



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 15, 2003

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN AND EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE -
STATUS REPORT # 3

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
MANAGER, 714-754-5182

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Receive and file biannual report.
2. Extend the Committee's term by four months with a final report provided to City Council by February 2004.

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 Reports #1 and #2 were presented to City Council during the regular meeting on October 21, 2002, and April 21, 2003, respectively (Attachments 1 and 2).

Concurrent with the Committee's efforts in addressing the short and long-term transportation needs of Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa, Transportation Services staff, based on an earlier City Council directive, is conducting the Newport Boulevard Improvement Project study. The study includes preliminary design and environmental analysis of widening Newport Boulevard to provide four northbound through lanes between 17th Street and 19th Street and four southbound through lanes between 19th Street and Broadway. This project also includes pedestrian and aesthetic enhancement of this corridor.

ANALYSIS:

The Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee has met five times since the last status report to the City Council in April 2003. Agendas for these meetings are included in Attachment 3. The following are some of the major items that were discussed and/or approved during the past five meetings:

- **Pedestrian Linkages** (April and May 2003):

Analysis of existing and future pedestrian activities, pedestrian access needs and pedestrian circulation improvements were discussed by the Committee. Draft recommendations for pedestrian access improvements were developed by the Committee during the May 2003 meeting.

- **Streetscape** (April and May 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 also presented. The Committee further discussed Streetscape issues and provided draft recommendations during the April and May meetings.

- **Future Short-Term Conditions – Alternatives Analysis** (June 2003):

At the request of Downtown & Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee, analysis of short-term conditions was conducted for three Newport Boulevard improvement alternatives. The alternatives were:

1. No Build;
2. Four northbound through lanes on Newport Boulevard between 17th and 19th Streets and four southbound through lanes on Newport Boulevard between 19th Street and Broadway; and
3. Eight lanes on Newport Boulevard between 17th and 19th Streets.

Analysis results included intersection capacity utilization (ICU) calculations at several intersections along Newport Boulevard, East 17th Street as well as in the Westside. Traffic volume projections were also developed for several residential streets in the Eastside and Westside Costa Mesa.

- **Future Long-Term Conditions – Alternatives Analysis** (July 2003):

The Committee requested analysis similar to short-term conditions above for long-term 2025 conditions. This analysis was provided to the Committee during the July meeting. Based on results of short-term and long-term conditions analysis, recommendations on improvements to Newport Boulevard are being considered by the Committee.

- **Transit Services** (July 2003):

Staff provided an overview of existing transit services in the Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa area. Information on local shuttle services operated by other agencies was also provided. Recommendations on improvements to transit services were discussed in July 2003.

- **Eastside Area Traffic Conditions:**

Eastside area traffic conditions was considered by the Committee based on existing as well as projected level of traffic on several residential streets.

During the upcoming meetings, the Committee will finalize recommendations for the following:

- Newport Boulevard Circulation Improvements – short-term;
- Long-term **options** for Newport Boulevard;
- Streetscape improvements;
- Pedestrian access;
- Parking;
- Transit; and
- Eastside residential areas traffic control.

It was anticipated that the recommendations from the Committee as well as the results of the environmental study would be presented to the City Council, as directed, in October 2003, so that a decision to proceed further with the final design of Newport Boulevard improvements could be considered by the City Council. However, due to ongoing delays in obtaining final approvals from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the public review and comment period for this study is now set for late fall 2003. Responses to public comments will be incorporated in the final document to be presented to City Council.

Based on the Committee's work, a public workshop to solicit public input with regard to short and long-term improvements also needs to be held close to the end of the term of this Committee. This will enable the Committee to also obtain comments from other business owners and residents on their recommendations prior to City Council presentation. In order to achieve all Committee objectives as well as receive public input in a workshop forum, staff requests that the City Council extend the Committee's term by a maximum duration of four months to February 2003. At present, the Committee public workshop is expected to be held on October 9, 2003. The extension of the term will enable the Committee to consider the environmental study as well as obtain public comments on Committee recommendations. Staff received Committee concurrence for extension of their term in the August 19 regular Committee meeting.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council may select to not extend the Committee's term. If this alternative is selected, staff will provide a final report to City Council, including the Committee's recommendations, at the regular City Council meeting in October. However, there may not be sufficient public input on the Committee recommendations prior to the City Council meeting.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal impact with this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal review is not required on this item.

CONCLUSION:

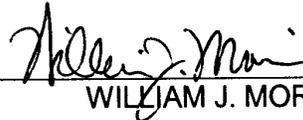
The Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc committee is made up of business and resident members who directly participate in the development of comprehensive recommendations to the City Council for the Downtown and Eastside area. Regular monthly meetings are held to discuss the issues regarding the Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa. Significant accomplishments in the past few months include review of analysis of improvement options for Newport Boulevard, pedestrian access, streetscape design, transit as well as eastside residential area traffic projections. The Committee is finalizing recommendations on all improvements to Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa.

In order to consider the results from the environmental study for Newport Boulevard as well as to obtain public comments on the Committee recommendations, it is requested that the Committee's term be extended by a maximum four-month duration. Staff requests City Council approval of this extension.



PETER NAGHAVI, MANAGER

Transportation Services Division



WILLIAM J. MORRIS

Director of Public Services

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 Downtown & Eastside Committee Status Report # 1
2 Downtown & Eastside Committee Status Report # 2
3 Meeting Agenda – April 2003 to August 2003

File Name

Date

Time