



CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

Via Email Only

May 28, 2020

Honorable Mayor Lester Friedman & Beverly Hills City Council
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: LA Metro Expedited Construction Schedule

Dear Mayor Friedman and Members of the Beverly Hills City Council:

We write to you regarding the City Council meeting this evening to discuss the LA Metro expedited construction schedule. The Chamber thanks the City and LA Metro for their work in expediting construction during the COVID-19 emergency which has resulted in considerable progress during a time when most businesses have been closed.

The Chamber is supportive of continuing an expedited construction schedule until June 15 when decking of Wilshire Blvd. is scheduled to be completed. We take this position in reliance on assurances that decking will be complete by June 15 and ask that you put in appropriate safeguards and provisions to enforce this date. After June 15, the Chamber would like to see construction return to the pre-expedited schedule.

Our position is based on the following:

- Decking work, which is among the most disruptive work to businesses and the community, is almost done. To stop this work mid-stream would result in further delay and disruption to businesses over the summer and not be a good use of resources.
- If expedited construction work on decking is stopped, the earliest work could be stopped is June 2, which is only 13 days from when decking will be complete.
- If expedited construction work is stopped now, construction will return to its original schedule, with decking to occur over five to six weekends with work conducted around the clock (which will be disruptive to businesses and residents alike). This will result in disruption from (1) Metro having to undo its decking work; (2) re-set up its decking work for 5-6 weekends; and (3) work being extended and delayed into the summer months when more businesses will be open and

impacted. Therefore, we believe that getting the decking work out of the way now will be best for businesses.

- The consensus opinion of business stakeholders we have spoken to is that it would be appropriate to finish the decking work now to avoid extending the length of construction impacts.

We understand that many businesses are re-opening and anxious to re-open. We believe that greater harm to businesses will result if we delay decking and allow the impact of it to be spread out over time, rather than completed by June 15.

As part of this arrangement, we ask that LA Metro be precluded from work on Father's Day (June 21) and the July 4 holiday and avoid summer weekend closures which we anticipate will be important periods for business in Beverly Hills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Johnson
President and CEO
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce