

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR HAHN ROLLS OUT PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE REPORT

Los Angeles - Mayor Jim Hahn, joined by City Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge, Public Works Commissioner Cynthia Ruiz and representatives from neighborhood councils, today delivered the first Public Works service report to the Midtown North Hollywood neighborhood council.

"Today is the start of a great collaboration between the Department of Public Works and neighborhood councils to ensure that the improvements that we're making in the city every day are in sync with neighborhood priorities," Mayor Hahn added. "Neighborhood councils are the voice that we're listening to at City Hall. This collaborative effort between the Department of Public Works and our neighborhood councils sets the standard for communication between neighborhoods and city departments."

Under a new pilot program, four neighborhood councils will receive a report from the Department of Public Works detailing upcoming public works projects in their respective areas. Each neighborhood council will have 90 days to provide feedback to the Department of Public Works. The goal of the program is to improve communication and ensure that the projects undertaken by Public Works match the priorities of the affected neighborhoods.

In addition to the paper version of the report, the Bureau of Engineering developed a website that will provide the same information in an online format to anybody who can access the Internet. The website is <http://navigatela.lacity.org>.

"Today we begin to put a face on our departments and expand the relationship between neighborhood councils and those departments," said Councilmember Greuel. "Now, not only do we have a city department that cares about everything that happens in our neighborhoods, but we have neighborhood councils -- an army of people -- who believe in our city. Together we can make change for the betterment of our city."

"This new method of communication between the Public Works Department and neighborhood councils will make for a more effective and responsive way to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods," said Councilmember LaBonge.

In Fall 2003, four neighborhood councils -- Greater Toluca Lake, Midtown North Hollywood, Valley Village and Studio City -- began meeting with division heads, commissioners and others from the Department of Public Works at the University of Southern California through a project called "The Neighborhood Participation Project." Facilitated by USC, the group met for three Saturdays over three

months. The outcome was an agreement, codified by a memorandum of understanding, on improving collaboration and communication between the Department of Public Works and neighborhood councils.

Neighborhood councils recently provided key input in forming Mayor Hahn's budget proposal. Their input led to a budget that was tightly focused on the public's priorities, including putting more police officers on the street, putting paramedics and ambulances in every firehouse in the city, and improving more streets than ever before.