



# CITY OF CULVER CITY

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September 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Streets for All Marina Central Park Application for FY23  
Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The California State Route 90 (90 Freeway) was opened in 1968. Originally part of a much longer freeway project, only 3.1 miles of freeway were constructed, a very short distance for an 8-lane highway. To make way for the 90 Freeway, homes in Culver City and the Del Rey neighborhood of Los Angeles were demolished and access to the Centinela Creek became limited. The City of Culver City supports the proposal submitted by the non-profit organization "Streets For All" to conduct a feasibility study for a project titled "Marina Central Park", which envisions removing the 90 Freeway, reconnecting communities that have been divided by the construction of the Freeway and reinventing the space into a greener and more useful asset for the entire Westside of Los Angeles.

State Route 90 is located entirely within Los Angeles County and connects Slauson Avenue in Culver City, near the Westfield Shopping Mall, to the Marina Del Rey / Playa Del Rey area, terminating in the City of Los Angeles at Lincoln Boulevard. The entire Route occupies 128 acres of public right-of-way. Approximately 60% of the area directly adjacent to the 90 Freeway has been identified as under-served, according to the latest U.S. Census data.

The feasibility study for the Marina Central Park Project will evaluate the removal of the freeway and replacement with a new Marina Central Park, residential units, new retail, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, new plazas, and trails. The feasibility study would allow Streets for All to conduct extensive community engagement and outreach to develop a project that best serves the communities along the Route and the public who would pass through and make use of the enhancements.

The Park as currently envisioned would become one of the largest in the Los Angeles area, providing much needed open space. The Project could also restore access to the Centinela Creek, allowing for potential future improvements to re-naturalize the Creek to be enjoyed by all.

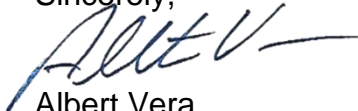
**The Honorable Pete Buttigieg**  
**Secretary**  
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Another key feature of the Project is its attempt to address the acute shortage of housing in Los Angeles. The Project plans for 3,840 new dwelling units – including potentially 100% affordable housing – with residential units above commercial retail to help eliminate car trips for basic needs. New paths, jogging trails, and bike paths are proposed that could connect with other regional bike infrastructure. The Project also envisions a bus rapid transit corridor (BRT), connecting the future Lincoln BRT and Sepulveda rail lines, and dedicated lanes for car use.

While only 0.8 miles of the 90 Freeway is located within Culver City, as the current terminus of the Freeway, Culver City may be impacted by changing traffic patterns. However, the Culver City community could directly enjoy the benefits of the new open space, and the Park could become a tourist attraction that could benefit the businesses in Culver City and the entire Westside of Los Angeles.

The City of Culver City wishes to join Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, the Director of Caltrans District 7, Gloria Roberts, as well as other leaders, who have expressed their support for conducting the Marina Central Park Project Feasibility Study. The City also supports a planning grant application to move the project forward and a report on the project's cost, feasibility, and timeline for completion, including additional community engagement. We appreciate your consideration of Streets for All's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Vera", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Albert Vera  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Members of the City Council  
John M. Nachbar, City Manager  
Michael Schneider, Streets for All