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August 19, 2021

## **FOOTHILL TRAILS DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Ms. Seleta Reynolds, General Manager  
Los Angeles Department of Transportation  
Via email: [ladot@lacity.org](mailto:ladot@lacity.org)

Re: Pending stoplight Project on Foothill Blvd. in front of All Nations Church – Horse-friendly surface material requested on sidewalk

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

At the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council General Board meeting held on August 19, 2021, the Board voted \_\_\_For, \_\_\_Against,\_\_\_Abstain, to request horse-friendly surface material be installed as part of the All Nations Church stoplight Project, to accommodate safe access for horse-back riders.

Our board has been made aware of the LADOT's recent request to the pending stoplight plans to include an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk crossing where there is currently an unpaved horse path. We support safe access for all users at this crossing, which is why we request the Project be allowed to utilize a multi-use and horse-friendly surface material.

The future stoplight Project will support hundreds of horseback riders who cross from the Lake View Terrace area, across Foothill Blvd., to the Hansen Dam Recreation Area and horse trails. With so many traffic concerns on Foothill Blvd. and so few horse paths remaining in the area, it is important that all new projects incorporate safe access considerations for horseback riders.

Normally sidewalks, including ADA sidewalks, utilize standard hard pavement and include an incline from the sidewalk to the street. These types of surfaces are extremely slippery for horses due to the slick surface and slope, especially for horses with metal horseshoes. These surfaces often cause a horse and rider to slip, lose their balance, or fall. Such slippery crossings are a hazard for horseback riders and thereby all co-users.

Recommendations for horse-friendly surface materials are outlined in the U.S. Forest Service Equestrian Design Guidebook, Chapter 6 (Choosing Horse-Friendly Surface Materials). There are more than 13 alternative surface materials to accommodate horse use. For the horse

Path/Trail we propose *compacted decomposed granite*, for Roads compacted *Aggregate - crushed rock with fines*, and for Pavement - *rough-textured concrete*.

We appreciate your assistance in addressing this significant proposed safety issue and hazard as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Kevin Davis  
President FTDNC

cc: Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez

FIGURES

**Figure 1:** Hansen Dam Recreation Area with location of All Nations Church (red dot).

Proposed Modification

Reference: <https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm07232816/page11.htm>

**For horse-friendly trails and paths:** Decomposed granite resembles crushed stone. Decomposed granite, with or without fines, compacts relatively well. When combined with fines and compacted, decomposed granite is a popular surface choice for trails, parking areas, parking pads, and living areas in campgrounds. Some designers group crushed stone, crushed gravel, and decomposed granite under the single term angular rock because these materials have many characteristics in common. All are excellent for many surfaces used by horses and mules.

**For horse-friendly sidewalks and roads (blue and green text):**

**Table 1:** Table from Guidebook regarding aggregate for road use and pavement for living areas (when hard sidewalks are required).

	Surface material	Roads	Packing areas and parking pads	Living areas (& trails)	Horse areas, hitch rails, and wearing surfaces around water troughs	Wearing surfaces around water hydrants and wash racks*
Natural materials	Native soil**			X	X	
	Wood chips				X	
Aggregate	Crushed rock with fines	X***		X		
	Crushed rock with fines		X	X	X	X
	Rounded gravel without fines			X	X	X
	Sand					X
	Cinders	X		X		X
Additives	Soil additives***	X		X****		
Pavement*****	Asphalt					X
	Asphalt with chip seal					X
	Rough-textured concrete			X		X
	Concrete with washed surface			X		X
	Hard, traction friendly pavers					X

\* To reduce slipping hazards, use rubber mats in wash racks.  
 \*\* Native soils are quite variable. Consult local geotechnical engineers or soil scientists for more information.  
 \*\*\* The surface must be compacted.  
 \*\*\*\* Soils treated with additives should not be used for tent pads.  
 \*\*\*\*\* Coatings and surface washes may change the characteristics of paved surfaces, including traction and appearance.