

FAQ

ABOUT THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN?

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 improvements to be implemented locally and for local contributions towards regional improvements. The key goals of the Transportation Master Plan, as identified through the City's ConnectoMenlo Circulation Element adopted in November 2016 and the Climate Action Plan, are:

Safety:

Vision Zero – Eliminate traffic fatalities and reduce the number of non-fatal collisions by 50% by 2040.

Sustainability:

Enable the City to meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan, including a 27 percent greenhouse gas emission reduction from 2005 levels by 2020.

Mobility Choice:

Design transportation projects to accommodate all modes and people of all abilities. Encourage the use of lower emission modes such as walking, biking and transit.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN, AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?

The Transportation Master Plan will allow the City to bridge the policy framework within the adopted Circulation Element and project-level efforts by:

- Identifying a comprehensive list of citywide infrastructure projects and strategic programs to enhance the transportation network;
- Updating the City's Bicycle Transportation Plan and Sidewalk Master Plan;
- Ranking the individual projects and programs for implementation using community-set goals and criteria; and
- Identifying potential funding/financing options for implementation.

Without a Transportation Master Plan, the City can still continue to pursue individual projects for grants and/or construction efforts. However, these projects are often lacking context and a relationship to the broader transportation network and City goals. Without a Master Plan, as priorities evolve over time, the City must continually re-prioritize projects, which reduces efficiency, lengthens implementation timelines, and limits effectiveness of grant pursuits to aid in funding opportunities. In addition, without the Plan, the City's Transportation Impact Fee program, last updated in 2009, would not be updated with transportation projects that reflect the City's current goals and priorities.

PROJECT TASKS TIMELINE

COMPLETED

June 2017	Project Initiated
August 29, 2017	City Council appointed Oversight & Outreach Committee (OOC)
August 2017- October 2017	Community Engagement on the Plan vision and key areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 1,000 community members participated in outreach at Downtown Block Party, Summer Concert series, 3 workshops, and online open house• Top priorities resulting from outreach:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Safer bike and pedestrian crossings– Reducing delays and travel time– Safe and convenient bicycle connectivity– Minimizing cut-through traffic on residential streets
October 30, 2017	Oversight & Outreach Committee Meeting #1 Reviewed performance measures and prioritization criteria
November 2017- February 2018	Staff and Consultant Effort <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refined and finalized performance measures and prioritization criteria• Reviewed existing traffic data, collision history• Reviewed community-identified concerns from fall 2017 engagement Analysis 4 showed 4 key corridors as areas of focus: Bayfront Expressway, Willow Road, El Camino Real, and Sand Hill Road
March 14, 2018	City Council Meeting Status Update
March 20, 2018	Oversight & Outreach Committee Meeting #2 Reviewed recommendations for Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road
March 27, 2018	City Council Meeting Status Update Requested staff return with regular business item to review policy direction and scope of work
April 17 & 24, 2018	City Council Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assigned Councilmembers as co-chairs for the OOC;• Focused improvements on Bayfront Expressway; and• Modified the scope of work to add four OOC meetings, two Complete Street Commission meetings, and a potential community workshop.
May 9, 2018	Complete Streets Commission Meeting #1 Reviewed City Council-adopted scope, goals, and prioritization criteria
May 22, 2018	City Council Meeting Reviewed modified scope of work

UPCOMING

May 30, 2018	Oversight & Outreach Committee Meeting #3 Review City Council-adopted scope, goals, prioritization criteria and role of OOC
Late June 2018	Release Citywide improvement recommendations¹
July/August 2018	Oversight & Outreach Committee Meetings #4, 5, and 6 Review recommendations for north, central, and south areas of City
July/August 2018	Complete Streets Commission Meeting #2 Review bicycle and pedestrian network recommendations
Fall 2018	Community Workshop and Online Open House
Early 2019	Release draft Transportation Master Plan
Spring 2019	Oversight & Outreach Committee Meeting #7 Review draft Transportation Master Plan
Spring 2019	Complete Streets Commission Meeting #3 Review draft Master Plan and make recommendations to the City Council
Summer 2019	City Council review and adoption of Transportation Master Plan
Summer/Fall 2019	Develop Fee program update (including OOC #8)

1. At least one week prior to the scheduled OOC #4

WHAT IS THE OVERSIGHT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE?

The Oversight and Outreach Committee (OOC) is a Brown Act body appointed by the City Council to:

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

The Oversight and Outreach Committee comprises 11 members: two at-large members, two members of the City Council, three members from local organizations, and one member from each of the following City commissions:

- Complete Streets Commission
- Planning Commission
- Environmental Quality Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission

HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST TO CONSTRUCT THE CITYWIDE IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS PROJECT LIST AND HOW WILL THE CITY GET FUNDING FOR THEM?

The Transportation Master Plan will develop preliminary cost estimates for each improvement identified in the project list. These estimates will be used to update City's Transportation Impact Fee which is charged to new development based on land use and size.

Funding opportunities for these improvements could include: existing allocated City funds, local/regional/federal grants, bonds/loans, and private funds collected through the City's Transportation Impact Fee program.

WHAT IS A TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?

In essence, a Transportation Impact Fee program ensures that new development and redevelopment pays a proportional fair share contribution for the cost of new transportation infrastructure that is deemed necessary and reasonably related to accommodating the impact of new development within the City limits. Fees collected under this program will be used to fund the construction of transportation improvements in conjunction with other funds (e.g. grants, bonds, loans, etc.). Menlo Park last updated its Transportation Impact Fee program for new development and redevelopment in October 2009. The fees are adjusted each year based on an industry construction cost index, but the projects included in the plan have not been updated since 2009.

As a result, after the completion of the Transportation Master Plan, the City will update the current Transportation Impact Fee program. The update would provide a mechanism to modernize the City's fee program to collect funds toward construction of improvements identified and prioritized in the Transportation Master Plan.

WILL THE COMMUNITY HAVE A CHANCE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE CITYWIDE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST AND/OR SUGGEST NEW PROJECTS TO BE INCLUDED ON THIS LIST?

Yes, the citywide improvement project list is tentatively expected to be released in late June 2018 and reviewed by the community during the community workshop and online open house tentatively scheduled for Fall 2018. The community will also be able to attend and provide feedback at the Oversight & Outreach Committee meetings #4, 5, and 6 and Complete Streets Commission meeting #2, when those advisory bodies are expected to provide their feedback.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA USED FOR PROJECT RANKING, AND WILL THE COMMUNITY HAVE A CHANCE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON HOW PROJECTS WILL BE PRIORITIZED?

Yes, a scoring system for the finalized list of prioritization criteria is expected to be developed and reviewed by the community during the community workshop and online open house tentatively scheduled for fall 2018. The finalized list of prioritization criteria include the following:

- Safety
- Congestion Relief
- Ease of Implementation
- Transportation Sustainability
- Location of Schools
- Sensitive Populations (daycares, senior centers, communities of concern)
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction/Person Throughput
- Opportunities for Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Cost

THE PROJECT LIST HAS MANY TRANSPORTATION RELATED ACRONYMS, TERMINOLOGY, AND TECHNICAL TERMS. HOW CAN THE CITY MAKE THIS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND?

As part of the release of the citywide improvement recommendations project list, there will be a collection of exhibits (a "toolbox") designed to help illustrate typical recommendations. The community is also encouraged to reach out to City staff for any clarification if needed.



Questions? Visit the Project Website!

Stay updated on our progress and new opportunities for participation at the City's website:
www.menlopark.org/tmp

Or Contact Us:

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