



Weekly Management Report

September 11, 2026

- 1. Synopsis** Planning Commission
Meeting on August 24, 2026
Community Development Department
- 2. Memo** Information on the Previous Los Angeles River Bridge
Project – Tracking List # 2723
Community Development Department
- 3. Minutes** Police Commission
Meeting on August 19, 2026
Police Department

MEMORANDUM



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: Justin Hess, City Manager

FROM: Patrick Prescott, Community Development Director *for P. Prescott*
Via: Fred Ramirez, Assistant Community Development Director – Planning *FR*
By: Diana Arias, Intermediate Clerk

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Meeting – August 24, 2026

- This memorandum goes over the general information of the Planning Commission meeting that was held on August 24, 2026. There was one report presented to the Planning Commission.
- Project No. 18-0003736 was presented to the Commission by Principal Planner, Leonard Bechet. The report included a Study Session for the Draft Downtown Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Specific Plan Policy Document.
- After Commission discussion and feedback to staff the commission noted and filed the report.

MEMORANDUM



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: Justin Hess, City Manager

FROM: Patrick Prescott, Community Development Director 
VIA: David Kriske, Assistant Community Development Director
By: Karen Pan, Transportation Services Manager
Christopher Buonomo, Senior Transportation Planner
Marcos Fuentes, Senior Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: City Manager Tracking List #2723 - Information on the Previous Los Angeles River Bridge Project

At the July 21, 2026, City Council meeting, Councilmembers Anthony and Perez requested a memo regarding the pedestrian bridge connecting the Rancho Neighborhood to Griffith Park, also known as the Los Angeles River Bridge Project. Councilmember Perez requested that the memo include a timeline outlining the project's history.

Los Angeles River Bridge Project (Project)

The Los Angeles River Bridge Project (Project) consisted of designing and constructing a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Los Angeles River in the Cities of Burbank and Los Angeles (Project). Included in the Project was a 330-foot long Class III bike route (shared with cars) on Bob Hope Drive between Riverside Drive and the north bank of the Los Angeles River and a 180-foot Class I dedicated bike path between the south bank of the river and the Forest Lawn Drive/Memorial Drive intersection in the City of Los Angeles. The project was intended to connect cyclists in Burbank to Griffith Park via bike lanes on Forest Lawn Drive, with the ultimate goal of connecting the Project to a planned westward extension of the LA River bikeway.

The Project would have provided a new connection between the cities of Burbank and Los Angeles, connecting Burbank residents to the amenities in Griffith Park. Specifically, it would connect the City to Griffith Park through a direct connection via bicycle lanes on

Forest Lawn Drive. In addition, the Project would be designed to connect to a planned future extension of the Los Angeles River Path. By doing so, it would connect one of the most significant regional bike paths to the Media District, the largest employment center in Burbank and one of the largest in the region. The Los Angeles River represents a 3-mile long barrier between the two cities with existing bicycle crossings available only at Riverside Drive and Barham Boulevard. These existing crossings both lack bicycle infrastructure and serve as impediments to commuters using active transportation. Figure 1 shows an aerial view of the Project area.

Figure 1. Aerial View of the Los Angeles River Bridge Project Area



Funding Source

This Project was previously budgeted at \$2.55 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25. This included a grant from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) of \$2 million of Measure R Arroyo Verdugo Highway Operational Improvement funds. Measure R Highway Operational Improvement funds are restricted funds for projects along an existing State Highway corridor and local city roadways that improve multimodal efficiency, safety, equity, and sustainability or that incorporate complete streets infrastructure.

Timeline and Status

The Project has a long history and is significant to the City's active Transportation mobility planning goals and strategies. The Project was initially identified in the 2002 Los Angeles River Bike Path Extension and Connector Analysis as a key connection between the City and future LA River bikeway extensions. It was subsequently included in the Bicycle Master Plan in 2009 as an implementation project. Staff successfully secured a federal grant in 2011 from Metro's Call for Projects grant program for the Project. After securing the grant funds, staff began the procurement process for preliminary engineering and environmental review. The results of that process suggested that the Project was significantly underfunded. To address the funding shortfall, in 2019 the City Council directed staff to exchange the 2011 federal funds for a larger allocation of regional Arroyo Verdugo Measure R Highway Operational Improvements funds.

In 2023, staff secured a design consultant, began pre-planning activities, and coordinated with various Los Angeles City agencies (including Los Angeles City Council District 4) regarding the Project's feasibility, regional impacts, and early coordination efforts. Staff worked with the consultant to develop concept alternatives and a community outreach plan. Residents of the surrounding Project area became aware of this due to early ground surveying activities and requested a meeting with staff to discuss the Project. Staff met with approximately 50 neighborhood residents on July 20, 2023, during which they expressed opposition to the Project's alignment at Bob Hope Drive. The residents cited concerns regarding public safety, homeless encampments along Forest Lawn Drive across the LA River, project operational concerns due to shared jurisdictional boundaries, and potential impacts on equestrian path usage. Following that meeting, staff briefly investigated alternative project alignments near Bob Hope Drive and coordinated with Los Angeles City Council District 4 regarding regional impacts. While the encampments along Forest Lawn Drive were subsequently addressed by Los Angeles City, staff ultimately suspended design work on the identified project alignment in light of the concerns received from the surrounding neighborhood. The feedback received suggested that additional project alternative locations should be evaluated before proceeding with final design.

The Transportation Commission discussed the project on September 18, 2023 as part of a staff presentation on the status of the City's various Complete Streets Projects. Staff informed the Commission that the project was placed on hold based on significant concerns raised by nearby residents. The Commission voted 4-0-1 to recommend that the City Council retain the funding but redirect efforts toward identifying alternative bicycle crossings to Griffith Park.

Based on significant neighborhood concerns and the Transportation Commission's subsequent recommendation to Council, the project was removed from the City's Capital Improvement Program as part of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget and Capital Improvement Program in June 2024. The Metro grant funds allocated to the project have lapsed, but remain available for the City to request to Metro that they be programmed for a new transportation project. Any unspent City funds budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program were returned to the associated City fund balance.

Timeline Summary

- 2002: Los Angeles River Bike Path Extension and Connector Analysis was completed.
- 2009: The Burbank Bicycle Master Plan identified the bridge as a capital project.
- 2011: Staff applied for the Metro Call for Projects grant and was awarded \$680,000.
- 2017: Staff began consultant procurement for project design and determined that the project was significantly underfunded.
- 2018: Staff pursued a grant application for additional Active Transportation Grant Funds, but was unsuccessful.
- 2019: City Council approved exchanging federal grant funds for additional local Metro Measure R funding for the Project.
- 2022–2023: Early planning and engineering concepts, neighborhood meeting, and Transportation Commission discussion/recommendation.
- Spring 2024: Project was removed from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget and Capital Improvement Program.

Rancho Neighborhood Specific Plan

While the Project is no longer active in its previous form, Round Two of the public outreach for the Rancho Neighborhood Specific Plan (RNSP) has addressed community interest in providing improved access to Griffith Park in Los Angeles from Burbank, by referencing the prior Project, and identifying the previous project alignment near Bob Hope Drive as well as introducing two new possible concepts for other locations for a potential pedestrian and bicycle bridge to Griffith Park. The outreach materials illustrate the two possible new locations, with notes on possible alignments and other contextual considerations. The original Project location is also included with an acknowledgement that there was previous community opposition to this location (Attachment 1). Consistent with the RNSP's goals, the bridge concepts focus on facilitating pedestrian and bicycle access to Griffith Park while reinforcing the need for separation between bicyclists and equestrian trail users.

A strategy for improved access to Griffith Park will continue to be explored with the community as the RNSP process moves forward, and the Project team will be providing the City Council with a summary of the Round Two feedback provided to the team. Community members who wish to participate in public outreach events or share their thoughts and feedback on the Rancho Neighborhood Specific Plan, including thoughts about possible bridge options, can do so at the project website: <https://www.burbankrnsp.com/>.

The Metro Measure R Arroyo Verdugo Highway Operational Improvement funds allocated for the project lapsed in mid-2026, however the grant funds remain allocated to the City by Metro to construct the project at the original location or alternative location if requested by the City Council and approved by the Metro Board of Directors. The funds could also be reallocated to another eligible transportation project in Burbank.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Rancho Neighborhood Specific Plan – Potential Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridges to Griffith Park

AUGUST 19, 2026

A regular meeting of the Burbank Police Commission was held in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 275 East Olive Avenue, on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 1800 hours by Commission Chair Hacobian.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioners Chapman, Coomes, Elman, Hacobian, Hartoonian, McKenna, and Wenzel.

Also Present: Chief Quintero, Captain Green, Sergeant Debelius, Chief Assistant City Attorney Oh, and Executive Assistant Dizon.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Chair Hacobian.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTING OUT BY COMMISSION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioners reported on attending community engagements including National Night Out across various city parks, a multi-agency DUI checkpoint (jointly conducted by BPD, LAPD, Baldwin Hills PD, and Glendale PD), "Take a Scoop Out of Crime" / Ice Cream with a Cop hosted by the Burbank Police Foundation, a 2-hour AI training course, and mandatory government fiscal responsibilities certification.

FIRST PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Appearing before the Commission were:

- Julie, Vicki Kersenbaum, Maxine, K.O., Terry Frerieden, Joe Morales, Mike Stage, Shonda Hughes, Valentine, and Paul Wallingford, who spoke in opposition to Flock ALPR surveillance, citing concerns over civil liberties, data privacy, potential misuse and stalking risks, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and error rates.

Joel Schlushman, who spoke in favor of law enforcement utilizing technological tools (including ALPRs) to deter and solve crime, advocating for civic education and strict penalties for any protocol abuse rather than abandoning the technology

Phoning in was:

- Ben, who commented on meeting accessibility and supported discontinuing the use of Flock ALPRs.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioners thanked the speakers and acknowledged receiving six or more public emails. Commissioners Elman and McKenna acknowledged rising community concern and media coverage regarding Flock. Commissioner McKenna endorsed exploring a joint public-independent cybersecurity audit. Commissioners Hartoonian, Wenzel, and Chair Hacobian expressed appreciation for ongoing community dialogue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 15, 2026, MEETING

Commissioner Coomes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Elman, to approve the minutes of the July 15th meeting. Motion carried by consensus (6-0-1, Wenzel abstained due to absence).

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Selection of Commission Officers

The Commission conducted annual officer elections:

- **Chair:** Vice Chair Elman was nominated and elected Chair (6-0-1, Commissioner Chapman abstained). Outgoing Chair Hacobian presided over the remainder of the meeting at Chair Elman's request.
- **Vice Chair:** Commissioner McKenna was nominated and elected Vice Chair (6-0-1, Commissioner Chapman abstained).
- **Secretary:** Commissioner Hartoonian was nominated and elected Secretary (6-0-1, Commissioner Hartoonian abstained).
- Outgoing Chair Hacobian was presented with a commemorative Chair plaque.

2. Annual RIPA Report Item postponed to a future meeting as the presenter was unavailable.

3. Completion of Public Safety Surveillance Technology Recommendations

The Commission held a comprehensive discussion regarding Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), Flock Safety, cloud versus local data storage, cybersecurity audits, statutory remedies under California law (\$2,500 minimum or actual damages for ALPR privacy breaches), and ethics [43–70]. Chief Quintero outlined BPD's six-point technology evaluation framework: Social, Technological (Cybersecurity), Economical, Political, Legal (Fourth Amendment), and Ethical.

4. Presentation on Department Pursuit Policy

Sergeant Debelius presented an overview of BPD's revised pursuit policy implemented March 2, 2026. The updated policy employs a "balance test" weighing crime severity and public safety risks against immediate capture need. Oversight includes officer due regard, supervisor command, watch commander live Axon Fleet camera monitoring, and Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) review. Pursuit statistics: 2025 (restrictive policy) saw 8 pursuits, 2 collisions, 4 cancelled, 5 out of policy, 0 injuries; 2026 YTD saw 18 pursuits, 3 collisions, 13 cancelled, 1 out of policy so far, and 2 injuries (suspect only). A video demonstration was shown. Illegal e-motorcycles lacking pedals are subject to impoundment.

5. NACOLE Conference Attendance

Discussion regarding attendance at the Annual NACOLE Conference in Louisville, KY (Nov 8–12, 2026; 2 commissioner spots available). Action was postponed to the next meeting for schedule confirmation.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHIEF QUINTERO

Brief announcements regarding upcoming items of note:

- **SB 707 Compliance:** Transitioning public comment from phone-in to a Zoom platform starting next month.
- **National Night Out:** Commended Lt. Fekety and staff for executing the event at McCambridge Park.
- **Staffing:** 4 recruits graduated from the LA County Sheriff's Academy in July; 2 graduating in late August.
- **September 11 Ceremony:** 25th anniversary observance in front of the police station.
- **Police Foundation Luncheon:** Scheduled for September 16, 2026, at the LA Marriott Burbank Airport.

INTRODUCTION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Already agendaized, moved to September:

- Presentation and review of the annual RIPA report.
- Request by Vice Chair McKenna for an SRO and back-to-school safety presentation (postponed per Chief's advice on timing).

NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, September 16, 2026
6:00 p.m., City Council Chamber

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Anne Wenzel
Secretary, Burbank Police Commission