

July 24, 2025

To: Parking, Transportation, and Infrastructure Committee (PTC)
From: Emily Ferro and Richard Stanger
Subject: Harbor-Bryan Drainage Correction Project

Issue:

For several decades, the corner of Harbor Street and Bryan Avenue (see Figure 1) has suffered from a severe and chronic drainage problem. Numerous emails and phone calls have been made by concerned neighbors to various City departments, but no lasting solution has been implemented. Most recently, on July 18th, approximately a dozen neighbors met on-site with Sean Silva and Jeff Khau from Councilwoman Park's office to review the matter. Among the resulting action items was the recommendation that this issue be raised with the PTC to gain VNC support in urging the City to take permanent corrective action.

Motion:

The neighbors have asked the PTC to request that the VNC support the following motion to the City:

Due to the on-going chronic drainage problem faced by the neighbors around the intersection of Bryan Avenue and Harbor Street, the VNC requests that the City Public Works Department take positive steps to study, finance and physically correct the problem in the 2026-27 budget cycle.

Background:

This intersection has been plagued by persistent water accumulation year round, especially during every rain event for decades. Even in dry months, standing water remains — on July 18th, for example, there was visible (neon-green) stagnant water present.

City crews (LA Sanitation) have repeatedly been dispatched to pump out the water, but it consistently returns within 12 hours. One suspected cause is a 12-inch outflow pipe that channels runoff from Washington Boulevard down toward the Harbor/Bryan intersection, where it is supposed to drain toward Wilson Avenue. However, this system is clearly not functioning.

The constant presence of water has caused serious street degradation, including the formation of deep and recurring potholes. While the City (Street Services) has patched the potholes on multiple occasions, the patches fail within days due to the unresolved drainage issue, leading to loose pavement and increased hazardous conditions.

These conditions have created a range of safety hazards:

- Standing water attracts mosquitoes, contributing to public health risks.
- Trash and debris accumulate in the stagnant water, creating an unsightly and unsanitary environment.
- The water backs up the street, making it challenging to park and get out of parked cars without stepping in unsanitary water accumulation.

To address this problem permanently will require a comprehensive study, proper engineering design, reconstruction of the drainage system, and budgeted funding.

On July 18th, Sean Silva and Jeff Khau met with neighborhood residents (with Helen Fallon and Richard Stanger attending on behalf of the VNC) to discuss a path forward. It was agreed that any long-term solution will require City Council support and budget allocation in the 2026–27 fiscal year. Neighbors will continue working with Council District 11 to move these steps forward.

The group agreed that VNC support is a critical next step, and that a formal motion and a Community Impact Statement should be submitted to help secure necessary City action.

Figure 1: Location of Harbor-Bryan Drainage Problem

