

L.A. City Council passes landmark bicyclist anti-harassment law

BY [CARTER RUBIN](#) , [JULY 20, 2011](#)

As mentioned in [today's headlines](#)

([//thesource.metro.net/2011/07/20/transportation-headlines-wednesday-july-20/](http://thesource.metro.net/2011/07/20/transportation-headlines-wednesday-july-20/)), the Los Angeles City Council took up a motion this morning “that would make it easier for cyclists who are harassed to pursue damages in civil court, where there’s a lower burden of proof than in criminal cases.”

To the applause of dozens of bike advocates in attendance, the Council approved Councilman Rosendahl’s motion by a 12 to 0 vote.

During the public comment period, many advocates recounted their harrowing experiences of harassment and injury — having objects thrown at them and vehicles honking and swerving at them — and welcomed the opportunity to seek justice.

Councilmen Ed Reyes and Tony Cardenas in particular hoped that this ordinance, combined with the city’s robust bike plan, would make the city’s streets safe for their children to ride on. For a more in-depth recap, check out the [LADOT Bike Blog](http://ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com/) ([//ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com/](http://ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com/)), which will have all the details later this afternoon.

And while were in a biking mood, here’s some good lunchtime viewing: a documentary called “Detroit Bike City,” about the culture

and challenges of biking in the Motor City.

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Thanks for helping us cover this issue, Carter.

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[...] ordinance to protect cyclists from harassment by motorists by making it a civil violation has passed the full City Council by a unanimous vote. Now the measure goes to the Mayor's office for his signature, which is [...]