



# *CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT*

---

**MEETING DATE:** February 17, 2004

**ITEM NUMBER:**

**SUBJECT:** DOWNTOWN AND EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE -  
FINAL REPORT

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 4, 2004

**FROM:** PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

**PRESENTATION BY:** PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

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

---

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Receive and file 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 options and to make recommendations to City Council for traffic improvements on the east side of the City. These areas include Newport Boulevard, East 17<sup>th</sup> Street and the neighborhoods east of Newport Boulevard.

The City Council initially directed that the Committee provide updates during regular City Council meetings in October 2002 and April 2003, and to provide a final report in October 2003. At the request of staff and the Committee, the City Council during their regular meeting of September 15, 2003, extended the Committee's term by four months to February 2004. The additional time was requested to enable the Committee to conduct a public open house to obtain public input on Committee recommendations prior to finalizing their recommendations.

Status Reports #1, #2 and # 3 were presented to City Council during the regular meetings on October 21, 2002, April 21, 2003, and September 15, 2003, respectively (Attachments 1, 2 and 3).

A comprehensive report documenting the background discussion, issues, analysis and recommendations for the Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa was prepared. This report has been provided to Ad Hoc Committee members, City Council, and Planning Commission. Copies of the report are also available for public review at City Clerk office, Planning Division counter and Public Services counter.

### Newport Boulevard

Concurrent with the Committee's efforts in addressing the short and long-term transportation needs of Newport Boulevard corridor, the Transportation Services staff, based on an earlier City Council directive, is moving forward with environmental studies and preliminary engineering work for the Newport Boulevard Improvement Project. The study includes investigation and analysis of widening Newport Boulevard to provide 4 northbound through lanes between 17<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 4 southbound through lanes between 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. This project also includes pedestrian and aesthetic enhancements for this corridor. A consultant engineering firm hired by the City, is approximately 90% complete with the draft environmental document at this time.

Staff anticipated to obtain Committee's input on the environmental document for the Newport Boulevard widening project, if it became available by February 2004. However, due to the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) review procedures, draft environmental document will not be available for review until late Spring 2004.

### East 17<sup>th</sup> Street

Based on recommendations from an earlier Ad Hoc Committee for East 17<sup>th</sup> Street improvement project, and direction from the City Council, Transportation Services staff is completing the design work for intersection improvements at East 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Orange Avenue and East 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Santa Ana Avenue intersections. Staff solicited and secured grant funds from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for the design and construction of the improvements. In addition, as part of this project, a traffic signal will be installed at East 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue intersection. Staff provided the Committee members the Request For Proposals (RFP) issued to consulting firms for design of improvements for East 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

Staff expects the construction of the above improvements to begin within two (2) years.

### Eastside Residential Neighborhoods

Traffic conditions on several Eastside residential streets were reviewed by the Committee and the City Council as part of the on-going biennial monitoring program report presented in Fall 2002. In addition, as part of the analysis for the Newport Boulevard improvement project, traffic forecasts were developed on several Eastside and Westside residential streets and were presented to the Ad Hoc Committee. Due to very insignificant changes on the overall traffic conditions within the Eastside neighborhood streets, the Committee did not find it necessary to recommend any changes to the existing traffic control measures at this time. In general, it was observed that the proposed improvements on Newport Boulevard would decrease traffic volumes on some Eastside streets.

## **ANALYSIS:**

The Downtown and Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee has met three times since the last status report to the City Council in September 2003, in addition to the public open house on October 28, 2003. Agendas for these meetings are included in Attachment 4. During these meetings, the Committee considered all recommendations, and received public input. The following major items were considered:

- **Committee Chair** (September 2003):

Mr. Pete Peterson was the Committee Chairman since its inception. Due to his relocation, Vice Chair Mr. Tom Sutro was nominated and approved as Chairman. Ms. Jessica Palanjian was appointed as Vice Chair.

- **Public Open House** (October 28, 2003):

At the request of Downtown & Eastside Transportation Ad Hoc Committee, a public open house was held at the Neighborhood Community Center on October 28, 2003. Notifications were hand carried to all businesses along Newport Boulevard and along East 17<sup>th</sup> Street in the study area. In addition, notices were mailed to all residents and businesses in a radius of 500-feet around the Downtown Study area (Attachment 5). A meeting announcement was made by the Chamber of Commerce to their members, and it was also advertised on Costa Mesa TV as well as the City website. A news article in the Daily Pilot provided information on the Committee as well as the public open house.

The Open House was attended by 15 people. Staff and several Committee members as well as the consultants were available to discuss the project with public and answer any questions. Except for one person who opposed the project, the rest expressed their support for the Newport Boulevard widening project. One written comment was also received supporting the project.

- **Discussion of Recommendations** (September, October and November 2003):

The Committee discussed all items as well as established a list of recommendations during these meetings prior voting on November 18, 2003. Prior to his resignation from Committee, Mr. Pete Peterson provided an e-mail (Attachment 6) expressing his opinion, wherein he recommended further studies of long-term options and his opposition to short-term circulation recommendations.

- **Committee Recommendations** (November 18, 2003):

Nine of the thirteen voting members of the Committee participated in finalizing the recommendations. They include:

- Tom Sutro, Chair, Chamber of Commerce representative
- Jessica Palanjian, Vice Chair, Newport Boulevard business representative
- Sandy Johnson, resident representative
- Randy Garell, Newport Boulevard business representative
- Mark Reader, Newport Boulevard business representative
- Sharon Courtway, Newport Boulevard business representative
- Jeanne Miller Tarazevits, resident representative
- Tim Graber, resident representative
- Judith Connell, resident representative

Dan Perlmutter, East 17<sup>th</sup> Street business representative, sent a substitute to the meeting and Craig Silva, resident representative, sent his recommendations via e-mail. Their votes were tabulated separately.

A listing of recommendations with the Committee member vote is provided in Attachment 7.

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 in February 2004, 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 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 Spring 2004. Therefore, staff is requesting City Council to receive and file this report and consider the above Committee recommendations along with the environmental documentation for the Newport Boulevard Improvement when all studies are completed.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

There are no alternatives with this item.

**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 were held to discuss transportation issues regarding Downtown and Eastside Costa Mesa. Significant accomplishments in the past few months include completion of an open house where the public could review and comment on Committee recommendations, and final voting on recommendations by the Committee.

An environmental study for Newport Boulevard improvement project, being conducted by a consultant, is anticipated to be available for public review in late Spring 2004. In order for the City Council to consider the results of the environmental study for Newport Boulevard along with the Committee recommendations, it is requested that the City Council withhold providing final direction on Downtown and Eastside area until the public review process for environmental document is completed. At that time, staff will resubmit this report to City Council, along with the environmental documentation, as well as the committee recommendation for consideration of a final action.

---

PETER NAGHAVI, MANAGER  
Transportation Services Division

---

WILLIAM J. MORRIS  
Director of Public Services

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager  
Deputy City Clerk  
Deputy City Manager – Dev. Svcs.  
Director of Public Services  
Staff  
File

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Downtown & Eastside Committee Status Report # 1](#)  
2 [Downtown & Eastside Committee Status Report # 2](#)  
3 [Downtown & Eastside Committee Status Report # 3](#)  
4 [Meeting Agenda – April 2003 to August 2003](#)  
5 [Downtown & Eastside Study Area](#)  
6 [Pete Peterson E-mail](#)  
7 [Committee Vote Tabulation](#)

File Name

Date

Time