



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: January 13, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph. D., Director, Planning and Development,
Director(s) 568-2085
Contact Info: Matt Schneider, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,
568-2072
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan, Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence: Public Works

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

Your Board should consider the following actions:

1. Determine that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, included as Attachment A; and
2. Receive and refer to the County Public Works Department the Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan, dated January 2015, for inclusion in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program, included as Attachment B.

Summary Text:

The Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan (Circulation Plan) provides concept-level plans for future street improvements in Los Alamos (Attachment B). The improvements will provide safer routes to school for the town's children and will support a vibrant and walkable downtown. The Planning and Development Department (P&D), Public Works Department, and Alta Planning + Design (a planning and design consultant) prepared the plan based on community input and preferences, and direction from the Los Alamos Planning Advisory Committee (LAPAC). On November 12, 2014, the County Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors receive and refer the Circulation Plan to the Public Works Department for implementation. However, the Planning

Commission also recommended adding the following three improvements (Attachment C) to the Circulation Plan: (1) complete the sidewalks on Bell Street; (2) add an alternative bike route along Main Street; and (3) consider adding a crosswalk across Bell Street at Den Street, near the northwest end of town. Staff incorporated these additional improvements into the Circulation Plan.

The Planning Commission staff report (Attachment D):

1. Describes the key improvements, which include bike lanes, crosswalks, sidewalks, and formalized on-street parking.
2. Identifies short-term and long-term priorities.
3. Provides a cost estimate for each improvement.
4. Summarizes the public outreach program and development of the plan.

At the Board's direction, the Public Works Department will include the Circulation Plan in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program. Balanced with other competing transportation projects in the county, the Public Works Department will seek grants and other funding sources as available to complete the improvements, including environmental review pursuant to CEQA and preparation of final designs. Most of the improvements will occur within the rights-of-way of U.S. 101 and State Route 135 (Bell Street) and, therefore, will require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to participate in the improvements as a partner.

Background:

The project was largely funded by Caltrans through an Environmental Justice grant. On October 2, 2012, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of P&D to execute the contract agreement with Caltrans. The project implements three action items of the Los Alamos Community Plan. For example, Action CIRC-LA-1.4.1 states, "The County Planning and Development and Public Works Departments shall prepare a Pedestrian Circulation Plan for the CM-LA [Community Mixed Use – Los Alamos] zone district which provides for a safe and efficient circulation system ..." The Planning Commission staff report quotes all three action items.

The project included an extensive public outreach program. The program began with a "Design Your Street" poster contest for students at Olga Reed Elementary School. It also included a project webpage, English and Spanish-language flyers, postcard mailings, bilingual community surveys, two public workshops with Spanish translation, one Central Board of Architectural Review (CBAR) meeting, and two LAPAC meetings.

The Circulation Plan only provides concept plans for possible future actions; thus, the Board of Supervisors is not required to adopt or fund it at this time. The Circulation Plan does not commit the County to any final course of action, nor does it commit any funds to implement the concept plans. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (Attachment A). The Public Works Department will conduct environmental review as proposed improvements are adopted and/or funded.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Preparation of the Circulation Plan has been funded by a Caltrans Environmental Justice grant (\$112,750) with matching funds provided by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (\$35,000) from the Measure A, Bicycle and Pedestrian and Safe Routes to School Program. In addition, the County provided a cash match to the Measure A grant (\$3,500) from the General Fund. This project is included in the P&D budget on page D-212 of the adopted Santa Barbara County Operational Plan, Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Implementation of the Circulation Plan will begin with referral of the plan to the Public Works Department and subsequent incorporation of the plan into the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program. However, referral of the plan to Public Works does not commit any funds to implement the improvements at this time. Public Works will seek grants and other funding sources to construct and otherwise complete the improvements considering the priorities laid out in the Circulation Plan along with competing priorities in the County overall.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall provide a minute order of the hearing to P&D, attention: David Villalobos.

Attachments:

- A. Notice of Exemption
- B. Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan, January 2015 (copy available at: http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/losalamos/los_alamos_circplan.php)
- C. Planning Commission Action Letter, dated November 12, 2014
- D. Planning Commission Staff Report, dated October 23, 2014

Authored by:

Julie Harris, Planner, Long Range Planning Division, 568-3543

cc:

Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation Division, County Public Works Department

Los Alamos Planning Advisory Committee

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