

Broadway 'Road Diet' Gets Funds, Plans Summer Work

Posted: Thursday, July 4, 2013 8:00 am

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - More changes are coming to Broadway, but this time, they won't be in the form of a new store or restaurant.

On June 28, the City Council voted to spend \$1.8 million in Measure R transportation funds for phase one of 14th District City Councilman José Huizar's Streetscape Plan, also known as "The Road Diet."

The work, set to be implemented this summer, is being called a "dress rehearsal," though it is intended as the semi-permanent implementation of the two-phase plan.

The project, part of Huizar's decade-long Bringing Back Broadway initiative, calls for Broadway between Second and 11th streets to lose a lane of traffic, resulting in one southbound and two northbound lanes.

Additionally, the plan calls for widening sidewalks, creating more sidewalk dining and increasing loading areas to help businesses.

The dress rehearsal will include the installation of temporary benches, striping and other elements to showcase what would happen permanently while funding is sought for the full-scale project, with work proceeding on a block-by-block basis.

"This Phase I Dress Rehearsal will set the stage for the full implementation of a Streetscape Plan that prioritizes people over vehicles, and will make Broadway a safer, more pedestrian-oriented street," said Huizar in a prepared statement. "This plan, along with the Downtown Streetcar and significant private economic investment on the historic street, makes Broadway's future as bright as its past."