MOTION

One of the most essential, core responsibilities of local government is to design, build and maintain streets. Streets - including sidewalks, parkways, curbs, gutters and medians - comprise the most basic element of our transportation infrastructure, and are used by everyone: drivers, cyclists, bus riders, taxis and rideshare companies, and pedestrians. Streets are also the City’s largest public space asset, covering approximately 13% of our land area, and reflect and drive the economic and social vibrancy of our neighborhoods.

Despite the enormous importance of streets, the current structure of Los Angeles city government separates key planning, operational and maintenance functions among several departments in a way that no other major city does. While many inefficiencies exist, the most disruptive is the division of responsibilities between the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Bureau of Street Services (BSS). For example, LADOT is responsible for traffic signals, street signs, and lane striping, but BSS is responsible for street resurfacing, sweeping, and issuing special event permits that require use and closure of our city’s streets.

This illogical segregation of key street maintenance responsibilities has resulted in significant delays in the delivery of transportation projects, increased costs, and even personal injuries and deaths.

Since 1949, the City has commissioned at least six in-depth reports from city staff, outside consultants and citizen commissions that all recommend reorganizing and restructuring the Department of Public Works. In 2016, the voters approved a $120 Billion investment under Measure M to improve our streets and transportation infrastructure. It is the City’s duty to ensure that this money is spent efficiently and effectively. The time to act is now.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, be DIRECTED to report with a phased action plan that would implement a merger of the Bureau of Street Services with the Department of Transportation.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, be DIRECTED to report with recommendations on existing street-related functions and divisions of other departments and bureaus that could be transferred to a merged streets & transportation department, to enhance efficiency and better deliver city services to the residents of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:

Gil Cedillo

MAY 22, 2018