



PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

STAFF REPORT

TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: Chitra Moitra
Planner

DEPARTMENT: Planning and
Community Environment

AGENDA DATE: May 6, 2009

SUBJECT: **2009-2014 PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) find the proposed 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommend its finding to the City Council.

DISCUSSION

Each year the Planning and Transportation Commission is required to review the proposed CIP for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and forward its recommendations to the City Council. The Commission is charged with using the Comprehensive Plan as a guide for the CIP in so far as the CIP program affects the physical development of the City. The CIP identifies each project's consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, as determined by staff. New projects added to this year's CIP has been highlighted by staff. Prior adopted CIP projects were found consistent with the Comprehensive Plan last year by PTC. The Commission can also suggest any improvement in economy or efficiency that might be effected through the combining of various projects.

On April 27th, the city manager presented general budget issues to the Council in a study session; however there was no discussion of the CIP. Subsequent to tonight's meeting, the Commission chair will work with staff to prepare a transmittal to the Finance Committee that is included in the budget package to Council that summarizes the Commission's discussion regarding the CIP. Attached is the letter sent by the Commission for the Proposed 2008-2013 CIP.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to review the CIP projects at meetings on May 12 and 13 2009. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the budget and CIP on June 8 and adoption of the budget and CIP is tentatively scheduled for June 15.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

All CIP projects should be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The 2009-2014 CIP has been reviewed by staff for consistency with the 1998-2010 Comprehensive Plan.

RESOURCE IMPACT

The impact on City resources from individual projects, both fiscal and operational, is addressed in each project CIP description.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Capital Improvement Program is not a project under CEQA. Individual projects may or may not be subject to CEQA; an environmental determination will be made on each individual project at the time of project implementation and anticipated environmental review is noted for each project.

ATTACHMENTS:


Attachment A: Draft 2009-14 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Attachment B: Letter written by Commission for the proposed 2008-13 CIP.

Prepared By:

Chitra Moitra, Planner

Division Head Approval:



Julie Caporgno
Chief Planning & Transportation Official

May 8, 2008

To Honorable City Council,
c/o City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

The Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) has completed its review of the 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Commission wishes to provide some general comments on the plan as a whole and some specific recommendations for the future review and analysis of the CIP and its consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

We continue to appreciate the inclusion of references made to applicable Comprehensive Plan Goals, Policies, and Programs as they apply to individual CIP projects. In response to PTC's request as a result of the review of the 2007-2012 CIP Plan, staff provided a summary tabular sheet organized by Comprehensive Plan Policy. The summary sheet was helpful in the PTC's review and analysis of the CIP Projects and served as the base data for the CIP/Comprehensive Plan analysis table attached with this letter. We also understand that the various departments that participate in the CIP proposal continue in their efforts to align the projects with the priorities of the Comprehensive Plan.

The PTC would like to make the following recommendations in order to better facilitate the PTC's review and analysis of the CIP in the future for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

- Consider using the attached CIP/Comprehensive Plan analysis table as a template for next year's summary tabular sheet.
- Provide an indication of whether the CIP Project is a "continuing" or "new" project on the summary tabular sheet

In addition, the Commission also requested staff to edit the Draft 2008-2013 CIP to reflect the following changes in the "CIP Facts" information box:

- For first bullet language "Environmental" a statement that for any project involving natural or historic resources, it may be subject to environmental review with the understanding that the environmental status will be determined once the actual CIP project is developed and initiated.
- Baylands Interpretive Center Improvement (PF-07002) - add Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) to Boards/Commission Review (page 17 on the Draft CIP)
- Bicycle Boulevards Implementation Project (PL-04010) – add Policy T-20 (page 37 on the Draft CIP)
- Street Maintenance (PE-86070) – replace Program C-20 to Policy C-24 (page 39 on the Draft CIP)

- Alma Street Landscape Improvements (PE-06006) – replace Policy N-17 to Program N-17 (page 43 on the Draft CIP)
- Baylands Emergency Access Levee Repair (OS-09002) – replace Program T-29 to Policy N-50 (page 45 on the Draft CIP)

The Commission is suggesting these changes to create a more consistent and more user-friendly document and considers the summary table to be an excellent tool that should make review easier to understand and result in a more substantive process.

During the discussion of the CIP, public testimony was given by two members of Theatre Works regarding possible improvements to Lucie Stern Theater. Acknowledging that the compilation of the CIP is outside the purview of the PTC, the speakers were encouraged to raise their concerns regarding upgrades at Lucie Stern to the Finance Committee and Council as part of ongoing discussions related to the CIP. The PTC also noted that since the Lucie Stern Center is a historic complex, any upgrades would need to be consistent with its historic character.

Attached with this letter is the sense minutes from the subcommittee study session with City staff, specific questions submitted by Commissioner Keller to the subcommittee regarding the Draft CIP, the aforementioned CIP/Comprehensive Plan analysis table, the PTC Subcommittee Report and the verbatim minutes from the PTC 2008-2013 CIP meetings held on April 2, 2008 and April 30, 2008.

With consideration to the above comments, the PTC determines the CIP to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Holman
Chair
Planning and Transportation Commission