2 are at the highest level of recognition) – USC has neither been awarded nor has it ever applied for recognition¹⁸;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council has approved a city-wide transportation plan that increases and improves bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure by 2035¹⁹;

WHEREAS, the groundbreaking for the MyFigueroa project – one of the City of Los Angeles’s first Complete Street streetscape initiatives, which will introduce protected bike lanes from USC to DTLA – will break ground for construction in early 2016²⁰;

WHEREAS, the proposed Downtown LA Bike Share program has tentative pick-up stations located within and around USC campus²¹;

WHEREAS, in 2012, a USC-sponsored Bicycle Master Plan²² was published recommending significant changes in bicycle infrastructure on and around the university campus, and since then only two small changes – the bicycle lane on Trousdale Parkway and the no-bicycle period at the center of campus – have been implemented;

WHEREAS the USC Price School's Masters-level 2014-15 PPD 531L Bicycle Planning Studio seminar provided concise recommendations to improve safety in the streets and sidewalks surrounding USC campus²³;

¹⁴ UCLA Bicycle Coalition Facebook Group,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCLAbikecoalition/permalink/1145355032146518/>

¹⁵ UCLA Transportation - Bicycling at UCLA, <https://main.transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/bike>

¹⁶ UCLA Recreation - The UCLA Bike Shop, <http://www.recreation.ucla.edu/bikeshop>

¹⁷ UCLA is now home to LA’s first and only bike counter, <http://beagreencommuter.com/ucla-is-now-home-to-las-first-and-only-bike-counter/>

¹⁸ The League of American Bicyclists - Becoming a Bicycle Friendly University, <http://www.bikeleague.org/university>

¹⁹ L.A. will add bike and bus lanes, cut car lanes in sweeping policy shift, <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-mobility-plan-20150811-story.html>

²⁰ Huge Ped-Friendly Figueroa Makeover Set to Start in January, http://la.curbed.com/archives/2015/03/figueroa_pedestrian_makeover_groundbreaking.php

²¹ Take a First Glimpse at Los Angeles's New Bike Share System, http://la.curbed.com/archives/2015/06/los_angeles_bike_share.php

²² USC Bicycle Master Plan (Summer 2012); Summary available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzSmR3PoUcO7UVlweGhrcGdUMkU/edit>; full document available at <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B4tJAQfiDxIUMJU1Z0xXNEVtRm8/edit?pli=1>

²³ Fall 2014 USC PPD 531L Complete Streets and Bicycle Planning Studio - University Park and Jefferson Boulevard Street Plan 2014, https://drive.google.com/a/usc.edu/file/d/0B8HkN_qOgFW8MEhxVDJwYkpzTWM/view?pli=1

WHEREAS, Chief John Thomas of the USC Department of Public Safety (DPS) has stated that part of its mission is to “address quality of life issues”²⁴ and has voiced support to the USC Bicycle Coalition about DPS’s interest in supporting bicycle initiatives;

WHEREAS, according to the USC Sustainability Office, in 2010, the University of Southern California Campus Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees approved six resolutions to further strengthen the University’s commitment to sustainability, including “that the university maintain active incentive programs to encourage faculty, staff, students, and visitors to use transportation modes other than the single passenger automobile”^{25 26};

WHEREAS, the USC Bicycle Coalition – as an official member of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition²⁷ and recognized USC student group – aims to increase awareness of and involvement in bicycle-related advocacy for students, faculty, staff, and neighbors on USC campus;

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Government aim to represent the voice of the student body and relay their concerns to senior administration to institute change;

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California has an opportunity to be a leader among its peer private and public research universities, and increase safety and security of students, faculty, and staff on campus, and help promote a healthy, sustainable campus, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that USC will dedicate university funding to implement – in full – the USC 2012 Bicycle Master Plan by December 31, 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the university will add a new appointment of a Bicycle Coordinator position²⁸ to the USC administration staff, to improve bicycle infrastructure on campus, as detailed in the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 and the entire 2016-2017 academic year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a portion of said funding will be allocated to the purchase of an increased number of new bicycle racks²⁹ – which allow both frame and front wheel to be

²⁴ USC Department of Public Safety - Welcome from Chief John Thomas,

<http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety/welcome-chief-john-thomas>

²⁵ USC Sustainability - Campus Sustainability Resolutions, <http://green.usc.edu/content/campus-sustainability-resolutions>

²⁶ To note, USC Sustainability removed its rideshare subsidy program for faculty and staff in Summer 2015. See coverage <http://la.streetsblog.org/2015/07/10/today-in-two-steps-backwards-usc-discontinues-rideshare-subsidy-program-for-3000-employees/> and official statement <https://staffassembly.usc.edu/transportation-issues/>

²⁷ Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, <http://la-bike.org/>

²⁸ As recommended in the Bicycle Master Plan

²⁹ Image and case study of Park-a-Bike Custom USC Varsity bike docks <http://www.parkabike.com/case-study-usc>

secured by a proper U-lock, and which will accelerate the replacement of outdated and insecure “wheel bender” style³⁰ bicycle racks – as recommended by the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan, around campus in the Spring 2016 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a portion of said funding will be allocated to the implementation of bike lanes, as recommended by the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan, on the streets within USC campus, the improvement (ie., repainting with a solid white line) of the Trousdale Parkway bicycle lane, and additional sidewalk and pedestrian/bicycle crossings (ie., the intersection of Jefferson Blvd. and Hoover St.) as detailed in the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan, in the Summer 2016 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a portion of said funding will be allocated to the addition of secure bicycle parking cages/stations within USC’s various parking structures, as detailed in the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan, in Summer 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a portion of said funding will be allocated to the inclusion of a bicycle safety program for undergraduate and graduate students during orientation, as detailed in the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan, starting in the Fall 2016 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a portion of said funding will be allocated to the enforcement of current regulations and policies for safety pertaining to bicycles (e.g., riding through the center of campus between 10:00am and 2:00pm) and pedestrians (e.g., walking in the bicycle lanes), as detailed in the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan, starting in the Fall 2016 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a portion of said funding will be allocated to the implementation of any additional remaining items of the 2012 USC Bicycle Master Plan, by the end of December 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to President C.L. Max Nikias, Provost, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Michael Quick, Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer Robert Abeles, Senior Vice President of University Advancement Albert Checcio, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Ainsley Carry, Vice Provost for Graduate Programs Sally Pratt, and GSG President Nikita Hamilton by GSG Director of Campus Affairs Andrew Clark within 2 weeks of being passed by the Graduate Student Government Senate.

³⁰ Image of “wheel bender” bicycle rack
<http://www.xpblocker.com/images/Bike%20Rack%20A%20frame.jpg>