

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
February 13, 2007
Timed: 3:00 pm

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Planning and Community Development

Subject: **WORKSHOP #22 ON THE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE:
DISCUSSION ON LAND USE AND MOBILITY THEMES**

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Overview

During the last Board Workshop, held on January 31, 2007, Planning staff provided a report back on several issues relating to the land use theme of the Public Review Draft General Plan 2030 (Draft Plan). Today, staff will be asking for Board direction regarding several unresolved land use issues of the Draft Plan. Additionally, staff from the Transportation Department will discuss the mobility themes of the Draft General Plan.

Recommendations

1. Consider the results of the public outreach program and additional public testimony during workshops on the Public Review Draft General Plan Update.
2. Direct Planning staff to transmit the draft updated General Plan to the Department of Environmental Review and Assessment for environmental analysis after the March 28th Workshop and direct the Department of Environmental Review and Assessment to initiate environmental review.
3. Provide directions to Planning staff regarding unresolved issues pertaining to the land use theme of the Draft General Plan (as presented in Attachment "A").
4. Direct staff to initiate an amendment to the 1993 General Plan to designate the segment of White Rock Road from Sunrise Boulevard to the Rancho Cordova city boundary as a pre-2010 roadway and designate the segment from Rancho Cordova city boundary to the Sacramento-El Dorado County line as a pre-2010 arterial roadway.
5. Direct staff to begin preliminary project development and environmental analysis of the White Rock Road project.

Measures/Evaluation

Not applicable

Fiscal Impact

None

BACKGROUND:

During the last Board Workshop, held on January 31, 2007, Planning staff presented several issues associated with the land use theme of the Public Review Draft General Plan 2030 (Draft Plan). Due to timing constraints, discussion on the economic development theme of the Draft Plan was continued to March 28, 2007. Today, Planning staff will be asking for Board direction regarding several unresolved issues pertaining to the land use theme of the Draft Plan. These issues are captured in Attachment "A". They primarily relate to development requests for properties located outside of the Urban Policy Area and Urban Services Boundary of the Draft General Plan. In addition, staff from the Transportation Department will discuss the mobility theme of the Draft General Plan. The human services theme of the Draft General Plan, originally scheduled to be discussed today, will be reviewed during the next General Plan Update workshop, scheduled for March 14, 2007.

DISCUSSION:

1) MOBILITY THEME OF THE DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

The Public Review Draft General Plan includes a revised Circulation Element; staff from the Department of Transportation has prepared a draft Transportation Plan to complement the Land use Diagram of the Draft General Plan. During this workshop, Transportation staff will present key policies of the revised Circulation Element and describe key components of the draft Transportation Plan. The Draft Circulation Element provides the framework for Sacramento County decisions concerning the countywide transportation system, which includes various transportation modes and related facilities. It also provides for coordination with the cities and unincorporated communities within the county, with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan adopted by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and with State and Federal agencies that fund and manage transportation facilities within the county. The Element is divided into two sections. The first section describes the County's Transportation Plan and functional roadway classification system and the second section establish goals, policies and implementation programs organized into six sections: Streets and Highways; Transit; Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities; Transportation System Management; Rail Transportation; and Air Transportation.

The main theme of the draft Circulation Element is to provide for mobility through choices. Rather than invest in one or two modes of travel, the intent is to invest in all modes of travel so that the residents of Sacramento County have access to multiple viable and efficient transportation alternatives. This integrated and balanced transportation system requires investment in not only the roadway system, but also substantial investment in transit, bicycling, and pedestrian modes of travel. The growth management strategy of this General Plan update directs much of the anticipated growth in housing and employment to infill development and within existing commercial corridors. As the density of existing and new communities and commercial corridors increases, a greater demand on mobility through choices is a prerequisite to healthy, vigorous, and self-sustaining communities.

This Circulation Element not only compliments and supports the anticipated growth in housing, retail, and employment, but also improves the existing deficiencies in mobility within the County. True to the theme of this Element, the Circulation Element relies heavily on creating complete streets, offering choices in the mode of transportation, including transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes, with each mode interconnected to provide greater overall mobility.

2) GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR WHITE ROCK ROAD

On December 12, 2006, your Board heard a presentation on the 50 Corridor Mobility Partnership (Partnership) Phase I Report and endorsed the report recommendations for near term priority roadway and transit improvements. White Rock Road is one of the priority improvements recommended by the Partnership Phase I Report to be implemented by 2012 to keep pace with planned development in the area south of US 50 and east of Sunrise Boulevard.

With the recent passage of Proposition 1B, a unique opportunity exists to capture state funding through the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) which provides \$4.5 billion for improvements in highly congested corridors including state highways and major local access routes. The County has been successful in nominations through both Caltrans and SACOG for improvements on White Rock Road for CMIA funding in the amount of \$22 million. In March of this year, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will make final selections for project funding.

The proposed improvements provide enhancements to safety and capacity on White Rock Road between Sunrise Boulevard and the Sacramento-El Dorado County line. The roadway segment between Sunrise Boulevard and the easterly Rancho Cordova City line will be improved to four lanes by the City of Rancho Cordova. Between the Rancho Cordova City line and Prairie City Road, the existing roadway alignment of White Rock Road is substandard with many sharp turns and rises and dips in the roadway. The County proposes to reconstruct and realign this segment of White Rock Road to correct the existing deficiencies and widen the roadway to four lanes. In the segment between Prairie City Road and the Sacramento-El Dorado County line, the existing two-lane roadway will be maintained but safety improvements will be made with shoulder widening, corrections in horizontal and vertical alignment, and traffic signals at intersections.

The current General Plan designates White Rock Road as a post-2010 six-lane thoroughfare between Sunrise Boulevard and Grant Line Road and as a two-lane rural collector from Grant Line Road to the Sacramento-El Dorado County line. This General Plan Amendment would designate the segment of White Rock Road from Sunrise Boulevard to the Rancho Cordova city boundary as a pre-2010 roadway and the segment from city boundary to the Sacramento-El Dorado County line as a pre-2010 arterial roadway which would allow the implementation of the White Rock Road project (See Attachment "B").

Given the short time frame associated with the CMIA funding, construction start in 2012, and the magnitude and complexity of the project, a General Plan amendment is recommended over including the change in the General Plan update so that preliminary project development and environmental analysis can proceed as soon as possible.

NEXT STEPS:

Several workshops have been scheduled to enable the Board of Supervisors to review the Draft Plan and to consider input and feedback received during the community outreach process. Today's workshop was scheduled to discuss land use and mobility related themes. Two additional workshops are scheduled in March to discuss the other topics outlined in the workbook. The topics and dates are as follows:

- I. Human Services, Agriculture and Conservation Themes March 14, 2007

- III. Economic and Mobility Themes Continued..... March 28, 2007

Once the Board has reviewed the key themes of this Draft Plan, the environmental review process will be initiated, which is anticipated to begin in March 2007. An Environmental Impact Report will be prepared to assess the environmental impacts of implementing this Plan. Public hearings before the Planning Commission and your Board will be initiated following the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

CONCLUSION:

Today's workshop was scheduled to discuss the land use and mobility themes of the Public Review Draft General Plan 2030.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Board of Supervisors Workbook – Land Use Issues & Decision Matrix

- B. General Plan Amendment Exhibit for White Rock Road from Sunrise Boulevard to the Sacramento-El Dorado County line.