

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

Date: July 24, 2006

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE PASADENA PEDESTRIAN PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Pasadena Pedestrian Plan (Attachment 1) and adopt a Negative Declaration for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Acts (CEQA) (Attachment 2).

REVIEW BY COMMISSIONS

The Pedestrian Plan has been presented to and recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission, the Design Commission, and the Transportation Advisory Commission. It has also been reviewed and endorsed by the Accessibility and Disability Commission, the Design Commission, the Northwest Commission, the Old Pasadena Parking Meter Zone Advisory Commission, the Senior Commission, and the South Lake Parking Place Commission.

BACKGROUND

In 2004 the City adopted the Mobility Element as part of the General Plan Update. The Pedestrian Plan is based on the policies adopted in the Mobility Element that support the City's vision of a livable and walkable community, and is built upon policies, strategies and guidelines developed in more than 20 adopted City plans that create a walkable and pedestrian-friendly environment. Since adoption of the Mobility Element, the Department of Transportation has been actively exploring new services and initiatives to promote walking, biking, and transit use. The Plan contains extensive pedestrian-related information in order to facilitate design, development, and implementation of pedestrian improvements. The Transportation Department took a lead role in preparing the Plan with extensive involvement from Public Works, Planning and Development, Public Health, Human Services, and the Police departments.

The Pedestrian Plan consists of two volumes:

- Volume 1 contains the background, policy framework, pedestrian needs, and implementation projects which include nearly \$91 million of current and future pedestrian-related capital improvements throughout the City.
- Volume 2 contains a comprehensive summary of the pedestrian-related capital improvement projects, the Citywide and Central District Design Guidelines pertaining to the pedestrian environment, and the Guidelines for Transportation Review of Projects.

A major task in developing the Pedestrian Plan is documentation of the City's pedestrian infrastructure, population characteristics, and travel characteristics in geographical information system (GIS) form. More than ten new citywide maps containing population, available transportation services, and traffic safety records have been developed for the Plan.

Review & Comments

To facilitate public review, hard copies of the draft Pedestrian Plan have been available at all public libraries since late February 2006 and more than 150 CDs have been disseminated to commission members, organizations, and residents. The entire document is also available on the City's website (www.cityofpasadena.net/trans). To assist with review, all referenced materials have been digitized and hyper-linked throughout the electronic version. The Plan on a CD media is available by contacting the Department of Transportation at 626-744-PLAN (7526).

The draft Plan was presented to commissions and organizations for review and comment. The following Commissions unanimously recommended adoption of the Pedestrian Plan by the City Council:

- Design Commission
- Planning Commission
- Transportation Advisory Commission

Both the Planning Commission and the Design Commission commented on the need to incorporate pedestrian considerations at the onset of project development activities. The Transportation Advisory Commission commented on the need to use the information provided in the draft plan to develop future implementation projects.

The following commissions and organizations reviewed and endorsed policies and implementation strategies contained in the Pedestrian Plan:

- Accessibility and Disability Commission
- Northwest Commission
- Old Pasadena Parking Meter Zone Advisory Commission
- Senior Commission
- South Lake Parking Place Commission
- Old Pasadena Management District Board
- Playhouse District Association
- Pasadena Nutrition and Fitness Council
- Up & Moving Pasadena

Next Steps

The use of GIS formatted data along with pedestrian-related information, such as the recent survey conducted by Public Works of sidewalk conditions, will improve project development and interagency coordination for improving the pedestrian environment as part of ongoing as well as future pedestrian projects. The Plan will also be used in analyzing development projects and to pursue grant funds for pedestrian improvements.

In response to pedestrian safety concerns identified by the Accessibility and Disability Commission at key intersections along the Interstate Freeway 210 in Pasadena, staff forwarded those operational deficiencies to Caltrans for further review. Caltrans has informed the City's about its approval and will work with the City on these improvements. Additionally, pedestrian improvements adjacent to bus stops will be implemented as part of the 2007 Capital Improvement Program.


ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

An environmental initial study was prepared for the project. The Initial Study did not identify any significant impacts, thus no mitigation is required for adoption of the Pedestrian Plan. As a result, a Negative Declaration has been prepared.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the Pasadena Pedestrian Plan will have no immediate fiscal impact. The adoption of the Pedestrian Plan will provide the City with opportunities to pursue state and federal funding for planning and implementation of pedestrian-related projects throughout the City. In the meantime, nearly \$91 million of pedestrian improvements in Pasadena are contained in the Capital Improvement Program. Approximately \$37 million has been appropriated to implementing these projects through FY06.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment 1: Draft Pasadena Pedestrian Plan
Attachment 2: Negative Declaration

**Attachment 1:
Pasadena Pedestrian Plan**