The Collision of Best Intentions
Public Health, Smart Growth and Land Use Planning

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
1:00-3:30 pm

Millennium Biltmore Hotel
Los Angeles

Hosted by
- Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (SCEHSC)
- SC-Children’s Environmental Health Center (SC-CEHC)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
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Twitter Hashtag: #LAForum14
What Do We Mean by the Collision of Best Intentions?

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Why are we here today? – Because when building transportation systems and housing; siting schools, parks and gardens; or building transit-oriented development, we want to protect our health... and our children’s health!
We are also here, we hope

• To create a better dialogue between the worlds of
  – public health/environmental health scientists
  and
  – urban planners
  – architects
  – transportation, transit and bicycle advocates
  – affordable housing advocates and
  – decision-makers

ALSO to have our environmental health science friends see
the good work community groups are doing, but the
challenges that you face
THE COLLISION OF BEST INTENTIONS: SOME EXAMPLES
Some collisions created as an unintended consequence of a law called SB 375

- Designed to reduce greenhouse gases
  - Increase density of housing and mix land uses
  - Increase high quality public transit
  - Improve access to where jobs are +
  - Improve walkability
TOD – “TRANSIT ORIENTED” OR “COMPACT” DEVELOPMENT
Transit-Oriented Development

Metro Rail Stop

TOD
From the other side of the condo complex in L.A.!
Yet another view:
From the freeway looking UP

Photo by Ted Soqui from article in L.A. Weekly entitled:
Black Lung Lofts
CHALLENGE: WE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING... CHEAPEST LAND NEAR HIGHWAYS
Obesity Falls with Increased Walking and Cycling

From UCLA presentation 10/31/12

Courtesy: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

City of Los Angeles 50 Parks Initiative

SECURED NEW PARK SITES
1. 105th Street Park - LAHD/LAPF
2. 111th Street Park - LAHD/LANI
3. 49th Street Park - LAHD
4. 61st Street Park - LAHD
5. 76th Street Park - LAHD/LAPF
6. 97th Street Park - LAHD/LAPF
7. 98th Street Park - LAN/LT/DWP
8. Albion Riverside Park - BOS/LA River Revitalization Corp.
9. Arts District Park - DWP
10. Caballero Creek - MRCA/LA River
11. Carlton Way Park - TPL
12. Concord and Lowell - TPL/LANI
13. Country Club Park Heritage Plaza - CRA
14. Devonshire Arleta -
15. El Dorado Park - MRCA
16. EXPO-Westwood Greenway - BOS
17. Fulton Avenue Park (Fulton/Vanowen) - DWP
18. Gage and Western - LANI
19. Kagel Canyon Street - LAHD/LAPF
20. La Mirada Park - CRA
21. Lakeside Park - DWP
22. Lexington and Madison Park - TPL
23. McKinley Avenue - LAHD
24. Monitor Avenue Park - TPL
25. Normandie and Cordova - LANI
26. Old Fire Station 84 (Woodland Hills)
27. Orchard Avenue - LAHD/LAPF
28. Patton Street Park (Echo Boys & Girls) - TPL
29. Sheldon-Arleta Park - BOS
30. South East Valley Skate Park
Sheldon-Arleta Park, Pacoima
No easy way to get out of neighborhood to exercise . . .

Park developed on old landfill spreading grounds... between two freeways
GARDENS
ALSO... DECISION-MAKERS CONTINUE TO APPROVE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES NEXT TO SCHOOLS AND HOMES
Approved Site for New Freight Rail Yard

Rail Yard Sketch by BNSF with white letter added for schools. From Port of L.A. documents.
How do we take the exciting things happening in cities to make them more walkable and bikeable....

Photos courtesy of LA County Dept of Public Health
And ensure that public health is considered in the decision-making and design phases?

Photo from Casden Properties on Frontdoor photos: http://www.frontdoor.com/photos/see-surprising-features-of-new-casden-west-los-angeles?i=4
Sketch from Casden Properties website:
http://www.casdenproperties.com/
LA COUNTY DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH “PLACE” INITIATIVES
Model Design Manual for Living Streets

http://modelstreetdesignmanual.com/
Funded County Healthy Design Ordinance
Bike/ped infrastructure
Bike/ped infrastructure
Discussing Freeway Proximate Development
EFFORTS AT GETTING DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES TALKING
• Dick Jackson at UCLA in contact with American Institute of Architects (AIA)
• AIA has asked NIEHS to partner in discussions
• APHA has an extraordinary resolution on NATURE
2009: A group of planners, architects, etc. founded the National Academy of Environmental Design

Needs public health and environmental health scientists!

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN?