

Title: Transportation Element Subcommittee Discussion

From: Jeremy Dennis, Advance Planning Manager, Planning and Community Environment Department

Background

At their August 17th meeting, the Palo Alto City Council directed that the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) form subcommittees to assist the CAC and staff with a “deeper dive” into the subject matter of each element of the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan). The subcommittee meetings are to be fully noticed and publicly available, but they are not required to be Brown Act-regulated bodies. The CAC voted to adopt a subcommittee process and appointed members as proposed by the co-chairs at the October 20th, 2015 CAC meeting.

This memo provides instructions and background material to facilitate an in-depth discussion of the Transportation Element. Based on the discussion during the meeting, a revised draft Transportation Element will be prepared for further reviewed by the entire CAC. The Transportation Element was initially reviewed and discussed by the CAC at the September 8th and October 20th meetings.

What to Expect at the Meeting:

The purpose of this subcommittee meeting is to identify the issues of consensus and controversies based on the September 8th and the October 20th CAC meetings and the direction and restructured goals from the August 31st City Council hearing on the subject element. Verbatim minutes for the September and October meetings are attached. Staff has also prepared a detailed matrix intended to summarize CAC discussion, as well as public comments.

Staff requests subcommittee feedback to ensure that staff has captured comments from the CAC discussions appropriately. For the December 9th subcommittee meeting, the following outcomes are desired:

1. Confirm that staff has captured the CAC discussion points in the draft matrix
2. Identify areas of consensus and controversies for the Transportation element.
 - a. Identify controversies that need further CAC discussion
 - b. Provide a framework for CAC discussion and path to a resolution

In order to facilitate the discussion, staff has identified four ideas that had some consensus (items 1-4) and four potential areas of conflict (items 5-8) where feedback is needed. Please use this as a starting point and bring up for discussion any other issues you think need to be addressed.

1. Explore use of technology to solve problems.
2. Better collaboration and/or partnerships with schools and private companies.
3. Expand transit, especially shuttle routes and schedules.
4. Safe routes to work, shop, in addition to schools
5. Most CAC members seemed to support a regional approach to transportation planning, though there were a couple of members who thought a regional approach wasn't helpful since Palo Alto is a small city and has unique needs.

6. Most CAC members would like to incentivize transit, walking, and biking over driving, although there was at least one CAC member who said that drivers should have options and not be made out to be villains.
7. One CAC member said that the Comp Plan should not align too closely with the Bike Master Plan since it is already three years old, while another said that implementation of the Bike Plan is very important.
8. Most CAC members would like tighter parking regulations driving into the City, though there was at some who would want to make sure that parking regulation (i.e., fees) doesn't adversely affect Downtown retail or the less wealthy.

Next Steps

Once the subcommittee confirms that the matrix has captured the CAC discussion accurately and identifies issues of consensus and controversies, staff will prepare a draft Transportation Element. The element would then be brought to the full CAC for a review and recommendation.

Attachments

- A. Draft Matrix of CAC/Public/Staff Comments
- B. September 8, 2015 CAC Verbatim Minutes
- C. October 20, 2015 CAC Verbatim Minutes