

Wilshire Montana (Wil-Mont) Neighborhood

Wilshire Blvd Urban Runoff Diversion – Construction of a debris removal and diversion facility under Ocean Avenue close to the end of the Wilshire storm drain to help the City meet one of its objectives in the Urban Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance. This project was completed in January 2008.

Reed Park Improvements – Expansion of children's playground, new water conserving landscaping along Wilshire Boulevard and between Miles Playhouse and the tennis courts, and some new hardscape elements adjacent to Miles Playhouse. Construction is expected to begin in April 2009.

Sidewalk Repairs – Accelerated program to repair damaged or displaced sidewalk locations Citywide logged by the Street Maintenance Division. The construction of this contract started in January 2008. This project is substantially complete. The contractor completed approx. 155,000 square feet of sidewalks throughout the City at over 1258 locations. All sidewalk work east of Lincoln is complete.

California Incline Bridge Replacement Project – Demolition of the existing (circa 1939) bridge structures and construction of a new concrete bridge approximately 750 feet long and 52 feet wide on the California Incline between Ocean Ave. and Pacific Coast Highway. Caltrans has indicated that the scope of work may need to include bluff stabilization adjacent to the Incline in order for the project to be eligible for federal funding. A draft EIR was previously circulated for public review. Once the scope of work for bluff stability has been determined, additional environmental review will be necessary including revisions to the traffic section of the draft EIR. It is anticipated that the scope of work will be finalized in early 2009.

Palisades Bluff Improvements – Installation of horizontal drainage pipes (hydraugers) at the base of the Palisades Bluffs to collect groundwater. Hydraugers are to be installed by drilling one to three hundred feet into the face of the bluffs from the base of the bluffs adjacent to PCH. Additional improvements include a limited demonstration of surface treatment measures for erosion control, planting of native vegetation, and debris removal. Authorization of federal funding for construction is anticipated in winter 2008. Once funding authorization is received, the project will be advertised for bids. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2009.

Traffic Signal Upgrades – The upgrades will allow real-time management of the signal system for a centralized center and will interconnect the signal system to enable integrated operation – this can reduce delay by synchronizing the traffic signals to provide a coordinated progression of traffic. Upgrades will also include a Transit Priority System for Metro Rapid busses on Wilshire Boulevard. Upgrades to the signals at San Vicente & 7th & 26th were completed in August 2008. Traffic signal upgrades for Wilshire Boulevard have been in the design phase since August 2008 with construction to commence in mid 2009. Future upgrades are also scheduled for Montana Avenue.

Street Project – Ongoing maintenance and repair to streets and sidewalks. Construction commenced April 7, 2008 and is expected to be complete by April 2009. Approx. 50,000 square feet of sidewalk repairs have been completed. Sidewalk work west of Lincoln Blvd. will be completed by March 2009. As part of this contract, approximately 2.12 miles of streets have been treated with rubber emulsion asphalt slurry in the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood and the streets are:

- Montana Ave from Ocean to 7th St
- 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Streets from Montana to California Ave
- 4th St from Montana to Wilshire Blvd
- California from 4th St to 7th St
- The following streets will be paved by April 2009:
- Idaho Ave from Ocean Ave to 7th St
- Washington Ave from Ocean to 7th St
- California Ave from Ocean to 4th St
- 2nd St from California to Wilshire Blvd

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Street Light Circuit Conversion – Replacement of existing deteriorated series lighting circuits on various City streets with modern, reliable, multiple lighting circuits and installation of new lighting fixtures. Work also includes replacement of cracked lighting poles and installation of energy efficient light fixtures. Council approved the project on November 11, 2008 and construction is expected to begin in December 2008/January 2009. This project will upgrade existing street light system on Centinela Avenue from Wilshire Boulevard to Darlington Avenue.

All-way Stop Intersections – Washington Avenue and 3rd Street and Washington Avenue and 2nd Street intersections have been designated as all-way stop intersections. The Community Maintenance Department will have signs installed at these locations in the next couple of weeks. The City designated 4th and Idaho as an all-way stop intersection this summer.

Transportation – City-wide parking information is being collected through the land use analysis, which will be used for the Travel Demand Model. The new Transportation Demand Program Manager will use this information when working with the community to develop parking solutions. The Transportation Demand Program Manager position opened October 27th and is expected to be filled in January 2009. Another critical position to address traffic and transportation needs is the Principal Transportation Engineer position, which Planning and Community Development is in the final hiring stages.

Public Safety Residential Burglaries and Robberies – Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator sent out an e-mail alert to the Beat 4 community members to remind/educate community members to close and lock windows and provided information on recent robberies. Home Safety / Burglary prevention and Street Safety education has been incorporated into neighborhood watch / community meetings. Sharing specific information about the cases with Beat 4 patrol officers and possible connections with crimes in the Los Angeles area, which allows patrol to watch out for specific vehicles / persons and prevent crimes. Crime Prevention Coordinator conducting security surveys of victim residences. Police Department has directed additional patrols, including Bicycle Officers / Marked and Unmarked units, into the area during the time that most crimes occur.

Public Safety Holiday Safety Class – Police Department working with the Beat 4 merchants to provide a holiday safety class. The purpose of the class is to inform merchants who hire temporary work for the holiday season to be aware of fraud as well as to provide/educate the temporary workers with safety tips while working at night.

Homeless Update

- Priority populations include the chronically homeless, residents whose last permanent address was in Santa Monica, and vulnerable members of the workforce
- Police Department working with the Homeless Liaison Team (HLP) regarding chronic trespassing transients. Continuing to work with patrol officers and the community members to find locations where transients are squatting, then work with the HLP to find long term solutions. Conduct extra patrols to prevent transients from removing recyclables from the City owned dumpsters.
- Homelessness has decrease 24% between 2005 and 2007; 237 homeless have been relocated under Project Homecoming
- Regional collaboration to provide VA Long-Term Housing and to promote Service Registries in other communities
- Community Development Grants have provided funding to eight community organizations and, in FY2007-08, housed 344 people and employed 552 people
- Long-term homelessness reduced by Homeless Community Court, Service Registry, SIOP
- Community Education, including Anti-Panhandling and Alternative Giving Campaign, 2009, as well as E-newsletter and CityTV news packages

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Children with Disabilities and Special Needs Participating in the Community – Streamlined process for enrolling disabled children in City Youth Programs and simplified the accommodation request form and process for families. City created program materials to encourage children with special needs to participate in youth programs. Community & Cultural Services conducted intensive staff training on working with range of children with special needs and hiring special education aides to work in City programs. City has a new partnership with Westside Regional Center.

Youth/Gang Violence – The City has allocated \$30,000 in funding for a new youth arts grant program, such as those offered by Virginia Avenue Project and the Park Studio program.

Parks (Fisher Lumber Site) – Funding in the amount of \$1.1 million was budgeted in FY2008-09 to begin a master plan process for Memorial Park and the former Fisher Lumber site. A broad community process to develop this 13.4 acre block is anticipated to be initiated in summer 2009.