



# *City of San Carlos*

Circulation Element Update

September 15, 2004

Meeting -2-



## TRAFFIC and TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 15, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Location- City Hall- Council Chambers  
600 Elm Street, San Carlos

You are hereby invited to attend the Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting to provide public commentary on the City's Circulation Element of the General Plan.

### Agenda

Public Comment Session  
San Carlos General Plan – Circulation Element

For further information, you may contact Liz Cullinan (Planning Director) at 802-4264



## Technical Advisory Staff:



- San Carlos Public Works Department
- San Carlos Planning Department
- San Carlos Police Department

# *Background*

- Joint City Council/Traffic & Transportation Commission goal.
- Updated Traffic Studies completed.
- Authorized under the City Council Work Program for the fiscal year 2004/2005.

# *Purpose of Update*

Utilize updated traffic information  
Analyze existing conditions  
Incorporate/formalize new mitigation  
types  
Update Projects  
Update Goals

# *General Plans*

- What are they?
- How do they compare by jurisdiction?

# *General Plan*

- The General Plan is a document that can best be defined as the City's blueprint for the future.
- Part of the community's individual identity.

# *General Plan*

The General Plan is made up of seven mandatory Elements:

- **Land Use** – Location of housing, commerce, industry, and open space
- **Circulation** – Transportation; streets, roads, transit, bicycles, pedestrians
- **Housing** – Existing and projected housing needs. Programs and policies to provide housing for all economic groups
- **Conservation** – Natural resources, soil, water, and wildlife
- **Open Space** – Parks and open space preservation and acquisition
- **Noise** – Identification of noise sources and programs to mitigate noise problems
- **Safety** – Protection from seismic, geologic, flood, wildfire, and Other hazards

# *Circulation and Scenic Highways Element*

- A Circulation and Scenic Highway Element is one of seven required elements of a City or County's General Plan.
- California Government Code specifies that the Circulation Element of a General Plan shall identify the community's circulation system
- The Circulation and Scenic Highway Element addresses all travel modes and include the goals, policies, and implementation programs that guide our transportation system.
- Scenic highway designations and issues are also addressed as part of this element.

# *Circulation and Scenic Highways Element*

## *San Carlos Highlights*

- \* The major road system should be designed to carry traffic around rather than through residential areas.
- \* Recognize, protect and support the San Carlos Airport as a regionally important general aviation facility.
- \* Provide for adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities as viable transportation alternatives in San Carlos.
- \* To develop a system of scenic highways and roads that reflects the aesthetic and visual qualities of San Carlos and the surrounding region. *(Examples include Alameda, Brittan, Club, Crestview and El Camino Real)*

## *Definitions*

### *"Traffic Calming"*

- "Traffic calming slows vehicles on streets where drivers travel at higher speeds than is *desirable*."

# *Traffic Calming Examples*

- Cul de sacs
- Dead ends
- Street closures
- Medians
- Turn islands
- Speed humps
- Raised crosswalks/intersections
- Traffic circles
- chokers

# *Traffic Controls*

- Stop signs
- Turn restrictions
- One way streets
- Stop lights
- Safety campaigns
- Radar units
- Neighborhood speed watch
- Targeted police enforcement
- Photo radar enforcement

# *Impacts of Traffic Calming*

- Street Life
  - Noise
  - Speeding
- Pedestrian Safety
  - Accident Rates
  - Traffic Volume

## *A Matter of Choosing the Right Tools for the Right Place*

- (1) Identifying the nature and extent of traffic-related problems on a given street or in given area; and
- (2) Selecting and implementing cost-effective measures for solving identified problems.
- (3) Assessing the full local impact (i.e. to adjacent “neighborhoods”).

# *Challenges*

- Maintaining acceptable traffic conditions while creating a more walkable environment.
- Balancing the city's larger economic development and quality of life goals.



# *Areas of possible change*

- Enhance and Define **Transportation Network** (no longer just locals, arterials and collectors)
- Incorporate new types of **Mitigation Measures**
- Confirm Appropriate Local **Traffic Calming** Policies and Devices
- **Establish Bicycle Policies**
- Document New **Traffic Conditions**
- **Incorporate Pedestrian Enhancements**



# *Areas of possible change*

## *Miscellaneous*

- Add definitions and assumptions
- Confirm acceptable levels of service (LOS)
- Consider Transportation Impact fee
- Consider Gateway/entryway and links into community (Council/DRAC recommendations)
- Confirm 280 Interchange/connection
- Establish Alley Policy
- Consider Infill opportunity Zone/SB 1636
- Establish Delivery practices
- Incorporate C/CAG policies on Congestion Management.

# *Next Steps*

## *October 2004*

*Commission review of specific sections:*

- **Traffic Mitigation Measures**
- **Local Traffic Calming Policies and Devices**

## *November 2004*

*Commission review of specific sections:*

- **Pedestrian Enhancements**
- **Bicycle Policies**

# *Next Steps*

## *December 2004*

Commission overview of updated document and recommendation to Planning Commission.

## *January 2005*

Planning Commission review and recommendation to City Council of a Resolution Amending Circulation Element of the General Plan.

## *February 2005*

City Council consideration of Resolution Amending the Circulation Element of the General Plan.

*Serena Nevarez 802-4415*

*Liz Cullinan: 802-4264*

*Parviz Mokhtari: 802-4202*

## *Let's get started!*

- What is your sense of the current traffic and circulation conditions in the community? Are there areas that you prefer or avoid?
- How would you enhance pedestrian or bicycle experiences in the community?

## *Questions???*

- What forms (if any) of alternate transportation do you support?
- What forms of traffic calming do you support?
- What type of circumstances do you feel traffic calming is appropriate under?

# *Public Comment*

## *The first!*

### 1. City Scenic Roads.

- Reference the view of City Hall Park and the "historic Hacienda Garden Apartments.
- Mention that the train station is on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 2. Circulation, Transportation, and Scenic Highway Policies.

- The City shall support improvement of the railroad station and adjacent parking facilities ***"consistent with the station's historic national landmark status."***

### 3. Pedestrian Facilities and Trails.

- Local trails system should be enhanced and documented as part of the City's circulation system.



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### Agenda

Traffic Mitigation Measures  
Local Traffic Calming Policies and Devices  
San Carlos General Plan – Circulation Element

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