

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** AUGUST 14, 2000

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** STATUS REPORT ON THE GENERAL PLAN LAND USE AND MOBILITY ELEMENT UPDATE AND ZONING CODE REVISION PROJECT

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council review and receive the following status report.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** This report updates the City Council on activities and events on the General Plan Update, Zoning Code Revision, and related activities that have occurred since July 2000.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 1998, the City Council approved a multi-year planning program and budget, which included revising the Zoning Code, preparing a five-year update of the Land Use Element of the General Plan, preparing a Central District Specific Plan, and revising the Housing, Safety and Noise Elements of the General Plan.

## STATUS REPORT

**Mobility Element** – On August 7, 2000, the Council approved an amendment of \$110,000 to the contract with Kaku Associates. The revised scope of work intensifies the traffic modeling and neighborhood outreach activities. Kaku Associates are conducting an accelerated analysis of roadway alternatives, which is due in Oct. 2000. Staff will finalize the neighborhood outreach schedules in the next 4-6 weeks and begin notifying residents and property owners in those areas.

An inventory of existing intersection capacity performance for downtown area was completed. This report evaluates the street performance under the existing traffic conditions, summarizes the traffic effects of the projects that are in the approval/entitlement "pipeline," and analyzes these future projects' impacts on the downtown area.

Land Use Element – Staff and the land use element consultant continue to work on developing the information needed for the Mobility Element model of existing traffic conditions.

Housing Element – On June 19, 2000, the City Council held a workshop to discuss affordable housing in the city, anticipating formulation of policies that will be included in the Housing Element for 2000-2005 and in other housing documents. On July 31, 2000, the Council held a follow-up to the June 19 workshop to provide direction on issues related to an inclusionary housing program. Additional Council discussion on housing supply as well as land use/mobility matters is anticipated for September. To incorporate the Council's future discussion of a variety of housing issues, completion of the Draft Element has been delayed until the Fall 2000. City Council hearing on the Element is anticipated by the third quarter of FY-2001.

The Southern California Association of Governments has not yet adopted the 1998-2005 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocations for the region's cities, but city staff is using the draft RHNA distribution of housing need in preparing the Element. The RHNA allocations will not be adopted until at least October, in time for completion of the city's draft Element following the Council's workshops.

Safety Element – A draft RFP has been completed. It is anticipated to be mailed to potential consultants in September, with consultant selection in October.

Zoning Ordinance Revision – Staff continues to discuss zoning ordinance chapters with the Planning Commission to identify policy issues that need to be addressed in the revised document. A redraft of the Sign Code has been completed. Presentation to the Planning Commission is anticipated in a public hearing in September or October.

Central District Specific Plan – Objectives and policies are being developed to form the framework for the Specific Plan. These incorporate input from the community meetings and focus groups held in the Spring.

Cultural Heritage Ordinance Revision – With assistance from a CLG Grant, a consultant (Clarion Associates) advised Planning staff and the Cultural Heritage Commission and Design Commission on revisions to Chapter 2.75 of the Municipal Code (cultural heritage ordinance). The staff also drafted an annotated outline and preliminary draft of a revised ordinance. These drafts will be presented to the Cultural Heritage Commission and Planning Commission during the first quarter of FY 2001 for advisory comments. The purpose of revising the ordinance is to improve the efficiency of the City's historic preservation reviews and to bring them into greater compliance with current standards in use throughout California.

Citywide Design Guidelines - Design guidelines are included in the specific plans for each area. A program to assemble these guidelines and to update other existing citywide guidelines will follow the adoption of the specific plan for the Central District (which will include updated and illustrated design guidelines, including guidelines for new construction in Old Pasadena).


Joint Planning Commission / Transportation Advisory Commission Meetings – A third joint meeting of the Planning Commission and the Transportation Advisory Commission was held on July 12, 2000. This was a follow-up to the joint meetings in February and May 2000, where the commissions discussed the Land Use and Mobility Elements, and their relationship to economic vitality. The two Commissions prepared a letter to the Council outlining the conclusions from their joint discussion for the Council's Transportation Policies Workshop.

A joint subcommittee of representatives from the Planning Commission, Transportation Advisory Commission, and Community Development Committee continues to meet twice each month to review the public participation program and work products from staff and consultants.


Public Outreach – Staff and consultants are developing an interactive exhibit that will be added to the Story bus, mobile planning information center. This exhibit will allow participants to locate where they live, work, or play in Pasadena and receive a personalized computer printout that lists the planning and development projects nearby. Staff will also be able to talk with the participants to get their opinions on planning issues that affect their neighborhood, as well as citywide issues, through questionnaires and surveys. The Bus will be ready to attend a new round of events in early Fall.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funds for this project have been budgeted in Planning and Permitting Department Accounts #8115-101-444200-95601, Planning and Permitting Department, Planning Update / RTKL consultants; and #8115-101-444200-95612, Mobility Element of the General Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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