

West Adams Matters

Caltrans Proposes Spending \$40 million to Move Traffic Two Blocks

by Jean Frost

What happens when historic preservation goals clash with transportation objectives? WAHA and St. John's Cathedral co-sponsored an informational meeting in December, bringing officials from The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and METRO together with community representatives and preservation advocates to learn more about Caltrans' plans to erect a "Flyover" ramp that would stand perilously close to numerous historic resources and housing units, and above the Expo Light Rail line.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7 is proposing an Interstate 110 Transit Way Connector Project I-110 HOV/HOT off ramp to Figueroa Way (EA 27800.) The proposal would cost at least \$40 million — \$7 million now, just to prepare reports and assessments related to its environmental clearance, and another \$30-plus-million to actually design, engineer and build it. Caltrans (and Metro) had thus far pursued this proposal with little or no public input, which is why we brought many of the stakeholders together to meet with the transportation officials.

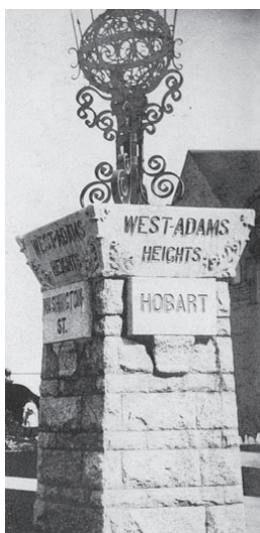
By meeting's end, it was clear that the transportation staff was more interested in reducing vehicle wait times by, at best, a minute or two, while not taking into account the major impacts such a project would have on the people and places adjacent and below it. Concerns include not only visual impacts – which would be tremendous – but, among other concerns, also air quality and noise impacts on adjacent residents, workers, students, and worshippers, along with worries about safety in the face of a potential major earthquake.

Moreover, the proposal is puzzling given that most urban-planning experts are now trying to envision ways to move people out of private vehicles and into public transportation. One meeting participant cited studies that show that projects like this actually may encourage more people to drive by themselves in their personal vehicles, and thus the project becomes counter-productive as the now-more-crowded freeway slows down again.

Background

The proposal involves construction of a two-lane flyover ramp that would cross St. John's Cathedral parking lot, pass within seven feet of a mini-mall on Adams and Figueroa and be approximately forty feet high, landing traffic at Figueroa and 23 Street. Having defeated a similar (but lower in height) proposal in 1990, many in the community are flabbergasted that this has come back to life.

(continued on page 6)



"THE HEIGHTS OF ELEGANCE"

WAHA Presents A Historic Homes & Architecture Tour in West Adams Heights

Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Highlights include the Rindge Mansion and the Hattie McDaniel Residence

In its heyday, more than a century ago, West Adams Heights was famed as one of L.A.'s wealthiest enclaves, with elegant mansions built high atop a hill, with views to Downtown, the mountains and the sea. Five decades later, West Adams Heights achieved national renown, as the community where racial divides were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, in response to lawsuits headlined by well-known actresses Hattie McDaniel and Louise Beavers, among others.

Now, for the first time, the West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) will open the doors to several of West Adams Heights' grand mansions, most never before opened to the public, and all serving as reminders of Los Angeles' many layers of history.

West Adams Heights was developed at the turn of the century and was favored by many noted and wealthy Angelenos of the time for its picturesque location on a hill, which afforded views of downtown, the ocean, and scenic landscape vistas. Renowned architects were employed to design imposing homes.

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Welcome New Members:

Lizzy Hare

SHORT TAKES:

Wellington Square Farmers Market 5th Anniversary

Sunday, March 22 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

4394 West Washington Blvd. (at Wellington Road)

The Wellington Square Farmers Market celebrates five years of providing good, healthy food and friendship on Sunday mornings. Please plan to stop by — along with the usual organic fruits and vegetables, fresh eggs, baked goods and an array of local vendors, there will be Mariachi music; face painting and a food drive hosted by the Moms group, West Adams chapter; a plant exchange; and a drawing for his-and-her adult bicycles. Plus, of course, a market basket giveaway.

In addition, there will be a simultaneous Rain Barrel truckload sale, hosted by the Farmers Market. Rain barrels, which come with spigots for hose attachments, are great for your gardens (reducing water bills) and also divert water away from municipal storm drain systems. Each rain barrel is \$85 and must be purchased in advance by March 18 at www.RainBarrelsIntl.com under the **EVENTS** tab, Wellington Square Farmers Market. But actually they are free, after rebates offered by MWD and DWP (up to four barrels per household). Again, purchase in advance and pick up on March 22, at the 5th Anniversary Celebration. ●

Anna Eriksson Bendewald Reads from “Meet Me at Pere Lachaise”

Saturday, March 21, 2:30 p.m.

Washington Irving Library, 4117 West Washington Blvd. (Arlington Heights)

Harvard Heights resident and WAHA member Anna Eriksson Bendewald is a blogger and food reviewer who has written a guidebook for the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris. She’s been visiting this historic cemetery since she was 14, researching the fascinating lives of those who are buried there — including Colette, Edith Piaf, Oscar Wilde, Rossini, Chopin, the artist Modigliani and Proust.

Bendewald will share stories about these and other interesting personages who rest at Pere Lachaise as part of the Washington Irving Library’s ongoing Literary Series. The Series presents a range of authors, thinkers, and artists from the surrounding community. Most programs are followed by a Q&A session and a book signing.

The event is free. ●

Clothing Exchange

Thursday Evening, April 16 7-9 p.m.

Back by popular demand and just in time for spring cleaning, our second ladies’ clothing exchange will be held at the home of Marianne Muellerleile, 1656 W 25th St. in Adams-Normandie. Bring clothing and accessories in good condition and take home something new to you. WAHA will provide wine and snacks. Items left at the end will be donated to The Downtown Women’s Shelter. ●

Candidates Sought for WAHA Board

ASK NOT WHAT WAHA CAN DO FOR YOU...

WAHA is looking for a few good men and women. Our Board of Directors election and Annual Membership Meeting is on Sunday, April 19, and we need candidates to raise their hands.

As always, we are looking for board members with fresh, upbeat, enthusiastic ideas. This community was founded by the best volunteers in the nation, and now is the time for members (you!) to come forward.

You need not spend an extraordinary amount of time doing tasks, but you must be committed to WAHA's goals of providing both member and community service, and its historic preservation mission of advocacy. Generally speaking, board members are expected to attend all WAHA board meetings (usually held the fourth Thursday of each month), help with WAHA's fundraising efforts, and share in the responsibility for WAHA's events, committees, advocacy, and social functions.

We don't have many requirements: a love of old houses and other historic buildings, enthusiasm for community activities, membership in WAHA for at least six months, and a desire to preserve and improve our neighborhoods. WAHA always needs expertise in fundraising, zoning issues, and historic preservation. But if you have a program you'd like to initiate, those ideas are welcome, too.

If you'd like to run for the board, please submit a brief (100-word) candidate's statement introducing yourself to the membership. We will run these statements in the April *WAHA Matters* newsletter. Submission deadline has been extended to Monday, March 16. Please e-mail your statement to news@westadamsheritage.org. If you are still pondering your involvement past that deadline but decide to run for the Board, that's OK (although your name may not be on the ballot), since all Board candidates will be asked to present themselves at the April 19 election in a very short (one- to two-minute) speech. If you have not submitted a candidate's statement to the newsletter, you are required to be present at the election itself to run for the board.

If you'd like to learn more about the requirements (and benefits) of serving on the WAHA board, please contact WAHA President John Patterson, at president@westadamsheritage.org. ●



L.A.'s New Online/Digital Heritage Tool

A new tool for protecting and preserving the character of Los Angeles' distinctive neighborhoods was introduced in late February by the Getty Conservation Institute and the City of Los Angeles.

HistoricPlacesLA is the first online information and management system specifically created to inventory, map and describe L.A.'s significant cultural resources – both those already designated and resources identified through SurveyLA. The results, which are still being input, are online so that anyone interested in the City's rich heritage – from preservation advocates and local history buffs to public officials, property owners and developers, students and visitors – can access the information by address or key words. The site was designed to be accessible to smart phones and tablets, along with computers.

The inventory already contains approximately 25,000 historic resources, from individual buildings to districts, bridges, parks, gardens, and streetscapes, including 430 historic districts, 1,065 individual Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments, 29 Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, and 300 places designated by the National Register of Historic Places. Over time, HistoricPlacesLA will also include all of the historic resources identified by SurveyLA, the multi-year effort to discover significant cultural and historic resources throughout the city (an effort now 75% complete.)

"We are the guardians and stewards of this town," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "L.A. is a city that is rich in history, but for too long its history has been torn down....This system unlocks Los Angeles' rich cultural history and puts it in the palm of anyone's hand. It is more than a planning tool – it is a knowledge tool [and it] will encourage people to truly explore our streets and be conscious of the history around us."

The HistoricPlacesLA project grew out of SurveyLA. "When we started, a systematic survey had never been done in this sprawling metropolis," said Tim Whalen, director of the Getty Conservation Institute. But, he noted, the City's "1962 Cultural Heritage Ordinance included a mandate for a comprehensive citywide survey" – yet only about one-sixth of the city had ever been surveyed, and by a myriad of different city, county, state and federal agencies, who did not always share data.

Although HistoricPlacesLA holds great promise, it appears that its full rollout will take some time. Right now, if you log onto the City's ZIMAS system (where you can track zoning information, building permits, Assessor data, and other specific information tied directly to individual properties), you will see a link to HistoricPlacesLA. However, that link is NOT yet directly connected to the individual property, and you would need to search again. You can directly log onto www.HistoricPlacesLA.org to see the current state of the site.

HistoricPlacesLA is a growing system that will develop over time as more survey work is completed, resources are added, and properties are designated. ●



**HISTORIC
PLACES LA**

LOS ANGELES HISTORIC
RESOURCES INVENTORY

Stepping Out

West Adams Heights Tour

continued from page 1

Tour highlights include the Rindge "Castle" (pictured at the time of its construction, right), built by the family that once owned Malibu and designed by Frederick L. Roehrig (known as "the Millionaire's Architect"), and the Charles I.D. Moore Residence, designed by the firm of Hudson & Munsell, architects of the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park.

Tour goers will also visit the home of actress Hattie McDaniel, who in 1940 became the first black thespian to receive an Academy Award, for her performance in "Gone With the Wind." Along with McDaniel, by the 1940s many important African-American performers (including Louise Beavers, Ethel Waters, and Joel Fluellen) made their home in West Adams Heights, and it came to be known as "Sugar Hill."

This is a self-guided tour, with the properties clustered within easy strolling distance of each other. Please, no high heels.

The "Heights of Elegance" tour will raise money specifically for WAHA's Preservation Fund; proceeds will be used to advance preservation activities in the West Adams District, including Historic Cultural Monument nominations, Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) expansions, and cultural heritage educational programs.

TICKET SALES/TOUR TIMES

Tickets purchased in advance (postmarked by May 26) are \$25 per person for WAHA members, \$30 per person for non-members, and will be held at Check-In/Will Call for pick-up on the day of the tour.

Tickets purchased after May 26 and on the day of the tour are \$35 per person. Tickets will be available at the Check-In location, 2263 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, 90018 (cash or checks only). The last ticket will be sold at 1:30 p.m. Doors will close promptly at 4 p.m., so visitors are encouraged to start as early as possible in order to see and enjoy all the tour properties.

To order tickets in advance, log onto www.WestAdamsHeritage.org or send a check made payable to "WAHA" to:

WAHA "West Adams Heights" Tour

2263 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

What is a WAHA tour without the need for helping hands? We will need docents for all the houses, from 9 a.m. (for docent training) until the end of the tour event, at 4 p.m. Volunteers will, of course, also be able to tour all of the included properties. If you'd like to help out, or need more information, please write tours@westadamsheritage.org.

More complete tour information and ticket purchase "buttons" will be posted later this month at WAHA's website, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. ●



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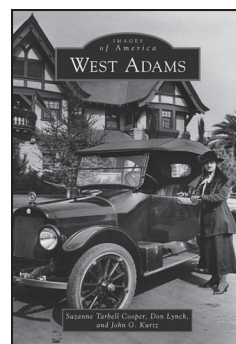
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Stepping Out

L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19

The 20th annual celebration of ideas, creativity, and the written word arrives next month in the West Adams District.

Mark your calendar for this year's Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, to be held again on the campus of the University of Southern



California. Visit scores of booksellers' booths, meet your favorite authors, listen to an awesome lineup of authors, poets and publishers speak on panels addressing a variety of literary and publishing topics, taste culinary creations, see original works of art and photography, and listen to live music at this annual event.

The Festival of Books draws more than 150,000 attendees each year, but for those of us who live nearby there's the usual easy access to the USC campus (read: park on or near Adams, and walk on in!)

General Festival admission is free.

Indoor Conversations require "free" tickets (\$1 service charge) and advance reservations. Some special presentations require paid tickets.

See more information at www.events.latimes.com/FestivalofBooks/. ●

SKYLIGHT THEATRE PRESENTS

"Prison Boxing"

Written and performed by Leah Joki

Directed by Linda Grinde

Saturdays and Sundays, March 14 - April 5

Performances at 5 p.m.

Skylight Theatre, 1816 N. Vermont Ave (Los Feliz)

Former WAHA member Leah Joki is visiting West Adams while she performs in a one-woman play based on her experiences teaching in California's prison system while living in Harvard Heights.

Joki is an actor, writer and director. She received her B.F.A. from the University of Montana in 1980 and was the first person from Montana to be accepted to the Juilliard School's Drama Program. Before she was smitten by prison-theater, Joki worked as an actor in New York and Los Angeles. Under the auspices of Arts in Corrections, for almost 20 years she taught and/or performed in almost every state prison in California.

Now, a decade later, her one-woman show, *Prison Boxing*, offers the audience a deeply personal reflection on that story.

The play opens on Saturday, March 14 with a reception after.

Prison Boxing is being produced by the SkyLight Theatre Company. SkyLight Theatre Company develops and produces new works while nurturing and educating the writers who create them. SkyLight won four Ovation Awards in 2014 for *The Wrong Man* and *Pray To Ball*. SkyLight's first year as a company dedicated to developing new plays began in 2011. Since then plays developed by SkyLight have been staged in Chicago, New York, Edinburgh, Paris, and local venues.

Tickets are \$25; reservations and ticket purchases online at <http://skylighttix.com> or call 213-761-7061. More information: skylighttheatrecompany.com. ●



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Rancho Higuera Craftsman bungalow — *Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent*

Mid-Century Modern Condo on Kings Road, WEHO — *Jane Harrington, seller's agent*

SOLD

Architect-designed Jefferson Park Craftsman — Contributor to HPOZ. *Suzanne Henderson, seller's and buyer's agent*

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Preservation Matters

\$40 Million Flyover *continued from page 1*

As noted by Jim Childs in the November *WAHA Matters* newsletter: "This noxious phenomenon has now been embraced by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7 with its revitalized proposal" - only this time higher and bigger. The height of the flyover next to the church would be approximately 43.6 feet; at some locations, 50 feet; highest point will be 71.8 feet above grade.

WAHA and St. John's Cathedral (which was informed by Caltrans as a "courtesy" in October of the project's revival) sponsored the informational meeting on December 3 and invited Caltrans and affected stakeholders to participate in a discussion of the project. In attendance were representatives from St. John's Cathedral, the North University Park Community Association (NUPCA), the Los Angeles Conservancy, Adams Dockweiler Heritage Organizing Committee (ADHOC), United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC), North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC), California Preservation Foundation (CPF), Caltrans, Orthopedic Hospital, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Figueroa Corridor Business Improvement District (BID), Mount St. Mary's University, the University of Southern California (USC), the National Trust for Historic Preservation, State Assembly District 59, and WAHA.

Caltrans, according to their fact sheet, "in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), is currently preparing an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and a Project Report to analyze improvement alternatives to the current termination of the NB I-110 HOV/HOT lanes at Adams Blvd, which currently presents a particularly challenging bottleneck." This study is funded by Metro and federal funds for \$7 million. WAHA's Preservation Committee believes a great deal of the seven million taxpayer dollars could be saved by understanding the futility and ineffectiveness of what is being proposed and stopping the project now.

Since the project involves federal funds, consultation has been initiated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and compliance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act will also be required.

The project would undeniably cause significant impacts to the large number of historic resources adjacent or near to the project site and likely result in an adverse effect. Those historic resources include but are not limited to St. John's Cathedral, St. Vincent's Cathedral, the Automobile Club of Southern California, the Chester Place Historic District, University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, the St. James Park National Register District, the Twentieth Street National Register District, the Woolen Mills Zanja, and the Stimson Mansion.

But Caltrans is coyly denying its impacts: "The Division of Environmental Planning is currently in the process of preparing technical studies for this project. Based on the information we have at this time, no direct adverse effects on historic properties are expected to result from construction and implementation of the proposed project. The project may have indirect setting effects on the Cathedral, but we cannot be certain at this point in time."

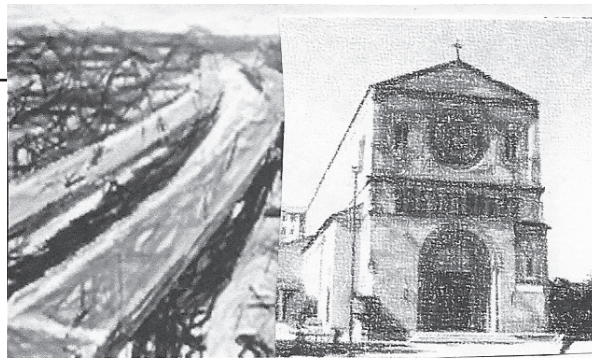
Cannot be certain at this point? May have indirect setting effects? One need only walk to the nearby 28th Street and Flower flyover ramp and stand near the pillars where you cannot hear anyone standing next to you due to the freeway-generated noise; then imagine these lanes being forty feet above you. Place this near St. John's, and you have some idea of what the effect will be.


Caltrans was asked for a visual mock-up or model of what is being proposed for people to see. Caltrans responded that because it's early in the process, they cannot provide a model or visuals. A representative from Metro said a visualization was possible "within the next month or so." Subsequently, although WAHA has repeatedly requested it, no such model or representation has been provided.

Previous Comments

While Caltrans may believe this is early in the process, for those of us who commented on the Notice of preparation (NOP) in February 2013, or viewed a similar proposal in 1990, it is not early in the process.

Did Caltrans ignore the comments to the NOP in February 2013, to wit: "The Caltrans proposal would not only degrade the beauty of our historic building, it would result in an unacceptable level of noise, vibration and environmental





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pollution directly affecting our property and environs" (letter from St. John's Cathedral). And as NUPCA stated: "An elevated bridge would certainly have incompatible massing and scale adjacent to a roster of historic resources." Many other organizations, including WAHA, made similar comments. And as ADHOC noted, the idea of a ramp to 23rd and Figueroa in 1990 was "rejected in part because of the significant negative impacts to the historic resources of University Park. All of the project alternatives that proposed flyover HOV ramps above Adams Boulevard were also rejected for that reason."

It appears that there is no institutional memory at Caltrans in spite of the clearly demonstrated outcry. The Caltrans response is "we cannot be certain at this point." Indeed, the current environmental team initially appeared to not even know that individuals and organizations had provided written comments two years ago. So we are left with the burning question: Why is \$7 million in taxpayer money being spent to demonstrate what was and is obvious to stakeholders, namely that this project cannot be mitigated nor can it be justified to go two blocks.

What is Achieved by the Project?

In their statement of facts Caltrans narrowly focuses on data that indicates that the current terminus off ramp is "a particularly challenging bottleneck." They state, "The project would alleviate the congestion and reduce the queuing and delay on the HOV/HOT mainlines and Adams Blvd. off-ramp connector." This view is myopic and short-sighted. You may relieve the bottleneck at this location on the freeway, but when you move traffic two blocks you dump the traffic at 23rd Street and Figueroa then what does it do? You've just moved the pain two blocks further to an already challenging intersection. The analysis essentially put its head in the sand and ignores the impacts on 23rd and Figueroa.

What do you prove when you dump the traffic there to save some seconds? According to their statement of facts: "The proposed elevated HOV/HOT off-ramp connector on the Northbound I-110 between 28th street (PM 20.58) and Figueroa Street Overcrossing (PM 20.92) would bypass the bottleneck intersections at Adams Blvd and Flower Street and eliminate the delay by providing the direct access to Figueroa Street."

But then what does their own data show? The issue of the congestion and reducing the queuing and delay on the HOV/HOT mainlines and Adams Blvd. off-ramp connector is focused on "peak service hours, AM and PM." The rest of the time, no problem occurs and the off ramp functions as it was envisioned. At the meeting, Caltrans presented graphs of four intersections: the I-110

(continued on page 8)

WEST ADAMS EQUITY UPDATE

Single Family Homes Sold July 2014 - December 2014

ADDRESS	BD+BD	SQFT	SOLD \$	ADDRESS	BD+BD	SQFT	SOLD \$	ADDRESS	BD+BD	SQFT	SOLD \$
ADAMS-NORMANDIE				JEFFERSON PARK				WELLINGTON & LAFAYETTE			
1612 W. 24th St	4+2	1600	\$218,500	2082 W. 29th Pl	2+1	1528	\$555,000	1642 Buckingham Rd	4+2	2490	\$1,156,000
2218 S. Harvard	6+4	5415	\$900,000	2137 W. 29th Pl	3+2	1750	\$630,000	1853 Buckingham Rd	5+3	2802	\$870,000
2927 Hilldale Ave	3+2	1612	\$360,000	2281 W. 28th St	3+2	1111	\$456,000	1921 S. Victoria Ave	5+4	3072	\$875,000
BURLINGTON HEIGHTS				2318 W. 31st St	3+2	1411	\$549,000	1926 Buckingham Rd	4+4	2876	\$850,000
1618 Cremlaw Blvd	3+2	2319	\$525,000	2914 W. 30th St	2+1	1234	\$325,000	1927 Buckingham Rd	4+3	3064	\$850,000
1621 S. Norton Ave	4+4	2000	\$670,000	3001 4th Ave	3+1	1200	\$361,000	2423 Virginia Rd	3+2	1400	\$410,000
2205 9th Ave	3+1	1554	\$399,500	3003 Chesapeake Ave	4+2	1988	\$411,000	WEST ADAMS TERRACE (THE AVENUES)			
HARVARD HEIGHTS				3003 Virginia Rd	2+1	1261	\$326,000	2411 4th Ave	3+3	2159	\$550,000
1732 S. Harvard	5+2	2697	\$658,000	3006 11th Ave	2+1	896	\$420,000				
1802 S. Oxford	4+3	2263	\$705,000	3009 Edgehill Dr	3+3	1464	\$415,000				
1913 S. La Salle Ave	4+3	2387	\$680,000	3009 S. Bronson Ave	2+2	992	\$425,000				
				4711 W. 29th St	2+1	1132	\$316,550				



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Preservation Matters

\$40 Million Flyover *continued from page 7*

Adams Boulevard off ramp, Flower and Adams, Figueroa and Adams, and Figueroa and 23rd and what would be achieved based on seconds of delay at each intersection. What their own data revealed is, if this is built, the improvements are negligible. Based on Caltrans' own graphs, at the four intersections, in AM peak hours, two intersections remain the same, one improves, and one actually gets worse. In the PM, two show minor improvement, one stays the same and one gets worse. This does not solve Los Angeles' real traffic issues and sacrifices much of what is the neighborhood character.

The Figueroa Corridor Streetscape project ("My Figueroa") has been designed to encourage pedestrian activity and multiple "modalities" (e.g., bicycles, busses, light rail, etc.) It eliminates a traffic lane for traffic going south from Figueroa and Adams placing value on a pedestrian shopping district. How can you reconcile the effort to calm traffic south of Figueroa and adding traffic north? Shouldn't value be placed on the cohesion and pedestrian accessibility of the community in University Park?

Increased Capacity-Increased Tolls

At the information meeting, Caltrans denied that the Flyover would add to the capacity of the HOT lane. An attendee said, "Adding capacity to a roadway increases the number of drivers on that roadway. Is Caltrans looking at Public Transportation alternatives?" "We are not adding capacity," insisted a Caltrans team member.

Yet in their own fact sheet list of benefits Caltrans states: "Increasing capacity at this location is key to ensuring the HOV/HOT lanes can serve additional toll users and reduce the delay."

One attendee commented: "Studies show increasing capacity in one mode of transportation to solve a crowding problem simply results in more people using that mode of transportation Therefore the proposed change/addition to the freeway is also creating the probability of more vehicular traffic. If Caltrans makes it easier to drive, people will choose to drive. Different modalities (carpools, busses, metro) need to be improved and developed, not increasing ease of use on freeways."

Next Steps

WAHA and St. John's Cathedral are mobilizing a coalition of concerned and affected parties in an effort to achieve some transparency on what is happening and gather information. If you have ever stood under the "EI" in New York or Chicago, you will have some idea of the aesthetics and quality of life involved in this proposed action. Needless to say, no one built elevated transit on Park Avenue. The blight was funneled off to the outer boroughs. Having had a freeway intersect this community many years ago, WAHA is ready to draw the line against further disintegration of our environment in addition to recognizing the obvious negative impacts to this historic community. ●



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ANNUAL CPF CONFERENCE:

Gateways to Preservation: New Frontiers

by Jean Frost

The 40th Annual California Preservation Conference will be held in San Diego to celebrate the region's pivotal role in California's historic preservation movement and how we can build on its legacy to shape the future of heritage conservation in the Golden State. The conference is scheduled from Wednesday, April 29 through Saturday, May 2 at the former Naval Training Center (NTC) – aka "Liberty Station" -- in San Diego. Join historic preservation advocates and professionals from throughout the state for several days of panel discussions, tours, and receptions where you can meet like-minded preservationists in a social setting.

Since this year's Conference is in Southern California – a mere train ride or car trip away from West Adams – WAHA members may be interested in attending some or all of the entertaining and educational programs. "Liberty Station" is the 361-acre site of the former Naval Training Center (NTC) in the Point Loma community. The NTC, which opened in 1923 and became inactive in 1997, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and dozens of the historic buildings are adaptively re-used for stores, offices, schools and other purposes. To determine what to do with the site, the City of San Diego created a 27-member commission when the base closed in 1997.

The result: Liberty Station became a mixed-use project encompassing several districts, and is the largest historic preservation project in San Diego. The original stucco of the buildings was a warm beige but during WWII the buildings were painted a dark green to make them less visible by air at night. Subsequently the buildings were painted yellow/gold and now in their restoration they are painted a coral/beige to recreate their original color.

The CPF conference schedule is varied. And to add to the festivities, on Friday there is, for free, "Friday Night Liberty," a monthly Friday open house of artist studios, galleries and events throughout NTC at Liberty Station's Arts and Cultural District. The opening reception for CPF itself is Wednesday night, and closing reception Friday night. There are packages and also one-day passes. There are tours and educational sessions. The education sessions have four tracks to choose from: Making the Case, Thinking Outside of the Glass Box: Preserving Modern Resources, The Tools of Tech, Unique Challenges in Preservation



and A Critical Look Finding Common Ground. And there is the very funny and popular "Three Minute Success Stories," which WAHA has participated in past conferences, which satirizes and humorously celebrates often hard fought preservation victories. For a more comprehensive description, please go to CPF's website californiapreservation.org.

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) (of which WAHA is a member) is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of California's diverse cultural and architectural heritage. Established in 1977, CPF works with its extensive network to provide statewide leadership, advocacy and education to ensure the protection of California's diverse cultural heritage and historic places. CPF led the bipartisan effort to create a state preservation tax credit that would have

included a homeowner credit, but which unfortunately was vetoed by Governor Brown. CPF is participating (along with WAHA) as a consulting party in Section 106 review of the Interstate 110 Transit Way Connector Project, I-110 HOV/HOT off-ramp to Figueroa Way (the "Flyover"), a Caltrans project whose environmental effects are of great concern to WAHA. CPF's annual conference alternates each year between a northern and southern California site for the annual event.

I encourage WAHA members to attend when they can. There is something very special about a gathering of the converted – people to whom preservation is integral to any endeavor and a key component to a quality of life. Conferences educate, train, inform, entertain and celebrate what is at the core of WAHA's mission and are fun to boot. The headquarters for the conference is "The Courtyard by Marriott, Liberty Station" which is nestled along the waterfront and offers a discounted room rate until March 23.

Prices range from \$165 for a one-day pass to about \$400 for a full Conference package (with lower costs if you are already a CPF member.) All study tours and mobile workshops carry an extra fee.

For more information and to register online, visit www.CaliforniaPreservation.org. ●

We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



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Calendar ✓

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Women's Clothing Exchange

Thursday, April 16 7-9 p.m.

Spring cleaning for the Ladies of WAHA – bring your lightly used womens' clothing, take home new (to you) garbs – anything not claimed will be donated to a women's shelter. (See story, page 2)

WAHA Elections and Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 19, 4-7 p.m. (see story, right)

MAY

Remembering Those Who Served - Memorial Day Weekend Event at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

Sunday, May 25 (Hold the Date)

JUNE

"The Heights of Elegance" — Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour in West Adams Heights

Saturday, June 6 (see story, page 1)



Tour the Rindge Mansion on June 6

WAHA Annual Meeting — Elections & Potluck Gathering

Sunday, April 19, 4-7 p.m.

1703 Virginia Rd. (Lafayette Square)

It's time for WAHA's Annual Membership Meeting and Board Elections at the historic Italian Revival McCoy Residence in Lafayette Square — don't miss your chance to see this special home.

The Annual Meeting will include a membership Q&A, and, of course, WAHA Board elections (see story, page 3). This is a potluck and your homemade dishes are welcome, but we also encourage you to consider supporting your local West Adams businesses by bringing a favorite dish from a local eatery. ●

WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2015. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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