

ERIKA FOY

PROTECTING PASADENA

December 1, 2020

Hearing Officer Pasadena
City of Pasadena
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

CUP #6807: 790 N. LAKE AVENUE – COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

Pasadena residents have been troubled by the amount of backed-up traffic surrounding our city for years. Before COVID, it had reached an absolute breaking point on many of our main arteries like Lake Street and South Los Robles. When local residents learned about the incredible number of unmitigated projects coming in along South Los Robles, we knew we had to do something more drastic to get the attention we needed since our efforts to raise the alarm with city planners seemed to be falling on deaf ears. We organized, raised the appropriate funds, and hired PRISM Engineering to help us understand traffic reports like 253 South Los Robles and to give voice to our deep concerns regarding the need for mitigation.

Many residents are now concerned about the proposed Chick-fil-A at 790 N. Lake will again cause massive back ups on Lake and result in traffic being pushed into single family neighborhoods. While city staff has found that the proposed parking and circulation plan would not provide adequate area for safe queuing and maneuvering of vehicles, more studies beyond queuing need to be conducted as to how slower speeds on Lake will affect surrounding neighborhoods. In particular, the Department of Transportation will require a traffic signal at the Lake Avenue and Boylston Street intersection but how does this affect the movement of cars in the area overall? Residents want to know.

The current discussion surrounding traffic and new development needs perfect transparency, public engagement, and engineering discipline so that we can grow our city without creating a hopeless mess of congestion. An issue as important as this should have full transparency so that our community can really understand what DOT is laying out here and engage in substantive discussions about it. Will residents have to yet again hire a traffic engineer to study the effects of Chick-fil-A on Lake and challenge the assumptions that a light is needed if the drive thru is approved?

It has become apparent to me that the intention of DOT is to slow traffic so much that it trickles into neighborhoods with frustrated drivers. I hope this drive thru can be better evaluated if approved so residents don't have to further spend a fortune hiring their own traffic engineer to help explain in technical terms what is really happening on our city streets (as if we can't see it with our own eyes). Everyone knows our traffic has worsened over time with so much new

development, but the fact that residents have had to serve city officials privately-funded traffic reports is incomprehensible. I encourage the hearing officer to deeply inquire into residents' experiences on Lake and encourage further traffic studies if this project is approved.

Thank you,

Erika Foy