



# Agenda Report

City Council

**Date:** January 25, 2022  
**To:** Brian Saeki, City Manager  
**From:** Kyle Cason, Director of Public Works  
**Subject:** Greenleaf Promenade Update

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve an extension of Greenleaf Promenade encroachment permits through May 1, 2022.

## **BACKGROUND**

On February 26, 2019, City Council selected a concept design from SWA Architects for the Uptown Whittier Streetscape Beautification project inclusive of improvements from “paseo to paseo” along Greenleaf Avenue. The project area was approximately midblock north of Wardman Street to midblock north of Philadelphia Street and improvements consisted of new parklets, curbs, gutters, paving, concrete, tree removal, tree preservation, and tree replacement. At the time of Council discussion, the project costs were estimated at \$3.8M.

On May 28, 2019, City Council was presented with a summary of public input gathered as part of the Uptown Streetscape Plan process referencing desired improvements including outdoor dining and parklets, gathering spaces, enhanced safety, cleanliness, and walkability among others (Attachment A).

In June of 2020, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the City Council approved a temporary closure of Greenleaf Avenue to facilitate the Greenleaf Promenade Outdoor Dine & Shop program. The closure, commonly referred to as the Greenleaf Promenade, has allowed for retailers and restaurants to operate their businesses in the City-owned public right-of-way through approval of a temporary encroachment permit while adhering to indoor occupancy restrictions.

Due to the evolving pandemic, the City Council approved an extension of the street closure on October 13, 2020, through a minimum of 120 days after the point at which restaurants were permitted to serve indoors at 100% capacity again.

On March 23, 2021, the City Council received a presentation featuring a draft concept of a single-block closure of Greenleaf designed by SWA Architects (Attachment B). At that time, City Council directed staff to research traffic control alternatives and perform further outreach to stakeholders in the impacted Uptown area, specifically businesses, property owners, and nearby residents.

On June 15, 2021, consistent with the Governor's executive orders, the Health Officer Order for Los Angeles County allowed for the full reopening of businesses and restaurants, setting the new deadline for removal of outdoor operations along the Promenade of October 15, 2021.

On August 10, 2021, the City Council received results of the Greenleaf Promenade community survey. Feedback indicated that more than 1600 of 1800 community members supported a permanent Promenade. Of those respondents, 60 of 81 Uptown business owners supported the permanent closure, as well as 199 of 241 Uptown property owners. When asked to rank priorities within the Promenade, common responses included outdoor dining, aesthetic uniformity, security, cleanliness, and diversification of businesses. Streetscape improvements including sidewalk repair, lighting, public art, and community gathering space were also noted. City Council action included approving an extension of encroachment permits through February 1, 2022 and directing staff to bring back a report containing further information regarding various options for construction of a future hybrid or permanent Greenleaf Promenade.

On October 26, 2021, the City Council authorized a hybrid concept for the Greenleaf closure that would include the installation of bollards to facilitate expedited police and fire response, uniform build-outs, and hosting of special events in the Promenade.

### **DISCUSSION**

SWA is formalizing a scope and proposal for design of the hybrid closure option, which will be presented to Council in the near future. In the interim, staff recommends an extension of the current Greenleaf Promenade encroachment permits for an additional 90 days, with a tentative date of expiration as May 1, 2022.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL**

- Goal 1: Provide for Public Safety
- Goal 3: Maintain & Enhance Quality of Life
- Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government
- Goal 5: Promote a Strong Local Economic Base

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.