



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

Recission of Prior Cancellation Notice: The City previously issued a cancellation notice for this meeting on March 16, 2020. The cancellation notice is hereby rescinded.

COVID-19 NOTICE - Consistent with the California Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20 and the Santa Clara County Health Officer's March 31, 2020 Shelter in Place Order which supersedes the March 16, 2020 Order, Planning Commissioners will be teleconferencing from remote locations. A limited number of staff will be present. The meeting set-up is in accordance with the recommendations of the COVID-19 White House Task Force, which notes no more than 10 people in gatherings.

The public can view the meeting online at Santacalaraca.gov, City of Santa Clara Television (Comcast cable channel 15 or AT&T U-verse channel 99) or the livestream on City of Santa Clara Facebook page and City of Santa Clara Youtube Channel.

Public Comments prior to meeting may be submitted via email to planning@santacalaraca.gov no later than 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting; and also before and during the meeting via Ecomment. To utilize Ecomment, please visit the following website: <https://santacalaraca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, and select the "Ecomment" link next to the Planning Commission meeting for April 22.

We highly encourage citizens to stay at home and provide public comment remotely however, the City Cafeteria has been set up to accommodate up to 10 people at a time and public comment may be made from that location.

6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance and Statement of Values

Roll Call

DECLARATION OF COMMISSION PROCEDURES

CONTINUANCES/EXCEPTIONS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items may be enacted, approved or adopted, based upon the findings prepared and provided in the written staff report, by one motion unless requested to be removed by anyone for discussion or explanation. If any member of the Planning Commission, staff, the applicant or a member of the public wishes to comment on a Consent Calendar item, or would like the item to be heard on the regular agenda, please notify Planning staff, or request this action at the Planning Commission meeting when the Chair calls for these requests during the Consent Calendar review. Items listed on the Consent Calendar with associated file numbers constitute Public Hearing items.

1. No Items

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Members of the public may briefly address the Commission on any item not on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

Items listed above under Items for Council Action will be scheduled for Council review following the conclusion of hearings and recommendations by the Planning Commission. Due to timing of notices for Council hearings and the preparation of Council agenda reports, these items will not necessarily be heard on the date the minutes from this meeting are forwarded to the Council. Please contact the Planning Division office for information on the schedule of hearings for these items.

2. **20-302** [STUDY SESSION: Update on Proposed Changes to the City's Transportation Analysis Methodology from Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled](#)

REPORTS OF COMMISSION/BOARD LIAISON AND COMMITTEE:

1. Announcements/Other Items
2. Development Review Hearing
3. Commissioner Travel and Training Reports, Requests to attend Trainings

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:

1. Planning Commission Budget Update
2. Upcoming Agenda Items
3. City Council Actions

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular scheduled meeting is on May 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers.



Agenda Report

20-302

Agenda Date: 4/22/2020

REPORT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT

STUDY SESSION: Update on Proposed Changes to the City's Transportation Analysis Methodology from Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled

BACKGROUND

Staff will conduct a second study session with the Planning Commission to provide an update on proposed changes to the City's transportation analysis methodology from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

In September 2013, the State of California approved Senate Bill 743 (SB 743), which changes the way transportation impacts should be analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by removing automobile Level of Service (LOS) from environmental transportation analysis and replacing it with the State recommended Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) methodology. While LOS measures traffic delay at signalized intersections or roadway segments, VMT generally measures the distance a vehicle will travel to a destination.

In December 2018, the State of California published a technical guidance document titled, "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA", which contains technical recommendations on how CEQA lead agencies should assess VMT, create and evaluate thresholds of significance related to VMT impacts, and require and monitor impact mitigation measures. All California lead agencies (which include cities, counties, etc.) are required to implement VMT as the methodology for conducting CEQA analysis for projects by July 2020. The Valley Transportation Authority is working with all Santa Clara County member agencies to provide technical support and promote consistencies between cities in transitioning from LOS to VMT in environmental documents.

On November 5, 2019 a City Council study session was held to provide an overview and update on the City's effort to comply with SB 743. Staff provided the background and goals of SB 743, discussed how transportation analysis for development projects is currently performed, provided a brief explanation of VMT and how it is determined, and introduced potential future policy considerations that the City Council may be asked to consider. Additionally, a proposed overall work plan was presented, and City Council and the public provided feedback and direction to staff on the overall effort.

As with the City Council, a Planning Commission study session was also held on December 11, 2019 to provide an overview and update on the City's effort to comply with SB 743. The Planning Commission and the public provided feedback and direction to staff on the overall effort.

Issues raised by the Planning Commission included current traffic conditions, regional transportation,

and a desire for more Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction than currently required in existing TDM programs in other cities. Commissioners recognized the value of the bike and scooter share programs, and there was a lot of discussion about the limited availability of transit options today. The Commissioners provided a wish list that included: Vision Zero, a minimum VMT reduction of 35 percent, and a focus on the importance of Level of Service (LOS) and better TDM documentation. There were also discussions of Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) in order to address nonresidential transportation issues and provide overall support for the transition to VMT.

DISCUSSION

At the study session on April 22, 2020, staff will provide the following:

- A brief recap of the December 11, 2019 Planning Commission study session, including feedback received.
- An update on staff's progress since December 2019, including an updated workplan with schedule.
- Staff evaluation of key policy areas for the Planning Commission to consider and provide feedback on to staff, such as:
 - Baseline VMT: Setting the baseline VMT that the City will be measured against (i.e. City, County, or SF Region VMT baselines)
 - Impact Criteria: Determining the proper significant impact thresholds or impact criteria for use during environmental analysis
 - VMT Exemptions: Establishing CEQA VMT project exemptions (i.e. exempt from VMT analysis)
 - Level of Service: Continuing to utilize LOS as a transportation congestion metric that projects are evaluated against (i.e. traffic operational analysis)

The goal of the study session is to further discuss the key policy options and the potential impacts to transportation analysis for projects under CEQA and how adoption of this new policy will affect land development in Santa Clara. Additionally, staff will seek the Commission's input on the changes to the City's transportation analysis methodology and processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered is exempt from formal review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15268(a), which provide that ministerial actions are exempt from the requirements of CEQA. The proposed implementation of VMT as the methodology for conducting future CEQA analyses is mandated by SB 743 and thus constitutes a ministerial action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no additional cost to the City other than staff time and expense.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the Community Development Department.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board

outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov <<mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov>> or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

Reviewed by: Alexander Abbe, Assistant City Attorney

Approved by: Michael Liw, Assistant Director of Public Works