



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: 2/3/2015
Placement: Set Hearing for 2/17/15
Estimated Time: 1 hour
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development
Director(s) 568-2085
Contact Info: Matt Schneider, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning
568-2072
SUBJECT: Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan
First and Second Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Public Works

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

On February 2, 2015, set a hearing for February 17, 2015, to consider the Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan.

On February 17, 2015, staff recommends that your Board take the following actions:

1. Receive and refer the Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan, dated February 2015 and included as Attachment 1 of this Board Letter, to County Public Works to include those improvements located within the County's jurisdiction in the County 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program;
2. Adopt a resolution, included as Attachment 2 of this Board Letter, directing County staff to work collaboratively with City of Santa Barbara staff to pursue funding opportunities to implement the Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan; and
3. Determine both actions to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15262 and 15061(b)(3), as specified in Attachment 3 of this Board Letter.

Summary Text:

The Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan (plan) provides concept-level plans for pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle circulation improvements in the historic and scenic Mission Canyon corridor between Laguna Street in the City of Santa Barbara and Foothill Road in the unincorporated County of Santa Barbara. No continuous pedestrian or bicycle paths, lanes, or routes exist through this corridor. Although a few facilities exist at various points, they do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The lack of continuous facilities makes walking and biking in the area difficult and hazardous for residents and visitors.

The plan is the result of a community driven effort arising from a request by the Mission Heritage Trail Association (previously known as Concerned Citizens for Safe Passage) that the County and City address pedestrian circulation along the corridor. Working collaboratively, County and City staffs conducted a community planning process to develop solutions that could yield a consensus approach. City and County public works staffs provided critical technical and planning assistance throughout the process. The Mission Heritage Trail Association also contributed to the project, such as preparing illustrations for the plan. Public outreach included two well-attended public workshops. Key concept plans received overwhelming community support (89% in favor) at the second workshop and served as the basis of the plan.

The County Planning Commission staff report (Attachment 4) summarizes the public outreach program, describes the key concept improvements, and the future steps needed for implementation of the plan. Staff made minor revisions to the plan since the County Planning Commission hearing to address comments by staff of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which provided a grant that funded 90% of the project. The changes are not substantive and consist of enlarging a plan area map, adding references, and adding some additional planning graphics as an appendix. Thus, the plan is substantively the same as the draft plan reviewed by the County Planning Commission.

Additional steps will be necessary to implement the plan. The County Public Works Department played an important role in preparation of the plan and will continue to do so during implementation of the plan. At the Board's direction, the Public Works Department will include the improvements located within the County's jurisdiction in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program. Balanced with other competing transportation projects in the county, the Public Works Department will seek grants and other funding sources as available to complete the improvements, including environmental review pursuant to CEQA and preparation of final designs.

Background:

The project was largely funded by Caltrans through a Community-Based Transportation Planning grant. On October 2, 2012, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of P&D to execute all contract agreements with Caltrans for the completion of grants for this project. The plan is the first step to implement policies and action items of the County's recently adopted Mission Canyon Community Plan (April 2014), in particular Action CIRC-MC-2.2, Policy CIRC-MC-3, Action CIRC-MC-3.1, and Policy VIS-MC-3.2. Numerous policies and implementation strategies from the City of Santa Barbara's Circulation Element and Pedestrian Master Plan also support making and/or improving walking connections such as those proposed by the plan. Attachment C of the County Planning Commission staff report (Attachment 4) lists the complete text of the relevant County and City policies and actions.

Because the plan area is located in both the City and County, the City and County Planning Commissions held a joint hearing on December 10, 2014 to review the plan. The Planning Commissions received 29 public comment letters for this joint hearing (Attachment 5). The County Planning Commission recommended by a vote of 4-0 that the Board of Supervisors receive and refer the plan to the Public Works Department for implementation and adopt a resolution directing County staff to work collaboratively with City staff to pursue funding opportunities to implement the plan (Attachment 6). Likewise, the City Planning Commission unanimously supported the plan and made a similar recommendation to the City Council.

The project is limited to concept level plans. It does not include detailed engineering, traffic studies, or environmental review. These tasks will be undertaken as part of a subsequent implementation phase. Because the project only provides concept plans for possible future action, the Board of Supervisors is not committing to adopt or fund it at this time.

The plan is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines because it involves only planning studies and does not commit the County to any course of action or commit any funds to implement the concept plans. The resolution is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it simply directs County staff to continue working collaboratively with City staff to implement the plan and, as a result, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. (See Attachment 3 for the Notice of Exemption.)

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

A Caltrans Community-Based Transportation Planning grant funded most of the project (\$88,911). The County provided a cash match (\$6,669) from the General Fund and local in-kind matching funds (\$3,000) were provided by the Santa Barbara Woman's Club and Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. In addition, volunteers with the Mission Heritage Trail Association contributed the artistic design renderings contained in the plan, equivalent to an additional in-kind match of approximately \$8,780.

The project is included in the P&D budget on page D-212 of the adopted Santa Barbara County Operational Plan, Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The Caltrans grant expires on February 28, 2015 and, therefore, the County needs to submit the final plan and invoices to Caltrans by February 28, 2015. The project is under-budget; staff expects to spend approximately \$80,000 of the \$88,911 Caltrans grant.

Implementation of the plan will begin with referral of the plan to the Public Works Department and subsequent incorporation of the plan into the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program. However, referral of the plan to Public Works does not commit any funds to implement the improvements at this time. Public Works will seek grants and other funding sources to complete the improvements on balance with other transportation planning priorities.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall provide a copy of the executed resolution and minute order of the hearing to P&D, attention: David Villalobos.

Subject: Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan

Departmental Agenda Date: February 17, 2015

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Attachments:

1. Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvement Plan, February 2015 (copy available at: http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/mission_canyon/mc_multimodal.php)
2. Board of Supervisors Resolution
3. Notice of Exemption
4. County Planning Commission Staff Report, dated November 20, 2014
5. Public Comment Letters, Joint City-County Planning Commission Hearing, December 10, 2014
6. County Planning Commission Action Letter, dated December 10, 2014

Authored by:

Julie Harris, Planner, Long Range Planning Division, 568-3543

cc:

Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation Division, County Public Works Department