



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 6

Date: April 5, 2016
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director
Subject: Adopt City of El Cerrito Active Transportation Plan and Approve Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

ACTION REQUESTED

Continue the public hearing from October 6, 2015 and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution approving the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and adopting the City of El Cerrito Active Transportation Plan.

DISCUSSION

On October 6, 2015, the City Council opened a public hearing to consider the City of El Cerrito Active Transportation Plan (“Plan”) and associated Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. City staff and our transportation consultant presented the background, goals, and key elements of the Plan; its development process including public engagement and public comments; consistency with the General Plan and other City planning documents; environmental evaluation and documentation; and the Planning Commission’s recommendation for City Council adoption of the Plan with some changes to Policy 3-1. As this item was continued from October 6, 2015, please refer to the Agenda Bill (<http://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5121>) from that meeting for more information on the Plan.

After hearing the presentation, receiving public testimony, and asking questions of City staff, the City Council then passed a motion to appoint Councilmember Abelson and Mayor Lyman to a Council subcommittee to review the Plan with City staff addressing any concerns they may have and to continue the public hearing to a future meeting of the City Council. Over the last several months, the Council subcommittee and City staff communicated both in writing and in person to discuss various concerns regarding the Plan, specifically the draft final version dated August 2015.

The current version of the Plan dated February 2016, which is before the Council tonight, reflects public comments to date, the Planning Commission revisions, and comments from the City Council subcommittee.

The changes are summarized below:

- Enhanced accessibility elements by adding two policies (Policy 2-7 and 2-8), highlighting accessibility in several recommended actions, changing Plan terminology away from focus area, medium and low priority projects to detailed projects and additional projects, adding prioritization criteria related to accessibility, and identifying accessibility improvements that are part of the detailed projects; and
- Restructured Chapters 2, 4 and 5 of the Plan to make the discussion regarding policies, programs, practices, recommendations, and projects more cohesive throughout the Plan;
- Clarified terminology and reformatted some tables and figures to improve overall readability of the Plan; and
- Made various minor edits and corrections throughout the Plan.

Included in the Council's packet are the draft City Council Resolution (Attachment 1) including the Plan dated February 2016 (Attachment 1, Exhibit A) and Environmental Documents (Attachment 2) – including the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Attachment 2, Exhibit A), Response to Comments (Attachment 2, Exhibit B) and the Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program (Attachment 2, Exhibit C).

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The City's Strategic Plan articulates the mission of the City to serve, lead, and support our diverse and transit-rich community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety, and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future. The Plan directly implements several of the goals and strategies, and is consistent with the overall Strategic Plan. The primary goals and strategies furthered by the Plan include:

- *Goal E: Ensure the public's health and safety*
 - Continue to work with local partners (i.e. BART, the school district, other communities, East Bay Regional Park District) on a coordinated approach to public safety.
 - Explore innovative and best practices for promoting public health (e.g., smoking ordinances, nutrition, obesity prevention, living wage, and strategies to promote walking/biking).
- *Goal F: Foster environmental sustainability citywide*
 - Encourage alternative modes of transportation to the single occupancy vehicle
 - Implement the City's Climate Action Plan by reducing vehicle miles traveled (by creating a well connected pedestrian, bicycle and transit-oriented urban form that will make it easier for residents and visitors to leave their car behind).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines require preparation of an Initial Study to identify whether a plan or project will have a significant effect on the environment. For projects with potentially significant impacts, proposed mitigations may be included as part of the environmental review process to ensure that such impacts are mitigated to a less than significant level where possible. The City prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Plan to evaluate the impacts of the proposed programs and projects to facilitate streamlined implementation in the future. The Plan did not require an Environmental Impact Report as no impacts were identified which could not be mitigated to a less than significant level as part of the project.

The Draft IS/MND was made available for public and agency review and comment from June 26 through July 27, 2015. The City received one comment from the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). This comment and the City’s response have been included in this packet (Attachment 2, Exhibit B). The City then prepared a Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program (Attachment 2, Exhibit C) to summarize the mitigations required during implementation of this Plan.

On August 19, 2015, the Planning Commission voted affirmatively to recommend adoption of the MND to the City Council. The CEQA actions before the City Council tonight include approving the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct or immediate costs associated with the action requested tonight. Implementation of the Plan will require funding over many years as the total cost of improvements identified is estimated to be approximately \$37 million including about \$13 million for the detailed projects. The City will need to utilize a combination of federal, state and local funds, as well as, work with developers to contribute to improvements associated with their projects. Some project costs may be integrated into other project costs, such as bike lane striping during a paving project, installation of bike racks during construction or improvement of a facility, or the inclusion of pedestrian improvements during a streetscape beautification project.

Specific cost estimates were developed for the nine detailed projects to assist in grant applications and external funding requests. These are planning-level estimates that will need to be refined as projects are further developed and exclude additional environmental costs and any potential right-of-way acquisitions. Subsequent City Council actions would be needed to appropriate funding to any of the proposed projects, as well as, include them in the City’s Capital Improvement Program.

Adoption of the Plan positions the City to be more competitive for and leverage external funding sources.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed actions and found that legal considerations have been addressed.

Reviewed by:



Scott Hanin, City Manager

Attachments:

- 1) Draft Resolution approving the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and adopting the Active Transportation Plan and Exhibit A: Active Transportation Plan dated February 2016
- 2) Attachment 2 Environmental Documents
 - a. Exhibit A: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - b. Exhibit B: Response to Comments
 - c. Exhibit C: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO APPROVING THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATING MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF EL CERRITO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

WHEREAS, in June 2007, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-56 the City's first Circulation Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians ("Circulation Plan") to guide future investments and improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, as called for in the Circulation Plan, the City has completed a variety of improvements including the first city bike lanes on Carlson Boulevard, numerous city sidewalk and pedestrian safety projects, rehabilitated the Ohlone Greenway, upgraded Ohlone Greenway crossings and provided bicycle routes with sharrows on several streets; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the City successfully applied for funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Transportation Development Act funds (MTC-TDA Article 3) to update the Circulation Plan to the Active Transportation Plan ("Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan is intended to provide a blueprint for continuing the City's investment in improving safety and providing facilities and infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians, based on the changing demands and standards as well as the current goals of the City; and

WHEREAS, the planning process began in 2013 and included substantial public engagement including a community workshop in July 2013 to evaluate existing and proposed conditions, a bike audit in August 2013 to ride some of the proposed bicycle facilities, a walking audit in August 2013 to tour a series of facilities, a second community workshop in October 2013 to present conceptual designs for focus area projects, and a final community workshop in July 2015 to present the draft plan for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was developed to incorporate community input and common best practices, to meet the city's Climate Action Plan goals, be consistent with various plans including the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, Urban Greening Plan, Ohlone Greenway Master Plan, and ADA Transition Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is in compliance with the California Transportation Commission's adopted Active Transportation Program Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the draft Plan was released for public review in June 2015 and was revised based on public comments and presented to the Planning Commission as a final draft (August 2015); and

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Attachment 1

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission heard public comment on the final draft Plan and unanimously voted to recommend City Council adoption of the final draft Plan with some changes to Policy 3-1; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the City released for a 30-day public review period a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, which identified and evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City received one comment on the draft Initial Study from the Department of Transportation and prepared a Response to Comments and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program available for review on August 13, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2015, the City Council opened a public hearing to consider the Plan and associated Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program;

WHEREAS, at the October 6, 2015 meeting after receiving public testimony and asking questions of City staff, the City Council then passed a motion to appoint a Council subcommittee to review the Plan with City staff and to continue the public hearing to a future meeting of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Plan dated February 2016, reflects public comments to date, the Planning Commission revisions, and comments from the City Council subcommittee.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito, based on its review and consideration of the Active Transportation Plan and associated Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and all public testimony:

1. Finds that the Active Transportation Plan is in the public interest and will advance the health, safety, and general welfare of the City of El Cerrito.
2. Finds that the Active Transportation Plan is consistent with the El Cerrito General Plan.
3. Hereby approves the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigating Monitoring and Reporting Program, and adopts the Active Transportation Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

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Attachment 1

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on April 5, 2016, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on April __, 2016.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor



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**Agenda Item 6 Active Transportation Plan
Attachment 1**

The Active Transportation Plan, dated February 2016, including appendices is available for review at <http://el-cerrito.org/atp>.

Below are direct links to the document, which has been divided for easier downloading:

- February 2016 Plan : <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5669>
- Appendix A: Crosswalk Policy at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5670>
- Appendix B: Relationship to Other Plans at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5671>
- Appendix C: Conformance with ATP Guidelines at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5672>
- Appendix D: Active Transportation & Transit at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5673>
- Appendix E: Grant Funding Sources at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5674>
- Appendix F: Additional Fact Sheet at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5675>
- Appendix G: Comments Received at Public Workshops at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5676>
- Appendix H: Prioritized Projects at <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5677>

Hardcopies are also available for review at:

The Office of the City Clerk, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
and
The El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito



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**Agenda Item 6 Active Transportation Plan
Attachment 2**

The Environment Documents for Active Transportation Plan are available for review at <http://el-cerrito.org/atp>.

Below are direct links to the documents:

- Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND): <http://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5105>
- Response to Comments Memo: <http://ca-elcerrito.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5106>
- Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program: <http://ca-elcerrito.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5107>

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