



REPORT NO. PC-16-027

DATE ISSUED: February 17, 2016

ATTENTION: Planning Commission, Agenda of February 25, 2016

SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO MOBILITY PLAN – DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY PLANNING AREA – PUBLIC WORKSHOP

REFERENCE: http://www.downtownsdmobility.com/app_pages/view/125

SUMMARY

This is an information item to provide the Planning Commission with an opportunity to learn about the Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan. No action is required on the part of the Planning Commission at this time.

BACKGROUND

Civic San Diego (“CivicSD”) began preparing the Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan (“Mobility Plan”) with its consultant Chen Ryan and Associates in early 2014 to establish a master plan for policies, programs, and projects which will improve overall mobility throughout the Downtown Community Plan area (“Downtown”) and provide connections to surrounding communities and the region’s transportation network. The Mobility Plan project is funded jointly by the Downtown Parking District and an Active Transportation Program Grant awarded by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). The goals of the project were as follows:

1. To establish a master street program, with specific reductions in vehicular travel lanes on certain streets, which can then encourage and facilitate enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities to allow for comprehensive implementation;
2. To evaluate and provide specific vehicular travel lane configurations for all streets (number of travel lanes, one-way vs. two-way circulation);
3. To designate distinct streets where different individual modes of travel take priority, such as walking, bicycling, or taking transit;
4. To designate specific bicycle improvements on certain streets consistent with the SANDAG San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan and the City of San Diego Master Bicycle Plan including, but not limited to, cycle tracks, bike lanes, bike boulevards and other bicycle facilities. It should be noted that this detailed evaluation of the downtown bicycle circulation system may result in variations to these existing plans;

5. To connect downtown's bicycle circulation with surrounding communities and transit facilities to encourage everyday commuter and recreational bicycle trips within the region;
6. To designate specific enhanced pedestrian improvements on certain streets, including but not limited to, widened sidewalks, corner bulb-outs that reduce pedestrian crossing distances, and linear park promenades;
7. To provide for sustainable street designs including stormwater infiltration and reduction in stormwater runoff as well as flooding;
8. To provide a range of alternative bicycle and pedestrian improvements for all streets;
9. To provide for parking design and solutions to maximize public on-street parking that complements pedestrian and bicycle improvements;
10. To encourage street designs that allow for temporary street closures for public and community events;
11. To explore and identify appropriate transportation demand management options;
12. To complete a community-wide traffic analysis, including potentially the establishment of new vehicular trip generation rates and new standards for LOS thresholds for downtown and other urban, mixed-use environments, to facilitate prompt implementation of the Downtown Mobility Plan improvements without further traffic studies or environmental review;
13. To engage the public through public workshops and presentations to established community groups in developing a consensus and broad support for innovative street designs;
14. To provide policies and implementation strategies to allow for the timely and phased implementation of improvements by both the public and private developments in a cost effective manner; and,
15. To provide preliminary cost estimates for various implementation projects recommended by the plan.

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was formed with key agency stakeholders including staff members from the City of San Diego, SANDAG, and MTS in order to provide feedback as the Mobility Plan was crafted. Two public workshops were held to solicit input from the public, and the third public workshop will be held Tuesday, February 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the Central Library Neil Good Auditorium. A project website was also established to provide a variety of information on complete streets, mobility, and this planning effort and to obtain additional public input.

DISCUSSION

The Draft Mobility Plan lays out a vision for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Downtown. A series of one-way and two-way Class 4 cycleways, or cycle tracks, are proposed to connect throughout Downtown and into surrounding communities. Cycleways are designed to be located between the existing street curb and the adjacent parking lane, which is moved away from the curb line by 12-13 feet through the elimination of one of the three vehicular lanes. It is hoped that the complete network of Cycleways can be implemented at the same time in order to create a safe bicycle circulation system.

The Draft Mobility Plan also proposes a series of Greenways on seven streets. Greenways consist of a 30-32 foot wide pedestrian promenade/linear park where one travel lane and one parking lane are removed to widen the sidewalk area on one side of the street. The Greenways will connect public parks and other attractions to enhance the pedestrian experience throughout Downtown. Civic San Diego is working on the first Greenway, the 14th Street Pedestrian Promenade Master Plan at this time and has obtained a SANDAG Active Transportation Grant to construct the first block of this Greenway that will connect City College to Barrio Logan, traversing the East Village and connecting to the recently completed Fault Line Park and the future East Village Green park under design.

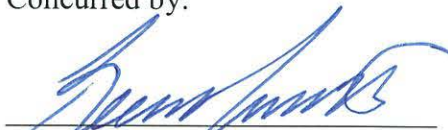
The Draft Mobility Plan, draft amendments to the Downtown Community Plan Transportation (Mobility) Chapter, and the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) are available for review at http://www.downtownsdmobility.com/app_pages/view/125. Staff will be making presentations to a variety of community groups and organizations over the next month and then will finalize the documents for formal review by the Downtown Community Planning Council, Civic San Diego Board of Directors, Planning Commission, and City Council. It is anticipated that the Planning Commission public hearing will be scheduled in mid-late April.

Respectfully submitted,



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Concurred by:



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