

## Meeting Summary Report: Community Listening Session #3

Meeting Date: November 9, 2023

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### Executive Summary

This virtual car cruising listening session provided a forum for East Los Angeles community members and business owners to discuss and provide opinions on car cruising. This is the third session in a series of stakeholder discussions held by the County of Los Angeles on developing a plan for the shared use of roads and rights-of-way in unincorporated communities, including car cruising, travel, and other community uses.

The first part of the session included brief introductory remarks by the Office of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, County Department of Public Works, and County Counsel, followed by facilitated discussions. Key goal outcomes of this listening session were to (1) have a deeper understanding of the role streets, public spaces, and car cruising play on communities, (2) community members' thoughts and experiences with car cruising, and (3) discuss ideas for projects and programmatic initiatives for the County of Los Angeles to consider in its efforts to address community needs.

### Car Cruising Discussions

The Facilitator asked the group participants the following open-ended questions:

#### Engagement Questions:

Group participants were asked, "Have you been impacted by car cruising in East LA? How?" Key themes from responses include:

- Car Cruising has caused several impacts on **traffic, law enforcement, and local businesses**.
- Residents/business owners have observed interruptions in traffic flow, parking management issues, impeded buses, blocked pedestrian/bicyclist paths, and increased response times for emergency vehicles.
- Residents/business owners have observed problematic behaviors, including drug use, violent altercations, and public intoxication.

- Residents/business owners have observed effects on their local business, including blocked access to their private parking and noticeable decreases in their business.

Group participants were asked, “Can you tell us about your experiences with car cruising?” Key themes from responses include:

- Residents/business owners have had a wide range of experiences with car cruising, such as **business impacts**, **law enforcement issues**, and **community impacts**.
- Some business owners have seen an increase in business, while others have experienced a decrease in business. Some businesses have had to close early due to events.
- Business owners/residents have seen increased public intoxication during events and felt they could not take their children outside.
- Business owners/residents have seen increased trash and have needed to plan their activities around the car cruising events.

Exploration Questions:

Group participants were asked, “In your opinion, what are the pros and cons of car cruising?” Key themes from responses include:

- Residents/Business owners have seen both pros and cons to car cruising. Some positives include **business impacts** and **community involvement**. Some negatives include **law enforcement issues**, **business impacts**, and **quality of life impacts**.
- Residents/business owners expressed positive opinions on car cruising, including seeing some increase in business, a good cultural expression in the community, and the fact that there are organized groups that the community can communicate with.
- Residents/business owners expressed negative opinions on car cruising, including a decrease in business, increased traffic, littering, and increased public intoxication.

Group participants were asked, “How do you think the County could help address the cons and/or support the pros?” Key themes from responses include:

- Residents/business owners expressed several different types of solutions that could help address/support car cruising, including **infrastructure improvements**, **law enforcement issues**, **permitting**, and **additional community involvement**.

- Residents/business owners recommended creating a dedicated off-street space for car cruising events.
- Residents/business owners recommended requiring additional law enforcement officers and have more prompt response by law enforcement.
- Residents/business owners recommended a permitting system be created for car cruising events, bonds/fees to be used to pay for additional parking enforcement, and additional law enforcement officers.
- Residents/business owners recommend creating a set of rules for everyone to follow, establishing a volunteer committee for enforcing rules/cleaning after events, and providing education to car cruisers on the rules.

Group participants were asked, “What street conditions would help accommodate people car cruising, walking, bicycling, riding transit, and getting around within the same space?” Key themes from responses include:

- Residents/business owners expressed several different infrastructure improvements, **public street improvements**, **off-street improvements**, and **operational improvements**.
- Some public street improvements suggested included bollards, additional parking restrictions, wider sidewalks, dedicated cruising lanes.
- Some off-street improvements included new parking structures, additional public bathroom facilities, additional trash receptacles,
- Some operational improvements included moving events to side streets, additional law enforcement patrols during events, and caps on the number of car cruisers on Whittier Blvd

*Exit Question:*

Group participants were asked, “Do you have any further thoughts or anything else you would like to say to the County Departments or the Board Office about car cruising?” Key themes from responses include:

- Resident/business owners shared several additional thoughts regarding car cruising including **communication**, **events planning**, and **lawmaker interaction**.
- Resident/business owners noted a lack of communication between car clubs, the community, and the business owners.
- Resident/business owners believe that car cruising should be treated like an event and needs to be coordinated with organized groups.



## **Next Steps**

Following this virtual listening session, Public Works will plan at least two additional meetings to engage County and state agency partners involved in the future implementation of related projects and initiatives. Early in 2024, Public Works will host a final public meeting to present overall community and stakeholder engagement results and final recommendations.