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# City's Most Complete 'Complete Street' - \$20 Million MyFig Underway

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*Councilmembers Price & Huizar, LADOT and Planning Dept. officials joined bike and pedestrian advocates Monday to celebrate groundbreaking of MyFig – a comprehensive multi-modal upgrade along the Figueroa Corridor through South LA and Downtown Los Angeles*

Councilmembers Curren Price and José Huizar – along with bike and pedestrian advocates and Department of City Planning's Director Vince Bertoni and Transportation's (DOT) AGM Dan Mitchell – celebrated the official groundbreaking Monday for the Figueroa Corridor Streetscape project (MyFig).

The MyFig project will transform the Figueroa corridor into a multi-modal "complete street" by adding new buffered and protected bicycle lanes and pedestrian improvements, including wider sidewalks, enhanced transit stops, additional lighting and wayfinding signage. The project extends along Figueroa St. from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to Wilshire Blvd., on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from Vermont Ave. to Figueroa St., and on 11<sup>th</sup> St. from Figueroa St. to Broadway, connecting landmarks such as Exposition Park, USC, The L.A. Live Sports and Entertainment District and Convention Center, South Park and the Financial and Fashion Districts of Downtown Los Angeles. The four-mile project is located within City Council Districts 9 and 14.

"The MyFig project offers us a glimpse into the future of urban multimodal planning in the City of Los Angeles where we truly prioritize pedestrians, bicyclists and public transportation users as much as automobile riders," said Councilmember Huizar. "The end result will be a dynamic, vibrant and safer corridor that welcomes all Angelenos from Exposition Park and USC to LA Live and the Financial District in DTLA."

"This is an ambitious project to catapult Los Angeles into the forefront of multimodal transportation," said Councilman Curren D. Price, Jr. "It is just the type of innovative, forward thinking that makes this the best city in the world! People are hopping on bikes to get to their meetings, they are taking DASH to lunch and Rideshare later for cocktails. We want to see projects like My Figueroa be more expansive and we want to make sure that they are accessible for everyone, and not for just an exclusive few."

The project, which is expected to be complete in the summer of 2017, is the City's most extensive complete streets project and will feature the City's longest protected bike lanes. In all, it will provide 2.6 lane miles of protected bike lanes and 4 lane miles of standard and buffered bike lanes. The project will feature improvements at 27 signalized intersections.

On 11<sup>th</sup> Street, sidewalks will be widened and the existing bike lane east of Broadway will be extended to Figueroa. Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Figueroa Street will be part of the route of the future Downtown Los Angeles Streetcar that Huizar is championing.

MyFig achieves the aims of the City's Mobility Plan 2035, Mayor Garcetti's Vision Zero Executive Directive, and Councilmember Huizar's DTLA Forward initiative - aimed at improving public space and multi-modal transportation in Downtown L.A.

MyFig was funded in 2010 by a \$20 million Proposition 1C grant under the custodianship of the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). Deborah Murphy, who was on hand for Monday's groundbreaking, worked with the CRA on the grant through her firm Deborah Murphy Urban Design + Planning. The state's Department of Housing and Community Development awarded the funding to the City.

Proposition 1C funding improves infrastructure for new development in urban areas, with the goal of making streets, sidewalks and transit more accessible for residents of affordable housing.

With the dissolution of the CRA/LA in 2011, the project was transitioned over to LADOT.

Also present Monday was Tamika Butler, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, whose organization was part of a 2014 working group convened by Mayor Garcetti, Councilmember Huizar and Councilmember Price, which successfully addressed concerns of stakeholders, allowing the project to move forward. The final MyFig plan was approved by the City's Planning Committee, Chaired by Councilmember Huizar, in 2014.

