



STAFF REPORT

City Council
Meeting Date: 3/13/2018
Staff Report Number: 18-048-CC

Informational Item: Update on the Transportation Master Plan Status

Recommendation

This is an informational item and does not require City Council action.

Policy Issues

The development of a Transportation Master Plan is included as one of the top six priority projects in the City Council's adopted 2018 Work Plan and is also one of the highest priority implementation programs in the 2016 General Plan Circulation Element.

Background

ConnectMenlo

On Nov. 29, and December. 6, 2016, the City Council completed actions to approve the ConnectMenlo General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements. This was a multiyear, comprehensive process that represents a vision for a live/work/play environment in the Bayfront (former M-2) area while maintaining the character and values that the City has embraced. While land use recommendations were focused in the Bayfront Area, the Circulation Element provides policy guidance that was applicable Citywide. The General Plan serves as the City's comprehensive and long range guide to land use and infrastructure development in the City.

Transportation challenges, including multimodal safety, traffic congestion, neighborhood quality of life, and regional coordination are significant concerns to the City of Menlo Park. The Circulation Element includes a number of forthcoming transportation-related programs, including those to encourage multimodal transportation, provide opportunities for active transportation to encourage health and wellness, minimize cut-through traffic on residential streets, and consider changes to the transportation impact metrics the City uses to evaluate development proposals. The Transportation Master Plan and updates to the Transportation Impact Fee were identified as the highest priority programs in the Circulation Element.

Transportation Master Plan Purpose

The Transportation Master Plan will bridge the policy framework adopted within the Circulation Element and project-level efforts to modify the transportation network within Menlo Park. Broadly, it provides the ability to identify appropriate projects to enhance the transportation network, conduct community engagement to ensure such projects meet the communities' goals and values, and prioritize projects based on need for implementation. The Transportation Master Plan, when completed, will provide a detailed vision, set goals and performance metrics for network performance, and outline an implementation strategy for both improvements to be implemented locally and for local contributions toward regional improvements. It will

serve as an update to the City's Bicycle and Sidewalk Plans. Following development of the Master Plan, the Transportation Impact Fee program update would provide a mechanism to modernize the City's fee program to collect funds toward construction of the improvements identified and prioritized in the Master Plan.

Transportation Master Plan Initiation

On May 23, 2017, the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with W-Trans, after an extensive consultant selection process for the Transportation Master Plan and Transportation Impact Fee Program.

On Aug. 29, 2017, the City Council appointed 11 members to the Transportation Master Plan Outreach & Oversight Committee. The core mission for the Committee is as follows:

- Provide advisory input and recommendations to the consultant and staff regarding the outreach process and draft Master Plan materials and submittals
- Guide and keep the project process on track to meet the key milestones
- Reach out to community members to share content and encourage participation at community engagement activities such as workshops/meetings and other planning activities

Analysis

City staff and the W-Trans team initiated work on the project in June 2017, and one of the first tasks was to collect input from the community on how the City should prioritize transportation improvements. Feedback was collected through various methods, attending community events such as the Downtown block party and Summer Concert Series at Kelly Park, hosting a project online open house, and convening three walking workshops held in different parts of the City. The outreach efforts resulted in approximately 1,000 participants. Approximately 800 people visited the online open house with another 170 people visiting the block party and concert tables, and approximately 30 people participating in the walking workshops. Staff and the W-Trans team provided a summary of the engagement and feedback received in a presentation to the Committee at their first meeting Oct. 30, 2017. From these various mechanisms for feedback and engagement, the top priorities from the community were identified to include:

- Safer bike and pedestrian crossings
- Reducing delays and travel time
- Safe and convenient bicycle connectivity
- Minimizing cut-through traffic on residential streets

Lesser priorities were related to regional and local transit service.

At their October 2017 meeting, the Committee discussed the performance measures and prioritization criteria for the Transportation Master Plan. Feedback from the Committee highlighted safety, congestion relief, complete streets, quality of life, sustainability, education and enforcement, and advanced transportation technologies as considerations for the criteria.

Since the Committee meeting, City staff and the W-Trans team have been working together to compile existing traffic and collision history data, and utilizing that data with the community and Committee feedback to develop initial strategies and recommendations that the City could implement to address transportation challenges. The recommendations will include program strategies and infrastructure projects that address safety, active transportation, congestion relief, green infrastructure, transit, safe routes to school, and transportation demand management. When the W-Trans team analyzed the data, the collision history highlighted four key corridors (Willow Road, Bayfront Expressway, El Camino Real and Sand Hill Road) in

the City that should be prioritized due to higher rates and severity of collision patterns. In addition, some of the recommendations will require potential trade-offs due to limiting factors such as available right of way and costs.

Staff will be returning to the Committee March 20, 2018, to present the draft initial strategies and recommendations focusing on the high priority corridors. The purpose of this meeting will be to request feedback on the recommendations and potential trade-offs. For example, with limited available right of way on Willow Road, should the recommendations focus on reducing congestion and travel time by adding capacity or providing space for improved transit, bicycle facilities, or streetscape improvements to encourage pedestrian activity? Following the Committee meeting, staff and the W-Trans team will refine the high priority corridor recommendations and develop draft Citywide recommendations and strategies. These recommendations will be released through both an in person and online open house to gather feedback from the community on the proposed strategies and recommendations and prioritization of projects.

The project schedule is summarized below:

Draft Strategies and Recommendations for High Priority Corridors	March 2018
Draft Citywide Strategies and Recommendations	May 2018
Community Open House (in person and online)	May 2018
Draft Transportation Master Plan	December 2018
Final Transportation Master Plan	June 2019
Draft Transportation Impact Fee Update	September 2019
Final Transportation Impact Fee Update	December 2019

Major project milestone progresses and deliverables will be posted on the City project website (menlopark.org/TMP).

Attachments

There are no attachments.

Report prepared by:
Kristiann Choy, Senior Transportation Engineer

Report reviewed by:
Nicole H. Nagaya, Assistant Public Works Director

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