



Planning Commission Staff Report

Date: July 12, 2006
Item 6d

SUBJECT: General Plan Update – Consider refinements to the “working draft” General Plan circulation (roadway) network.

PURPOSE: To discuss and refine the “working draft” General Plan circulation network; and to comment prior to consideration of the draft circulation network by the City Council.

I. BACKGROUND

On August 30, 2005, the City Council selected a “working draft” circulation network that is described as Alternative B in Attachment 1 to this staff report. As a result of discussions on circulation that took place at Joint Workshops in 2005, and during the subsequent discussions on General Plan land use and specific development projects, staff believes the Planning Commission and City Council may wish to refine certain elements of the “working draft” circulation plan, particularly as they relate to planned road widenings and road extensions, prior to the running of the traffic model and preparation of the preliminary traffic impact analysis. Staff will refine the circulation network and assumptions according to feedback from the Planning Commission and City Council, and will run the model with the build-out land use assumptions of the “preferred plan” selected by the City Council on April 25, 2006. Staff anticipates the results of this preliminary analysis will be available in October 2006.

II. “WORKING DRAFT” CIRCULATION NETWORK

The City Council selected Alternative B as outlined in Attachment 1 as the “working draft” circulation network. This alternative includes all the network changes and improvements listed under Alternative A, as well as the changes listed under B on pages 3 through the top of page 5 in Attachment 1.

Attachment 1 shows (in redline) several recommended refinements to the “working draft” circulation network. These refinements are proposed by staff based on several factors, including:

- Staff’s understanding of the desired community character where the network change would provide only minimal traffic flow improvement
- Comments made by the City Council regarding specific roadway extensions and widenings

- Decisions already made by the City Council regarding network improvements
- Updated information regarding planned regional roadway improvements
- Recent or imminent construction of some roadway improvements and network changes
- The recognition that some capacity enhancements are within the County’s jurisdiction and are not currently on County plans

The changes shown on Attachment 1 include:

- Revision of CalTrans highway improvement plans which now show the addition of an HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lane on north 680 from Milpitas to SR 84, and an eastbound HOV lane from Hacienda.
- The deletion of several planned traffic signals on Valley Avenue which would somewhat improve traffic flow along this corridor but which would detract from the neighborhood character. Staff is recommending that traffic continue to be regulated by stop signs in these locations.
- The deletion of a change to one-way traffic on Spring Street. At one time this was being considered as a way to increase parking capacity in the downtown. At this time, other parking strategies are being pursued.
- Deletion of changes to the Castlewood at Foothill intersection since this intersection is within the County’s jurisdiction and these improvements are not part of County plans.
- The elimination of the Rose Avenue extension from the model since the property needed to complete the extension to Valley Avenue is held by the County and is not available.
- The deletion from the model of planned widening of two sections of Bernal Avenue. Widening the street in these locations would provide minimal improvement in traffic flow, but would result in the loss of a bike lane and parking in some locations, and would detract from the residential character of the street, especially for those residences facing Bernal.
- The deletion of planned widening of Hopyard Road between Valley Avenue and Division Street since traffic capacity would not be significantly improved.

The Planning Commission is being asked to consider these changes and to discuss any further refinements to the “working draft” circulation network. This feedback will be provided to the City Council for their consideration.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Review and consider recommended refinements to the “working draft” circulation network.
2. Provide input prior to City Council review

ATTACHMENT:

1. Street Network Elements for Alternatives A, B and C

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