

Attachment 1
Land Park Community Association Letter to the
City of Sacramento



July 22, 2015

Councilmember Steve Hansen
City of Sacramento
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

John F. Shirey
City Manager
Sacramento City Hall
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Councilmember Hansen and Mr. Shirey:

As work on the feasibility study for a Broadway Bridge commences, on behalf of the Land Park Community Association ("LPCA"), I write to ask for your continued vigilance to assure that the process yields a high-quality, "neighborhood friendly" bridge.

As you know, several years ago, after a period of study and community input, the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento decided to pursue a new Sacramento River bridge crossing at Broadway. See Staff Report to City Council No. 2011-00880, titled "Sacramento River Crossing." LPCA participated in the discussions that led to the development of a plan to add a river crossing at Broadway. From LPCA's perspective, those discussions yielded two critical commitments, which enabled LPCA to be supportive of the plan for a new bridge at Broadway. One was taking the possibility of a bridge at Sutterville Road "off the table." The second was the commitment that at any new bridge at Broadway would be "neighborhood friendly." The latter point was important enough that the parties went so far as to devise and articulate a definition of a "neighborhood friendly" bridge, which includes a careful itemization of the qualities and characteristics of a "neighborhood friendly" bridge. See Exhibit B to Report No. 2011-00880. Those include pleasing aesthetics, accommodating all users especially including pedestrians and bicyclists, target speeds equal to or less than the approaching roadways, and a bridge that does not exceed or expand the already-planned capacity of the approach roadways.

Ultimately, LPCA was supportive of the proposal of a new Sacramento River crossing at Broadway, conditioned on the bridge being "neighborhood friendly." LPCA remains supportive, subject to the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento honoring that earlier commitment.



LPCA is confident that you and City staff share the values reflected in the earlier commitment to a “neighborhood friendly” bridge, and want to see the planners honor that commitment. We ask your continued vigilance to assure that commitment is honored. We do so in light of recent comments, made in the early stages of the feasibility study process, which suggest there may be voices advocating a bridge design that emphasizes maximizing traffic flow, in to the detriment of the Land Park neighborhood.

As you know, the process of conducting a feasibility study is underway. That effort is being overseen principally by the City of West Sacramento. It has come to our attention that, on July 6, 2015, West Sacramento’s Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure Commission held an informational workshop. In a staff report presented to West Sacramento’s City Council for its July 15, 2015 meeting (for Agenda Item #24), staff reported that, at the workshop, “individual Commission members provided comments on bridge design, function, and cost; [and] **suggested considering amending the Neighborhood Friendly Bridge policy to consider traffic performance metrics.**” (Emphasis added.)

While the meaning of the aforementioned comment is unclear, the reported suggestion that the policy of a Neighborhood Friendly Bridge be “amend[ed] ... to consider traffic performance metrics” itself suggests there may now be voices advocating for a bridge designed to maximize traffic volume. That possibility alarms us. And it causes us to reach out to each of you to ask your renewed commitment to assuring that all those in the study and planning process be aware of, and commit to honoring, the City of Sacramento’s and the City of West Sacramento’s earlier commitment that any bridge will be “neighborhood friendly,” as that term was defined in 2011 (as opposed to how someone might re-define that term now).

We ask for your reassurance that the City of Sacramento remains committed to assuring that any new river crossing at Broadway will be a “neighborhood friendly” bridge. Thank you for the attention you give to this issue of such great importance to the Land Park community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth C. Mennemeier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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