

# ATTACHMENT 1



## **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

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MEETING DATE: 10/21/02

CONTROL NO: 02-000219

ITEM NO:

**SUBJECT:** Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee - Status Report # 1

**FROM:** PUBLIC SERVICES

**PRESENTATION BY:** Peter Naghavi, Transportation Services Manager

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peter Naghavi, Transportation Services Manager 714-754-5182

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### ***RECOMMENDED ACTION***

Receive and file status report.

### ***BACKGROUND***

On May 21, 2001, the City Council approved the formation of the Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee. The purpose of the committee is to assist City staff and advise City Council in developing transportation improvement recommendations for Newport Boulevard, East 17th Street and Eastside neighborhoods.

The City Council directed that the Committee provide updates during regular City Council meetings in October 2002 and April 2003 and provide a final report in October 2003.

### ***ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION***

The Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee has met monthly since November 2001. Agendas for all the meetings since November 17, 2001, are included in Attachment 1. During the January 17, 2002 meeting, the Committee selected Mr. Carl (Pete) Peterson as Chair and Mr. Tom Sutro as Vice Chair. Mr. Tom Egan was appointed as Secretary of the Committee, responsible for Minutes and Action Items.

The following are some of the major items that were discussed and/or approved during the past meetings:

- Issues in Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa (November 2001):  
During the first meeting, staff presented in detail the issues on Newport Boulevard, East 17th Street and Eastside Costa Mesa and previous efforts by staff and City Council in addressing them. Measures implemented based on the 1997 Eastside Costa Mesa Residential Traffic Management Study, as well as improvements on Newport Boulevard, were discussed.
- City Council goals and objectives for the study area (January 2002):  
The Committee reviewed and discussed the City Council goals and objectives for the study area.
- Newport Boulevard Improvement Project (February - April 2002):  
At a special meeting in February, the Committee discussed in detail the Newport Boulevard Improvement Project. During their regular meeting on April 1, 2002, the City Council confirmed

the recommendation to staff to initiate environmental review and preliminary engineering process for 7-lane Newport Boulevard (4 lanes northbound) between 17th Street and Broadway and 8-lane Newport Boulevard (4 lanes each way) between 19th Street and Broadway as a short-term measure for Newport Boulevard. The committee will be exploring other alternatives and making recommendations to City Council for the movement of traffic through the downtown corridor.

- **Traffic Engineering Fundamentals (March 2002):**

Staff presented the fundamentals of traffic engineering to the Committee. Definitions for terms such as Level Of Service (LOS), intersection and roadway capacity, Master Plan of Highways (MPH), transportation model and various traffic control devices were discussed.

- **Work Plan and Schedule (April – September 2002):**

The Committee and staff initiated the development of a “work plan” in April. All comments from the Committee were considered and a comprehensive work plan was developed by staff. The approved Committee Work Plan and Schedule is included in Attachment 2.

- **Identification of Downtown study area (May, June 2002):**

The Committee discussed the definition of Downtown area. It was concluded that the Downtown area is generally bounded by 19th Street and Bernard Street to the north, Fullerton Avenue to the east, 17th Street to the south, and Anaheim Avenue and Park Avenue to the west (Attachment 3).

- **Existing Traffic conditions report (August 2002):**

Staff presented existing traffic conditions in the study area. These included levels of service at signalized intersections, traffic volumes on Newport Boulevard, East 17th Street and Eastside residential neighborhoods, Master Plan designation of roadways, existing bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities, and existing traffic control.

- **Background report – Land use discussion (September 2002):**

Staff presented in detail the existing and General Plan land uses, large developments in the study area, and previous planning and redevelopment efforts. The current projects requesting General Plan amendments were also discussed.

Based on the Committee Work Plan and Schedule, the Committee has identified several major tasks over the next few months leading to the development recommendations for a comprehensive improvement plan for Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa. The upcoming significant tasks include:

- **Future Traffic Conditions and the projected traffic volumes on most eastside streets:**

The traffic volume projections will be based on three short-term alternatives for Newport Boulevard between 17th Street and 19th Street. These include – 1) No Project; 2) 7/8 lanes configuration (7 lanes south of Broadway, 8 lanes north of Broadway); and 3) full 8-lanes on Newport Boulevard.

The above analysis is to be conducted using the current transportation model and the impacts on intersections along Newport Boulevard and East 17th Street and on residential streets in Eastside and Westside Costa Mesa are to be presented. Staff has received a proposal of \$7,500 from a consultant to conduct this analysis.

The Committee may request study of additional alternatives to Newport Boulevard which may require funding from City Council.

· **Field trip of downtown area:**

A field trip of the downtown area is planned to observe first-hand the level of traffic congestion, on-street parking usage and potential off-street parking opportunities, pedestrian activity, and the traffic impacts on Eastside residential neighborhoods.

· **On-street and off-street parking issues including parking structures:**

Based on information obtained from field visit and parking usage information provided by staff, the Committee will recommend a long-term strategy for parking in the downtown area.

· **Pedestrian linkage issues:**

The Committee will recommend a pedestrian circulation plan. The plan will consider grade-separated pedestrian crossings, consolidation of existing crosswalks, sidewalk widths and other pedestrian amenities.

· **Streetscape including landscape medians, parkways and lighting:**

The Committee will develop a streetscape plan for Newport Boulevard expanding on information contained in existing planning documents.

· **Public transit and intra-city shuttle services:**

Opportunities for expanding transit facilities to the downtown area will be considered by the Committee. These include adding intra-city shuttles to service the various activity centers in the downtown area.

· **Newport Boulevard Improvement Project:**

The Committee will receive status reports during the environmental impact process of the Newport Boulevard Improvement Project.

Upon completion of all the studies and tasks outlined in the Work Plan, the Committee will forward to the City Council the following:

· **Newport Boulevard improvement recommendation:**

The Committee will provide its recommendations for short-term and long-term improvement measures on Newport Boulevard, taking into account the level of traffic growth and opportunities for improvement in the downtown area.

· **Eastside area traffic control recommendations:**

Recommendations for additional traffic control, if any, in the Eastside area will be made by the Committee based on the level of cut-through traffic as projected in the Newport Boulevard alternative recommended by the Committee.

A second interim progress report to the City Council is scheduled for April 2003. The final recommendations of the Committee will be formally presented to the City Council for their consideration in October 2003.

***ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED***

There are no other alternatives to be considered with this item.

***FISCAL REVIEW***

This status report does not create a need for any fiscal review.

**LEGAL REVIEW**

Legal review of this status report is not needed.

**CONCLUSION**

The Ad Hoc committee of business and resident members to directly participate on the development of comprehensive recommendations to the Downtown and Eastside area is determined useful to assure community and business representation and input. Regular monthly meetings are being held to discuss the issues facing Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa. A work plan and schedule was developed detailing the tasks leading to the development of a comprehensive transportation plan recommendation for the study area. Significant accomplishments in the past few months include discussion of existing and future transportation and land uses in the study area and approval of a detailed work plan and schedule.

**REVIEW AND APPROVALS**

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR:** William J. Morris, Public Services Director

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Asst. City Manager/Development Services Director  
Public Services Director  
Planning and Redevelopment Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Meeting Agendas  
B. Committee Work Plan and Schedule  
C. Downtown Study Area