



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: January 14, 2013

Date: January 9, 2013
 To: Board of Supervisors
 From: Kevin Hamblin, Director of Planning and Building
 Subject: Continued Board Review of the Planning Commission Approved Draft General Plan, in particular, Chapter 7, the Circulation Element

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Open the public hearing and receive a staff report.
2. Receive public comments.
3. Close public comments.
4. Continue deliberation and straw voting on Chapter 7 (Circulation).
5. Continue the public hearing to January 28, 2013.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The cost of preparing this staff report was borne by the General Fund through the Planning and Building Department – Advance Planning Division’s FY 2012-2013 budget and the General Plan user fees.

Prepared by _____
 Martha Spencer, Supervising Planner

CAO Approval _____

REVIEW:	Auditor _____	County Counsel _____	Personnel _____	Risk Manager _____	Other _____
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TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
 Upon motion of Supervisor _____
 Seconded by Supervisor _____
 Ayes _____
 Nays _____
 Abstain _____
 Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. H-2, D-1, C-1, L-1, C-1, C-1, L-3, C-1, C-1, C-1, C-1, C-1, C-1, C-1, C-1 and C-1

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Meeting of: June 12, June 18, June 25, July 10, July 16, July 23, July 24, August 13, September 10, September 17, October 1, October 15, November 5, November 8, December 3 and 17, 2012

Dated: _____
 By: _____
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

DISCUSSION:

During the December 17th meeting, the Board reviewed the Circulation Element (Chapter 7) of the Planning Commission Approved Draft General Plan, including the second set of policy recommendations from the newly organized citizens group (introduced during the November 5th Board meeting and referred to as the "GPU Ad Hoc Working Group"). Planning staff provided the Board with verbal comments on the working group's recommendations during this meeting and have included these recommendations as Attachment A.

The Board continued deliberation on the Circulation Element to January 14th in order to allow the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group time to finish their review of Chapter 7. The Working Group met on January 8th but was not able to finish their review on the remaining items. Staff understands that this group will meet again on January 14th; however, because of the need to get materials to the Board in a timely manner, this will not allow staff the ability to review and provide recommendations to the Board on these few remaining items in time for the Board meeting.

The GPU Ad Hoc Working Group has provided comments on the majority of the Circulation Element. There are currently 19 items (10 standards and 9 implementation measures) that have yet to be reviewed. Staff understands that many of these items are proposed to be incorporated into the newly recommended Countywide Transportation Plan.

Staff recommends that the Board receive public comments, including additional input from the working group, but also recommends that your Board commence with deliberation and straw voting on the items presented during the December 3rd and 17th meetings. The GPU Ad Hoc Working Group's recommendations along with staff comments and recommended revisions on the Circulation Element policies have been released to the public with adequate time for review and comment. Although the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group has not yet completed their review of the entire chapter, the Board could act on those items that have been presented by the working group and reviewed by the Board.

Attachment B contains a large format chart that includes: 1) the Planning Commission Approved Draft Plan policy language; 2) the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group's recommendations as of January 8th; and 3) staff comments and/or proposed modifications for "side by side" review. A column to the far left has also been inserted that provides the Board with an annotated process review recommendation by staff which includes the following:

- S = support the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group recommendation;
- M = minor modification of the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group recommendation; and
- SL = add to the "short list" for Board deliberation and straw voting

If your Board supports the staff recommendations, you may vote as a slate on all the items with an "S" or "M" icon indicated in the far left column. Those items with an "SL" icon require Board review and discussion (as most contain two policy options by the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group). The recommendations included in Attachment B have been summarized below:

Staff support of the GPU Ad Hoc Working Group changes:

C-G1. Circulation System Safety and Functionality (add clarification of "users")
C-G3. Interagency Cooperation (with minor editing of verb tense)
C-G4. Active Transportation
C-GX. Healthy Transportation (with minor editing of verb tense)
C-GXX. Transportation Security
New C-GXXX. Movement of Goods
C-P3. Consideration of Transportation Impacts in Land Use Decision Making
C-P5. Level of Service Criteria

C-P6. Jurisdictional Coordination and Integration
C-P9. Acceptance of Roads into the County Maintained Road System
C-P11. Roadway Functional Classifications
C-P12. Multi-modal Level of Service/Quality of Service Criteria
C-P13. Prioritization of Investments
C-P14. Efficiency and Capacity
C-P15. Roadway and Multi-modal Facility Maintenance
C-P17. U.S. Highway 101 Safety Corridor Improvements
C-P18. Coordination with School Districts
C-P19. Best Management Practices for Road Grading
C-P20. Best Practices for County Road Maintenance
C-Pxxx. Long Term Transit Plan
C-P22. Public Transit
C-P24. Investment in Improvements
C-P25. Multimodal Level of Service and Quality of Service Standards
C-P26. Bicycles and Pedestrian Facilities in New Subdivisions
C-P28. Landscape Buffer Strips
C-P30. On-Street Parking
C-P31. Design Standards for All Pathways
C-P33. Protection of Designated Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes
C-P34. Bicycle Facilities
C-P36. Develop a Regional Trails System
C-P37. Encourage Equestrian Trails
C-P41. Movement of Goods
C-P43. Rail Right-of-Way
C-P45. Commercial Areas
New Policy: C-Px7. Highway Improvement
New Policy: C-Px8. Discretionary Road Funds
C-IM4. Regional Coordination
C-IM4a. Greater Eureka Area Transportation Model
New IM: Safe Routes to School
New IM: Direct Driveway Access
C-IM10. U.S. Highway 101 Safety Corridor Improvements

Staff comments and/or recommended modification:

C-G2. Balanced Transportation Opportunities
C-P7. Joint Use of Traffic Models
C-Pxx. Long Term Transit Plan
C-P47. Frontage Improvements
New Standard instead of C-P25
NEW Standard: Developers preference for impact fees
New IM: Municipal Advisory Committees
New IM: Encourage Bicycle and Pedestrian-Friendly development

Staff recommends adding to the “short list” for Board discussion:

New Policy: C-Px5. County-Wide Transportation Plan (AKA C-P#)
• C-IM1a County-Wide Transportation Plan Implementation
C-P1. Orderly Development
C-P2. Consideration of Land Uses in Transportation Decision Making
C-P4. Mitigation Measures
C-P8. Coordination Between County Agencies
C-P10. Right-of-Ways as Public Facilities

C-P21. State and Federal Consistency
C-P23. Public Transit Service
C-Px. Circulation Planning for Bicycles, Pedestrians and Transit
C-Pxxxx. Investment in Public Transportation
C-P27 Right-of-Way Design Standards
C-P29. Removal of Obstacles in Pathways
C-P32. Traffic Calming
C-P35. Development of Railroad Right-of-Ways for Bicycles and Pedestrians
C-P42. Re-establishing Regional Rail Service
C-P49. Bus Turnouts

Ad hoc group has no comments:

C-P38. Channel Maintenance
C-P39. Commercial Fishing Facilities
C-P40. Public Infrastructure Supporting Private Investment
C-P44. Expansion of Airline Service

Ad hoc group has not yet reviewed:

C-S1. Functional Classifications
C-S2. Neighborhood Connectivity
C-S3. Traffic Thresholds of Significance
C-S4. Pavement Management Criteria
C-S5. Prioritizing Transportation Capital Expenditures
C-S6. Prioritizing Road Maintenance Projects
C-S7. Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Quality/Level of Service Standards
C-S8. Pedestrian and Bicycle System
C-S9. Prioritization of Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities and Routes
C-S10. Equestrian Trails
C-IM1. Circulation Standards
C-IM2. Tracking Road Improvement Requirements
C-IM3. Road Abandonment
C-IM5. Roadway System Construction
C-IM7. Transit Infrastructure
C-IM8. Park and Ride Facilities
C-IM9. Adoption of Water Quality and Stream Habitat Protection Measures
C-IM11. Transit Service to East, South and North County
C-IM12. Pedestrian and Bicycle System Plan

Continued Review of the Draft Plan:

Following deliberation of the Circulation Element, staff recommends that your Board return to deliberating on the remainder of the Infrastructure Element (starting with IS-S1) on January 28th. The Board requested that staff return with additional information on IS-PX2, *Fire Service Impacts from New Development*, which was discussed in greater detail in the December 3rd Board report. If time allows, the Board could also begin deliberation on Chapter 9, (Economic Development) on the approved Key Issues "short list".

Following deliberation of these chapters, the Board requested to return to deliberation of the remainder of the Chapter 4, the Land Use Element, starting with the two remaining Urban Lands policies (UL-P4 and P12) and the then moving to the outstanding policy discussion of Section 4.5, Agricultural Resources. A revised schedule with the Key Issues "short list" items is found in Attachment C.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Awarded grants, General Plan user fees, and the General Fund contribution to the Advanced Planning Division has paid for the costs of the General Plan Update Program to date.

This project fits into the County's Strategic Framework in several ways.

- The project is consistent with the Mission Statement; the General Plan Update will serve the needs and concerns of the community, and enhance their quality of life. It provides a framework for strategically pursuing a broad range of services provided by the County and other agencies, and guiding new development toward the goals presented in the Plan.
- The General Plan Update supports the self reliance of the community by clarifying County policy and regulations in a broad number of subject areas, and presenting them in a format that is easy to understand and available on the internet.
- The General Plan Update will safeguard the public trust by establishing clear County policy and regulations guiding new development.
- The proposed implementation measures of the General Plan Update ensure its sustainability over time.
- The General Plan Update increases the transparency, accessibility, and accountability of the services provided by the County by establishing clear roles and procedures, using language that is easy to understand and available on the internet. The General Plan Update promotes interjurisdictional and regional cooperation.
- The General Plan Update is intended to be “an effective voice for our community in areas outside traditional mandates”. The General Plan Update includes provisions for public involvement that extend far beyond the requirements of state law. Public involvement encouraged by the General Plan Update will include discussions of natural resource and the County's economic future. The General Plan Update also intends to engage new partners through its implementation measures.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The General Plan Update program has been a multi-year project. Multiple agencies have been involved in the review and preparation of the Planning Commission approved Draft General Plan. The County has been in communication with the Planning Commissioners, County Counsel and the County Administrator's office on the transmittal of these draft documents.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board's discretion.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A GPU Ad Hoc Working Group's proposed changes to Chapter 7, Circulation Element List with the staff comments and recommendations as presented to the Board of Supervisors on December 17, 2012
- Attachment B Comparison of Circulation Element Items – Planning Commission, GPU Ad-Hoc Working Group, and Staff Recommendations
- Attachment C Revised Review Schedule with the Key Issues “short list” items

Attachment A

**Chapter 7 Circulation Element List
GPU Ad Hoc Working Group Proposed Changes
With staff comments and recommendations as presented to the
Board of Supervisors on December 17, 2012**

Attachment B

**Comparison of Circulation Element Items –
Planning Commission, GPU Ad-Hoc Working Group,
and Staff Recommendations**

Attachment C
Board Approved Key Issues List for policy review by the Board
(Schedule revised January 8, 2013)

Key

- Items added July 10, 2012 by Priority ranking
- Items from the June 25, 2012 Key Issues List
- Item added by Board Member

December 17th Board meeting:

Chapter 7, Circulation

- Review of GPU Ad Hoc Working Group policy recommendations (part 1)

January 14th Board meeting:

Chapter 7, Circulation

- Review of GPU Ad Hoc Working Group policy recommendations (part 2)

January 28th Board meeting:

Chapter 7, Circulation

- Final review of GPU Ad Hoc Working Group policy recommendations (part 2)

Chapter 5, Infrastructure (if time allows)

- Remainder of Chapter 5 starting with IS-S1

Chapter 9, Economic (if time allows)

- ED-P6. Large Format Retail
- ED-S2. Large Format Retail
- ED-IM7. Large Format Retail

February 11th and 25th Board meetings:
(continued deliberation from August 13th):

Chapter 4: Land Use Element

Section 4.3 Urban Lands

- UL-P4. Support for Micro and Small Business Development
- UL-P12. Design Review

Section 4.5 Agricultural Resources

- AG-S1. Subdivision of Planned Agricultural Exclusive (AE) Lands (outstanding issues)
- AG-Pxxxx. Second Dwellings

Section 4.6 Forest Resources

- FR-P8. Protection of High Quality Timberlands (outstanding issues)
- FR-P9. Residential Construction on TPZ Zoned Parcels
- FR-P10. Substandard Lots and TPZ Rezoning
- FR-P11. Lot Line Adjustments
- FR-P17. Forestland-Residential Interface (FRI)
- FR-S1. Planned Rural Development Program Clustering Incentive Options
- FR-S2 Forestland-Residential Interface (FRI)
- FR-Sx. Second Units
- FR-IMxx. Substandard Lots

Section 4.7 Public Lands

- PL-P2. In-holdings (outstanding issues)

Section 4.8 Land Use Classifications

- AG - Agricultural Grazing Land Use Designation
- IT - Industrial Timberland Land Use Designation
- T – Timber Land Use Classification (houses as primary versus compatible use)

March 11th and 25th Board meetings:

Chapter 10, Conservation and Open Space

Section 10.2, Open Space

- CO-G5. Open Space and Residential Development
- CO-P4. Greenbelts
- CO-P7. Encourage Private Outdoor Recreation

Section 10.3, Biological Resources

- BR-P8. Oak Woodlands.
- BR-S5. Streamside Management Areas Defined
- BR-S7. Development within Streamside Management Areas
- BR-S10. Development Standards for Wetlands and Other Wet Areas
- BR-IM3. Biological Review and Referral.

Section 10.4, Mineral Resources

- MR-P11. Permit Conditions to Reduce Impacts

Section 10.6, Cultural Resources

- CU-S5. Assessment and Treatment of Impacts to Significant Historic Structures and Districts

Section 10.7, Scenic Resources

- SR-P8. Removal or Relocation of Billboards on Public Lands and Right-of-Ways in the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Right-of-Way
- SR-P9. Removal of Illegal Billboards
- SR-SXX. Permits for Billboards

Chapter 11, Water Resources

- WR-G8. Restoration of Impacted River Flows
- WR-P25. Compliance with Water Code Export Law

Chapter 12, Energy Resources

- E-P11. Energy-efficient Landscape Design

April 8th and 22nd Board meetings:

Chapter 13, Noise

- N-G2. Incompatible Land Uses
- N-P2. Guide to Land Use Planning
- N-IM7x. Noise Control Ordinance

Chapter 14, Safety

- S-P21. Development Compatibility
- S-P22. Airport Land Use
Compatibility Criteria
- S-P26. Hazardous Waste
- S-Imx4. Impervious Cover Limits

Chapter 15. Air Quality:

(No split votes on this chapter therefore there are no items on the Key Issues List)

Residual Policy Decisions – Split Vote

May 6th and 20th Land Use Mapping Meetings:

- **Land Use Maps***
- **Community Plan Policies**

*may extend into an evening meeting for increased public participation

Policy abbreviations

AG - Agricultural Resources

BR - Biological Resources

C - Circulation element

CO - Conservation and Open Space

CU - Cultural Resources

E – Energy Element

ED - Economic Development Element

FR - Forest Resources

IS - Infrastructure and Services Element

MR - Mineral Resources

N - Noise Element

PL - Public Lands

RL - Rural Lands

SR - Scenic Resources

S - Safety Element

T - Telecommunications

UL - Urban Lands

WR - Water Resources

Please note that the Board will address these items on the date specified as time allows. It is possible the Board may move certain items to a future meeting. The Board may also add items to the Key Issues List for future review and deliberation.