



May 31, 2007

First in the Valley

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Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Third Council District
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
City Hall, Room 405
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: Recent Installation Of Valley Circle Blvd.
Traffic Control Signals In West Hills**

Officers

Ed Youngblood
Co-Chairman

Stephen Lenske
Co-Chairman

Leslie Bashaar
Secretary

Leo Zaslov
Treasurer

Bobbi Trantafello
Controller

Dear Councilman Zine:

During the week of April 9, 2007, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation completed installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Bell Canyon and Valley Circle Boulevard. The traffic light installed, along with the addition of a north bound left turn lane replaced a three-way stop sign that had previously been in place for several years.

At the same time the Department of Transportation installed traffic control signals, it removed the four-way stop signs at the intersection of Valley Circle Boulevard and Highlander which was just a block south of the newly installed Valley Circle Boulevard and Bell Canyon traffic control light. The removed north and south Valley Circle Boulevard stop signs at Highlander were replaced with east and west stop signs and right turn only signs. Now vehicles exiting Highlander east bound are prevented from making any left-hand turn going north or exiting Highlander driving west making any left-hand turn going south.

The above traffic control sign installation was undertaken by the Department of Transportation without any advance notice to homeowners living in the vicinity of the affected intersections or West Hills Neighborhood Council, to which such homeowners have recently complained. Needless to say, although some remediation of traffic needed to be accomplished in the areas of the newly installed traffic control devices, the action taken has nevertheless adversely affected a substantial number of West Hills homeowners, many who appeared at the May 2, 2007 West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting to voice their complaints. Those stakeholders also sought information about the reasons for the particular traffic control devices being installed as they were. Although your field agent, Ms. Jennifer Lozano, was present and attempted to respond to many of the complaints, she, like members of our council was just as surprised by the lack of advance warning given by the LADOT and the effect it had upon homeowners in the area.



Our council, in an attempt to ascertain more information about the situation, sought to contact and invite members of LADOT to our upcoming meetings to interface with homeowners and have them explain the reasons for their actions or help to remediate the traffic problems generated by the newly installed traffic control signals. To my dismay, despite our vigorous efforts and those of Ms. Lozano, the LADOT has been non-responsive to numerous e-mails and telephonic calls to their office to make appropriate arrangements. The only success that I had in calls made to LADOT was a message left at my office on the late afternoon of May 17, 2007 by LADOT employee Alan Willis indicating that he was in his office until 5:00 p.m. and then out of town until May 30th. However, he indicated his awareness of our request for a representative to attend the June 6th West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting but said that his PDA was left at home and without it he could commit to nothing.

This neighborhood concern over recent installation of traffic control signals on Valley Circle Boulevard has obviously proceeded to a point far beyond the jurisdiction or the benefits that could be afforded by the advisory capacity of our neighborhood council. In addition, the lack of response by a city agency to the West Hills Neighborhood Council's recent attempts to provide information to concerned homeowners is unacceptable.

I believe that this matter is now best suited to be handled by your office in a more efficient way recognizing that you have the assets and the status to accomplish what our neighborhood council is obviously lacking in its ability to interface with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Accordingly, though this traffic control issue was originally placed on our neighborhood council's proposed agenda for its June 6, 2007 meeting, it has been removed with notice to affected homeowners that the matter has been referred to your offices for appropriate resolution.

If you or other members of your staff would wish to further discuss this matter with our council, we would be most happy have such opportunity.

Very truly yours,

STEPHEN A. LENSKE
Co-Chair
West Hills Neighborhood Council