



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Council Meeting Date: January 13, 2015

Staff Report #: 15-005

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**                    **Update on the ConnectMenlo (General Plan and M-2 Area Zoning Update) Schedule and Events**

---

### RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and no action is required.

### POLICY ISSUES

The General Plan and M-2 Zoning update process will consider a number of policy issues. There is no policy issue related to this staff report.

### BACKGROUND

On December 16, 2014, the City Council accepted the Guiding Principles for the ConnectMenlo project. On December 18, a community workshop was held to kick off work on developing the land use alternatives. On December 30, an online survey was launched asking people to rank preferences across three potential land use alternatives and provide feedback. On January 8, 2015, an open house is being held to provide another opportunity for people to learn about the alternatives process and participate in the survey. The deadline for responding to the online survey has been extended to January 20, 2015.

Another upcoming milestone is the release of the existing conditions reports addressing Land Use, Circulation, and Economics to support the ConnectMenlo project. These reports are complemented by a Community Character Report that documents unique features of the city's many neighborhoods. These will be released as Public Review Drafts in order to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on them. The target release date is the week of January 12. Once they are released, the comment deadline will be approximately four weeks thereafter.

### ANALYSIS

This staff report serves as an update regarding the upcoming schedule and events related to the ConnectMenlo project over the next few months. This portion of the process is focused on developing a "Preferred Alternative" that will be used for purposes of conducting the environmental and fiscal reviews for the process, and for developing General Plan and zoning policies and standards. The milestone for this stage of the process will be Council acceptance or selection of the Preferred Alternative, similar to the

recent milestone regarding the Guiding Principles. Between now and this milestone in April 2015, there will be a series of nine public meetings of various types.

A joint session of the Planning Commission and City Council that was originally targeted for later January or early February was ultimately calendared for February 24 due to scheduling conflicts. Given this delay, which would have an impact on the overall schedule, staff and consultant team have revisited the series of meetings and believe that the February 24 joint session could be consolidated with another joint session that was targeted for April and the consolidated session could be held in the March timeframe. By consolidating the session, the overall schedule can be maintained and the session could be informed by another round of community workshops. The attached schedule represents the recommended sequence of events and targeted dates that would maintain the overall schedule and still provide ample opportunity for input prior to selecting a Preferred Alternative. This schedule introduces two informational items for reporting out to the Planning Commission and City Council separately. Based on this schedule, the February 24 City Council meeting would revert to a regular meeting and staff would coordinate with the Council, Planning Commission and GPAC respectively to confirm specific meetings dates with a goal of selecting a Preferred Alternative by mid-April 2015. As events unfold, staff will keep the Council informed if this schedule needs to be revisited.

## **IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES**

The General Plan Update scope of services and budget was approved by the City Council on June 17, 2014.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The General Plan and M-2 Zoning update is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared at the appropriate time in the process.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. In addition, the City sent an email update to subscribers of the ConnectMenlo project page, which is available at the following location: [www.menlopark.org/connectmenlo](http://www.menlopark.org/connectmenlo). This page provides up-to-date information about the project, allowing interested parties to stay informed of its progress and allow users to sign up for automatic email bulletins, notifying them when content is updated or meetings are scheduled.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. ConnectMenlo Upcoming Activities and Events

Report prepared by:

*Justin Murphy*

*Assistant Community Development Director*

## ConnectMenlo Upcoming Activities and Events\*

Event	Date	Time	Location
Release Public Review Draft Existing Conditions Reports	Week of January 12, 2015	na	website
End On-Line Survey on Land Use Alternatives	Tuesday, January 20, 2015	na	website
GPAC Meeting #4 – Review Findings from Workshop #2 and Land Use Alternatives	Wednesday, January 28, 2015	4-6:00 p.m.	TBD
Comment Deadline for Public Review Draft Existing Conditions Reports	Week of February 9, 2015	na	na
Planning Commission Status Report (no consultant in attendance)	Monday, February 9, 2015	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
City Council Status Report (no consultant in attendance)	Tuesday, February 10, 2015	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
GPAC Meeting #5 – Discuss Preferred Alternative	Thursday, February 12, 2015	6-8:00 p.m.	TBD
Workshop #3 (1 of 2) – Review Preferred Land Use Alternative	Thursday, March 12, 2015	7-9:00 p.m.	TBD
Workshop #3 (2 of 2) – Review Preferred Land Use Alternative	Thursday, March 19, 2015	7-9:00 p.m.	TBD
GPAC Meeting #6 – Review Findings from Workshop #3	Wednesday, March 25, 2015	6-8:00 p.m.	TBD
Joint City Council/Planning Commission Meeting on Preferred Land Use Alternative	Tuesday, March 31, 2015 <b><i>(Potential Special Meeting)</i></b>	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
City Council Meeting on Acceptance of Preferred Land Use Alternative	Tuesday, April 14, 2015	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
<b><i>Estimated Completion of Overall Project</i></b>	<b><i>Late June 2016</i></b>		

\*Note: Actual meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK