



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 21, 2003

ITEM NUMBER:

**SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN AND EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE
STATUS REPORT # 2**

DATE: APRIL 9, 2003

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
MANAGER, AT (714) 754-5182**

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 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. Status Report #1 was presented to City Council during the regular meeting on October 21, 2002 (Attachment 1).

ANALYSIS:

The Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee has met five times since the last status report to the City Council in October 2002. Agendas for these meetings are included in Attachment 2. During the February 20, 2003 meeting, the Committee selected Mr. Paul Wilbur 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 five meetings:

- **Land use discussion (October 2002):**

Discussion on land use following the September 2002 meeting was continued. Influencing factors that govern the development of downtown area was discussed at this meeting.

- **Traffic Presentation (October 2002):**

Staff presented the General Plan traffic volume projections as a follow-up to the existing and background traffic discussion at the September 2002 meeting. A California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) representative presented the State perspective and standards regarding improvements along Newport Boulevard.

- **Downtown Walking Tour (November 2002):**

A field trip of the downtown area was conducted to observe first-hand the level of traffic congestion, on-street parking usage, the potential for off-street parking opportunities and pedestrian activities/amenities.

- **On-street and off-street parking (November 2002, January and February 2003):**

Based on information obtained from field visit and parking usage survey conducted by staff, the Committee discussed short-term and long-term strategies to meet existing and future parking demands in the downtown area. Staff conducted additional weekend parking surveys in January and February 2003 at the Committee's request. The Committee considered several short and long-term recommendations for parking in the downtown area including possible parking structures(s), which will be included in the final report to City Council.

- **Work Plan and Schedule (January and February 2003):**

The Committee and staff made adjustments to the Work Plan and Schedule in January and February 2003, to more accurately reflect the availability of pedestrian and traffic modeling reports to the Committee for review. The revised Work Plan and Schedule is included in Attachment 3.

- **Streetscape (March and April 2003):**

Staff presented a background report on Streetscape including landscape medians, parkways and lighting plans for Newport Boulevard. City standards on landscaping, lighting and street furniture such as benches and bus shelters were presented. The Committee is scheduled to further discuss Streetscape issues and provide draft recommendations during the April meeting.

- **Pedestrian linkage (April 2003):**

The City's consultant for the Newport Boulevard Improvement Project prepared a "Pedestrian Access Study" for the Downtown area. The study includes an analysis of existing and future pedestrian activities; access needs and draft recommendations for pedestrian circulation improvements. This report will be discussed by the Committee during the April meeting.

Based on the Committee Work Plan and Schedule, the Committee has identified several major tasks over the next few months leading to the development of 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
- Parking, Pedestrian Access and Streetscape
- Public transit and intra-city shuttle services
- 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.

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:

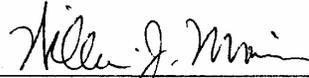
Legal review of this status report is not needed.

CONCLUSION:

The Ad Hoc committee is made up of business and resident members who directly participate in the development of comprehensive recommendations to the Downtown and Eastside area. Regular monthly meetings are held to discuss the issues regarding the Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa. A work plan and schedule has been developed which details the tasks leading to the development of comprehensive transportation plan recommendations 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.



PETER NAGHAVI, Manager
Transportation Services Division



WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services

- Attachments:
1. Downtown & Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee Status Report #1-
 2. Monthly Meeting Agenda (October 2002 to March 2003)
 3. Revised Work Plan and Schedule

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