



PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

STAFF REPORT

TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: Chitra Moitra
Planner **DEPARTMENT:** Planning &
Community Environment

DATE: March 31, 2010

SUBJECT: **Comprehensive Plan Update:** Discussion on Goals, Policies and Programs of Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

This meeting is intended to provide information and discussion. No recommendation for action by the City Council may be made by the Commission at this meeting.

BACKGROUND

After discussing the overall themes, vision and goals of the existing Comprehensive Plan at a study session on October 21, 2009, the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) began its initial review of the different elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The PTC completed the first phase review of the Land Use and Community Design, Housing, Business and Economics, Community Services and Facilities and Natural Environment Elements of the Comprehensive Plan from December 2009 through February 2010.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with PTC the applicability of the current goals, policies and programs within the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan concentrating on the viability of the existing document. The Transportation Element addresses various aspects of circulation, including roadways, public transit, walking, bicycling, parking, special transportation needs and aviation. It is one of the state mandated elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The attached list of individual goals, policies and implementing programs of this element should be reviewed for relevance and clarity to accomplish the Plan's overall vision.

The attached matrix summarizes the status of each of the policies and supporting programs currently in the Transportation Chapter. As we did with all other elements of the Comprehensive Plan, staff has attempted to distinguish with the matrix the policies and programs that remain relevant from programs and policies that will need substantive refinement in Phase II.

Policies and programs referred to the Phase II process are highlighted in blue and checked “x”. For the meeting on March 31st, staff is requesting that the PTC review only the unchecked (not highlighted) policies and programs and identify any additional ones that should be referred to Phase II. Individual Commissioner comments suggesting minor text changes to the policies and programs that will not be referred to the Phase II process should be submitted in writing to staff by April 7, 2010. Subsequently, staff and a PTC subcommittee will develop draft text changes that incorporate the PTC comments and that language will return to the full Commission for review and recommendation in the early summer.

After completion of this first round of review of all the elements, the Phase II round of review will be undertaken in late spring of 2010 or early summer to evaluate the addition of new policies and programs as well as modification of the existing policies and programs of individual chapters that require significant change. Those changes will focus on addressing the elements of the updated work program which are: limiting the conversion of non-residential land to residential uses, limiting the loss of retail serving uses, strengthening provision of services where applicable and addressing sustainable development.

To assist the PTC with its review, staff has provided summarized statements made by the Commissioners at the October 21, 2009 PTC meeting when it reviewed the existing Comprehensive Plan vision statements. Commissioners had the following suggestions for changes to the vision of the Transportation element.

- Incorporate the word “safe” in the vision statement.
- Emphasize “alternative modes of transport” but also respect individuals’ automobile rights.
- Include and address in the vision statement, goals and policies the effect of High Speed Rail and Caltrain growth.
- Acknowledge anticipated regional growth and its effect on the city.
- Reference “safe routes to school” in the vision statement.
- Incorporate in the vision statement concepts of Green House Gas (GHS) emissions, Vehicle Miles Travel (VMT), and Travel Demand Management.
- Emphasize alternate transportation use for commercial uses e.g. carpool, vanpool etc.

The PTC and City Council held a joint study session on March 3, 2010 to discuss the relevance and applicability of the overall vision of the existing Comprehensive Plan as well as other individual aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. City Council members and the Planning and Transportation Commissioners supported streamlining the vision statements of all the elements of the Comprehensive Plan and improving the overall clarity and format of the Comprehensive Plan. Another joint study session is anticipated to be held in late April 2010 to further discuss the direction to be taken on different aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Transportation Element Vision, Goals, Policies and Programs

PREPARED BY: Chitra Moitra, Planner

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION HEAD APPROVAL: _____
Julie Caporgno
Chief Planning and Transp. Official