



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Do You Want More Traffic, or Not?

For years, Sunset Park residents have been complaining to FOSP about traffic. Now's the time to act. Unless you want a lot more cut-through traffic in Sunset Park, tell the City Council on September 10th to:

- 1) Downsize the Bergamot Area Plan, and**
- 2) Prepare a new Environmental Impact Report.**

Here's how to communicate with the City Council members:

- **Email the City Council at Council@smgov.net**
- **Attend the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10th, at 6:30 PM, at City Hall.**
- **Sign up to speak during Public Comment. Even if you don't speak, your presence will send a message.**

A letter from the FOSP Board to City Council will inform them, but it will take email from many residents, and attendance at City Council hearings by many residents to persuade them to revise staff recommendations.

Background

After two postponements, the City Council will finally vote on the Bergamot Area Plan on September 10th.

The Bergamot area is bounded by Cloverfield on the west, Colorado on the north, Centinela on the east, and Exposition on the south (see map on page 4).

Unfortunately, the proposed Bergamot Area Plan will increase traffic congestion in our neighborhood. Large development projects in the pipeline or recently constructed are estimated to generate more than 20,000 additional daily car trips. Many of those cars will be traveling through Sunset Park.

The only north-south Sunset Park "through street" between Lincoln and Centinela is

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Santa Monica Airport Update

BY CATHY LARSON, FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Helicopter Noise Relief

At Councilman Kevin McKeown's request, the City Council voted on August 27 to support legislation to reduce the impact of helicopter noise on residential neighborhoods in the Greater Los Angeles Area. There are currently several Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013 bills under consideration: S.208 (Sen. Feinstein) in the U.S. Senate, H.R.456 (Rep. Schiff) in the House of Representatives, and SJR 7 (Sen. Lieu and Sen. Pavley) in the State Senate.

Stelios Makrides Named Acting Airport Manager

Former SMO Noise and Operations Manager, Stelios Makrides, has been named Acting Airport Manager. He replaces Airport Director Bob Trimborn, who retired on July 1. Mr. Trimborn has since been hired by American Airports Corporation.

New Landing Fees Implemented

On August 1, new landing fees were implemented at the Santa Monica Airport (SMO). Up until then, no aircraft that have permanent tie downs or hangers at SMO had paid any landing fees. City Council increased the fees from \$2.07 to \$5.48 per 1,000 of maximum certified landing weight, and they will now apply to all aircraft landing at SMO.

New Aircraft Tracking System

Santa Monica Airport's former WebTrak system has been replaced by a new Internet aircraft tracking system, PublicVue SMO, on August 16. The new system allows the public to track aircraft movements and altitude, as well as log noise complaints. Some of its advantages are:

- It allows information to be accessed on smart phones, tablets and desktop computers;
- It's based on the FAA's Next Gen Technology, which provides higher fidelity flight tracking and greater

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Coyotes in Sunset Park

In recent months, Santa Monica has seen an increase in coyote sightings and aggressive coyote behavior. There have been reports of domestic animals being chased and/or attacked by coyotes, even in the presence of humans. Coyotes should be treated with extreme caution and distance.

A resident near Pacific & 14th reports that one of her cats was beheaded early in the morning on August 20th. Another resident spotted a coyote around 9 PM on August 20th. It was in the alley between 21st & 22nd, between Ocean Park Blvd. & Pearl Street.

Contact SMPD Animal Control

- Call Santa Monica Police Animal Control, Tuesday thru Saturday (8 AM to 5 PM), at 310-458-8595 to report coyote sightings, aggressive coyote behavior, or animals injured or killed by a coyote.
- Call Santa Monica Police Dispatch to report in-progress aggressive coyote behavior: 310-458-8491.

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- If your pet is bitten by a coyote, seek immediate veterinary care. If a human is bitten by a coyote, seek immediate medical care.

If a coyote approaches you:

- Do not run or turn your back; face the coyote and back away slowly.
- Be as big and loud as possible.
- Wave your arms and throw objects.
- If attacked, fight back.

Know the facts

- Coyote attacks are year round and can occur at any time of day or night.
- Coyotes are hunters; they will hunt, kill, and dine on any and all living creatures.
- Coyotes are extremely territorial.
- Coyotes rarely approach people in a threatening manner, however, recent attacks on humans have been reported in other cities.
- Summer heat often dries up natural water supplies bringing coyotes into suburban areas in search of food and water.

Prevent an attack

- It is unsafe to approach or feed wild animals, including coyotes.
 - Coyotes dislike loud noises and aggressive movement, such as a whistle, walking stick, shaking a tin can containing coins, or an umbrella, which you can open and close rapidly if confronted.
 - Never leave small children and pets unattended outdoors, even if your yard is fenced.
 - Coyotes are capable of scaling or jumping fences upwards of 5½ feet. This can be deterred by increasing the fence height to at least 6 feet and by adding an angle at the top facing outward at a 45 degree angle. Bury the bottom of the fence at least 12 to 18 inches underground and line the trench with rock to prevent coyotes from digging underneath.
 - Remove pet food dishes when your pet has finished eating and do not leave food outside.
 - Pick fruit from trees as soon as it ripens and pick up all fallen fruit.
- Additional information can be found on the Police Department web site at <http://santamonicapd.org/Content.aspx?id=27526> and <http://santamonicapd.org/Content.aspx?id=27529>, and on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife web site at www.dfg.ca.gov

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Cloverfield/23rd. It also serves Santa Monica Business Park, Santa Monica College, the freeway entrance/exit on Cloverfield, and the hospital district. Although the maximum for 23rd Street is 15,000 daily car trips, in 2005 it was already carrying 24,000 cars south of Ocean Park Blvd. No wonder it's congested during peak hours!

Will greater density improve the quality of life? Planners support the theory that taller, denser development will reduce car trips, reduce emissions, and improve our health by forcing us to walk, cycle, and use public transit instead of driving.

We've seen denser development in Downtown and in the Special Office District (Water Garden, Arboretum, Yahoo Center, MTV, and the Lantana Campus). How's that working out so far? Are idling cars, which waste gas and pollute the air, actually improving the quality of life?

No net new trips? The goal of the city's 2010 Land Use & Circulation Element (LUCE) is "no net new trips." However, replacing 109 mobile homes at Village Trailer Park with 377 apartments will increase daily car trips from about 200 to nearly 2,000.

Despite the Expo Light Rail arriving in 2016, replacing the 200,000 sq ft Paper Mate plant with the 766,000 sq ft Bergamot Transit Village Center, and adding the 192,000 sq ft Colorado Creative Studios, the 304,000 sq ft Roberts Center, and the 356,000 sq ft Paseo Nebraska will generate many additional car trips.

What's traffic like now? Here are 24-hour traffic counts from the city's Transportation Management Division, as of 2006:

20th Street, (Wilshire to Pico) – 25,427
Cloverfield, (Santa Monica Blvd. to Olympic) – 42,937

Cloverfield, (Olympic to I-10 freeway) – 29,458

Wilshire Blvd., (17th to Centinela) – 39,806

Santa Monica Blvd., (17th to Centinela) – 28,238

Olympic Blvd., (20th to 26th) – 28,577

Olympic Blvd., (26th to Centinela) – 33,880

Pico Blvd., (20th to Centinela) – 26,663

Ocean Park Blvd., (23rd to Centinela) – 27,189

Where are the busiest intersections?

These are some of the Sunset Park intersections rated "UNACCEPTABLE"

according to the Bergamot Transit Village Center Final EIR:

Lincoln & Ocean Park Blvd.;

20th & Pico;

20th & Pearl;

23rd & Pearl;

23rd & Ocean Park Blvd.;

Cloverfield & Pearl;

Cloverfield & Ocean Park Blvd.;

25th (west) & Ocean Park Blvd.;

Centinela & Ocean Park Blvd.

How much traffic will Bergamot area development projects add?

Village Trailer Park – 1,863 daily car trips;

Roberts Center – 1,654 car trips;

Colorado Creative Studio Project – 2,092 car trips;

SMC Academy of Entertainment & Technology – 1,482 car trips;

Herb Alpert Educational Village – 2,500 car trips (rough estimate);

Paseo Nebraska – 4,000 car trips (rough estimate);

Bergamot Transit Village Center – 7,585 car trips;

Agensys, Inc. – 1,395 car trips.

Projects on Olympic and Pico in nearby West Los Angeles will also add thousands of daily car trips.

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precision than older radar-based systems;

- It allows users to customize their views;
- It reduces live delay from 20+ minutes to 10 minutes;
- It allows the public to view past complaints submitted in the system.

For more info visit the SMO web site at http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/For_Our_Neighbors/Flight_Tracking/_PublicVue.aspx and the CASMAT web site at <http://www.casmat.org/2013/08/replacement-for-webtrak-to-go-live-this.html>

"Airport to Park" Bike Ride – September 15

This 4½ mile ride will begin at 10 AM on Sunday, September 15. Cyclists are invited to meet at the southwest corner of Clover Park (25th Street side) next to the SMO fence, and proceed clockwise around the airport. This fun and informative event is co-sponsored by Santa Monica Spoke. Learn about current airport issues, poten-

tial creative uses, bike connectivity, and the possible creation of a park at SMO. This will be a great opportunity to get an "up close" view of the SMO property. For more information, visit <http://smspoke.org>

Santa Monica Airport Open House – September 21

The 3rd Annual Santa Monica Airport Open House will be held on September 21 from noon to 5 PM. Free to the public, it will include airside tours, vintage aircraft display, open art studios, mini classes in the Demonstration Garden, and a hands-on sustainable art project for children. Admission to the Museum of Flying will be free for children under 12. Free parking on site.

"Airport to Park" Community Meeting – October 3

With the expiration of the 1984 Agreement between the City and the federal government rapidly approaching in 2015, a coalition of community groups is working to ensure that the airport property will

be become parkland, natural habitat, and recreational space. If you want to participate attend this meeting:

When: October 3, from 6 to 9 PM

Where: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 14th and Ocean Park Blvd.

Sponsored by: CASMAT (Community Against Santa Monica Airport Traffic), CRAAP (Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution), and SPAA (Sunset Park Anti-Airport)

LAX VOR Affects SMO Jet Departures

According to Daniel Quezada, SMO Noise & Operations Specialist, the LAX VOR (a navigational aid) went out of service again on August 19, and it's affecting some IFR (instrument flight rules) departures from SMO. Staff will continue to check with the FAA on the status of the repairs, and will provide updates as more information becomes available. For more information, email Daniel.Quezada@smgov.net or call 310-434-2665.

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Should the Bergamot Area Plan rely on the LUCE Environmental Impact Report? The LUCE estimated 1,300 new residential units being built in the Bergamot area by 2030. Yet three years into the 20-year plan, there are already nearly 1,500 units proposed. How can we know what the actual traffic impacts will be without a new Environmental Impact Report?

Do residents want more traffic, more gridlock, and more air pollution from cars idling on our streets? If not, they can urge the City Council on September to:

- 1) Downsize the Bergamot Area Plan, and
- 2) Prepare a new Environmental Impact Report.

Communicating with Your City Council

- 1) City Council agendas are posted at: <http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx>
- 2) Email comments to: Council@smgov.net. In the subject line, include the topic and the meeting date.
- 3) If you don't have access to a computer, mail letters to the City Council at: City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. (Allow a couple days.)
- 4) Courteous letters may be more persuasive than angry letters.
- 5) Attend City Council: The Council meets at City Hall, 1685 Main St., beginning at 6:30 PM.
- 6) Parking: Use the Civic Center Parking Structure on 4th St. The entrance is on the west side of 4th St. at Civic Center

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Big Blue Bus – Service Changes

All of the service changes for Fall 2013, which began on August 25, are posted at www.BigBlueBus.com. Here are routes which serve Sunset Park:

Crosstown Ride service (south on 20th, west on Ocean Park Blvd., north on 17th, west on Pearl, north on 14th, east on Montana) remains unchanged.

Route 3 (Lincoln Blvd.) – Various weekday morning trips cancelled due to low ridership.

Rapid 3 (Lincoln Blvd.) – New mid-day trips added.

Route 7 & Sunset Ride – Extra service the first four weeks of the SMC fall semester.

Route 7 & Rapid 7 (Pico Blvd.) – As of June, frequency was increased to every 12 minutes.

Route 8 (Ocean Park Blvd.) – Service will begin/end on 7th Street at Broadway. UCLA's Ackerman Terminal is closed for construction, so BBB will use a new transit hub at Charles E. Young Drive and Manning Avenue. Weekday service will continue to be from 6:08 AM until approximately 11:30 PM. Due to low ridership, weekday frequency from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM has been decreased to every 20 minutes.

Sunset Ride – This route will serve only SMC's Main Campus and Bundy Campus during the temporary closure of the AET Campus on Stewart Street.

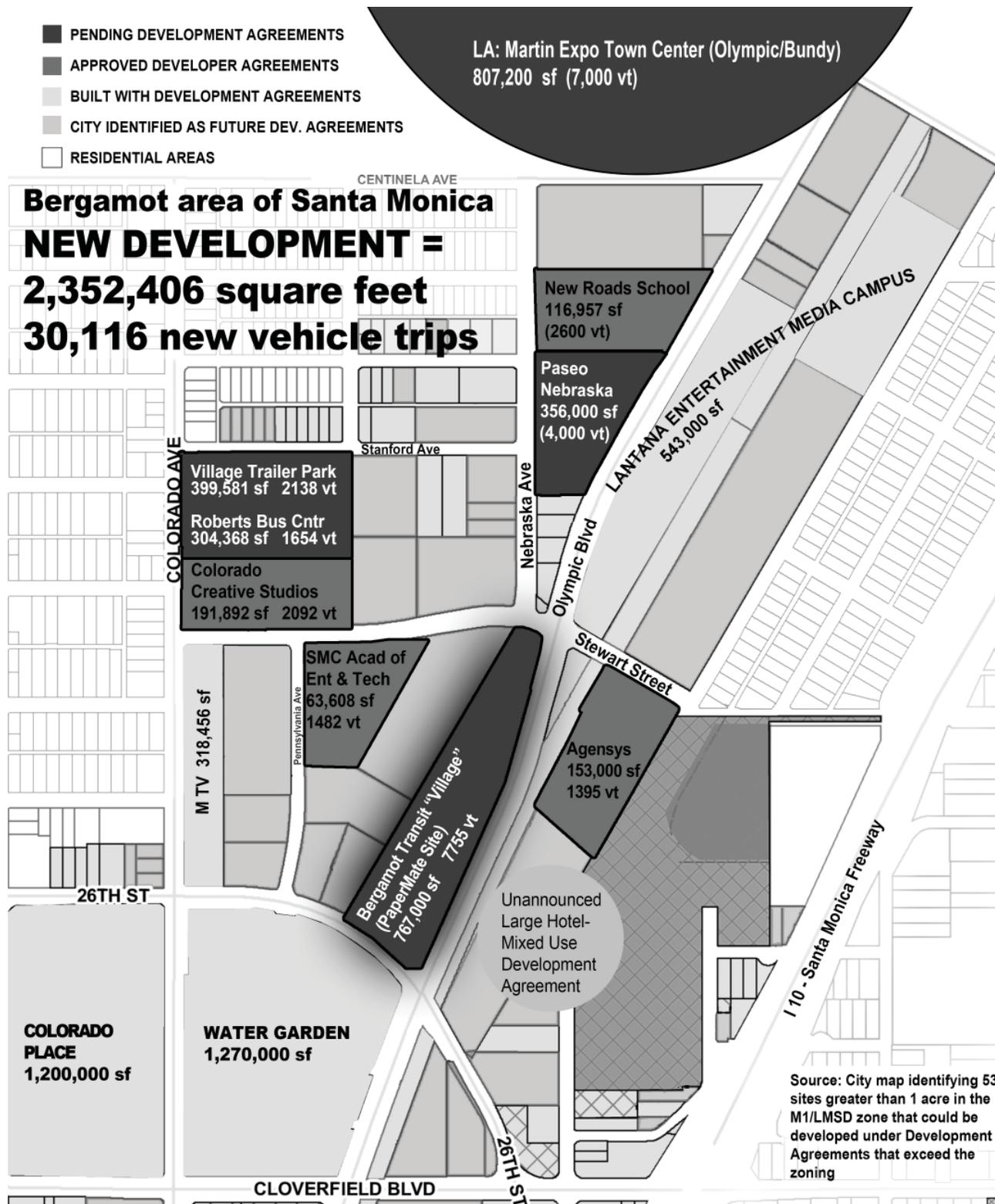
For all routes and schedules, go to: <http://bigbluebus.com/Routes-And-Schedules/Routes---Schedules.aspx>. For more information: 310.451.5444

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Drive (between Pico and the freeway). Get the parking ticket validated in City Hall. If not, you'll need a credit card to get out of the parking structure (\$3 after 6 PM).

7) Public comment: The Council meets in the 2nd floor Council

Chambers at City Hall. You'll find agendas and speaker cards on the 2nd floor balcony. Fill out a card and hand it to a staff person. When your name is called, you'll get 2 minutes at the microphone. (You can always "pass" if you decide not to speak.)



Map created by SMCLC – www.smclc.net