



Agenda Report

March 20, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee (March 14, 2017)
FROM: Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: NEW STREET DESIGN GUIDE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that:
 - a. The following proposed actions are exempt from review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3);
 - b. the Street Design Guide were supported by substantial evidence as summarized in the staff report;
 - c. the Street Design Guide have been formally subjected to a public review process; and
2. Adopt a resolution adopting the Street Design Guide to implement City's Complete Streets policies.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION (TAC) RECOMMENDATION:

After reviewing and discussing the proposed Guide over the course of joint workshop community meetings on January 26, 2017, and February 9, 2017, TAC unanimously supported staff's recommendation for adoption of the Guide by the City Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of the General Plan update Transportation staff is proposing that the City Council adopt a new set of form-based street design guidelines that help meet its objectives for transportation and mobility. With the expanded emphasis on improving the safety of most vulnerable roadway users like pedestrians and bicyclists, and the

community's desire for adoption of Vision zero policies which seek to reduce pedestrian fatalities from vehicular accidents. The newly adopted guidelines will have the ability to assist in determining how to balance trade-offs among travel modes and among the mobility needs of different members of the community.

Consequently, the Street Design Guide has been developed to add depth and balance to the existing standards for treatment of roadway cross sections based on its function, context, and its relationship to the local character.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015 the City Council adopted an updated Mobility Element of the City's General Plan that includes new goals and objectives, which address complete streets:

- Streets should reflect neighborhood character and accommodate all users
- Complete Streets: Streets should accommodate all users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit, skateboarders, and scooters.
- Streets should reflect individual neighborhood character and support healthy activities such as walking and bicycling.

The implementation mechanism of the City's Complete Streets policy is the proposed Street Design Guide, which focuses on applying the principles of context-sensitive solutions (CSS) in transportation planning and in roadway design where community objectives support walkable communities, mixed land uses and support for pedestrians and bicyclists, whether it already exists or is a goal for the future. This Guide has been developed in response to improving mobility choices and promoting community character through a commitment to creating and enhancing Complete Streets. The Guide introduces a design framework based on the City's adopted street types and on context types that are consistent with the General Plan Land Use Element and the City's Guiding Principles. Street types replace conventional functional classifications (arterial, collector, local) to provide more definition for street designs. The design of the street helps to define context as much as adjacent buildings define context. In that way, roadway design changes as context changes. The Street Design Guide, once adopted by the City Council, will guide future development projects and will be incorporated into Specific Plan updates.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

The Department presented the Guide as an information item to the Design Commission on January 10, 2017. A joint community workshop and TAC meeting was held on January 26, 2017, and subsequently on February 9, 2017. Comments received from Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition were responded to or incorporated in the Guide. The information was also presented at the following organizations:

- Pasadena Chamber of Commerce (February 21, 2017)
- Playhouse District Design and Physical Enhancement Committee (February 15, 2017)

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed New Street Design Guide supports the City Council strategic planning goals to improve mobility and accessibility throughout the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

The action proposed herein is exempt from review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that an activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The action proposed herein sets forth guidelines for street design standards only, and is not related to approval of a particular project. Any particular street design project would be subject to proper CEQA review at time of project approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Fiscal Impact from this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Concurred by:



ARA MALOYAN
Director
Department of Public Works

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment:

Attachment A - Street Design Guide