



**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION
TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 21, 2014

TO: Los Alamos Planning Advisory Committee (LAPAC)

FROM: Rosie Dyste, Planner, Long Range Planning Division

CC: Chris Henson, Chief of Staff, 3rd District Supervisor's Office
Allen Bell, Supervising Planner, Long Range Planning
Matt Dobberteen, Public Works Department
Melissa Streder, Caltrans
James Powell, Alta Planning and Design
Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan Administrative Record File

SUBJECT: **Agenda and Materials for the Monday, July 28, 2014, LAPAC Meeting
Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Los Alamos Senior Center**

Attachments:

1. July 28, 2014 Meeting Agenda
2. Summarized Survey Results
3. Workshop #2 Objectives and Ground Rules
4. Workshop #2 Exhibits Alta Planning and Design
5. CBAR Memo
6. Alta Planning and Design Concept Exhibits for LAPAC Meeting

The items detailed below are included on the agenda for the Monday, July 28, 2014, LAPAC meeting (Attachment 1). Please review the attached materials to prepare for the meeting.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call:** The LAPAC Chair will lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, staff will call LAPAC Roll, and the LAPAC Chair will convene the meeting.
- 2. Public Comment *Items Not on Agenda*:** The Public Comment period is set aside to allow public testimony on items not on today's agenda. The time allocated to each speaker will be set at the discretion of the Chair.
- 3. Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan Project Review:**
The Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan is a project in Long Range Planning's work program that was initiated in January 2013. It is funded by grants from Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning - Environmental Justice program with matching grant funds from Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Measure A Bicycle and Pedestrian and Safe Routes to School program.

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The purpose of the project is to design improvements to support the community's vision of safe routes to school and downtown revitalization as articulated in the policies of the Los Alamos Community Plan (Actions CIRC-LA-1.4.1 and CIRC-LA-1.5.1). The project includes preparation of conceptual plans and sketches of improvements to provide safe and convenient options for travel, including pedestrian, bicycle, and parking options.

The grant funds are specifically being used for:

- Public outreach and workshops;
- Concept plans and sketches of improvements to key roads and intersections, prepared for the project by Alta Planning and Design;
- Caltrans coordination and comments specific to State Route 135 (Bell Street);
- Presentation of concept plans and sketches to the Central Board of Architectural Review (CBAR) and the LAPAC;
- Draft and Final Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan Report (Project Report), including existing setting, summary of public outreach, final concept plans and sketches, cost estimates, funding sources, and phasing recommendations; and
- Presentations of final concept plans, sketches, and Project Report to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

Currently the project is about 75% complete and in accordance with our contract with Caltrans, has to be finished by February 2015. Following is a summary of the major tasks that have been completed to date.

Poster Contest

In fall 2013, the County used grant funds to purchase art supplies for students at Olga Reed Elementary School for the "Design Your Route to School" Poster Contest. The contest culminated in an awards ceremony at Olga Reed School and the posters were displayed around downtown and at the County information booth during the 2013 Old Days Celebration. All the posters are on the project's website:

http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/losalamos/los_alamos_circplan.php.

Surveys

From late 2013 to 2014, the County used three separate surveys to gather information from (1) parents of students at Olga Reed School, (2) business owners, and (3) all Los Alamos property owners and residents. The purpose of the surveys was to assess the public's perception of road safety and identify priorities for improvements in Los Alamos. Some of the top concerns from the surveys include:

- Speeding and tractor trailer trucks on Bell Street/State Route 135;
- Pedestrian visibility;
- Lack of bike lanes and contiguous sidewalks on Bell Street;
- Need for more crosswalks on Bell Street; and
- Lack of lighting and sidewalks under the U.S. 101 underpass.

After the first two surveys were prepared and results summarized at the first public workshop, workshop participants requested that the County survey everyone in Los Alamos (i.e., all residents and property owners). The resident and property owner survey was accomplished between the first and second workshop. The summarized results of each survey are included as Attachment 2.

Public Workshop#1: March 2014

The March public workshop was held in the evening and attended by approximately 30 people. Spanish translation services were provided to workshop participants. Staff's presentation focused on project scope, purpose, background, and survey results. Alta Planning and Design presented design concepts and options which can be viewed on the project's webpage:

http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/losalamos/los_amos_circplan.php

Ernest Righetti High School students assisted staff with workshop set up and made a presentation about pedestrian improvements they would like to see in Los Alamos.

Some participants were unreceptive to discussing design concepts and options and declined to participate in an exercise to choose among design options. Despite the somewhat poor reception to the project, the workshop did result in participants agreeing on a few focused improvement areas as follows:

- Bell Street/State Route 135: traffic needs to be slowed, more crosswalks are needed, and sidewalks should be finished.
- U.S. 101 Underpass: sidewalks and lighting should be installed.

There was no consensus or strong interest expressed in considering other concepts presented at the workshop such as angled parking (particularly on Bell Street), improvements on streets leading to Olga Reed School, or amenities such as street trees, landscaping, or benches on Bell Street.

Public Workshop#2: May 2014

The May public workshop was held on a Saturday and attended by approximately 50 people. Spanish translation services were provided to workshop participants. The second workshop used a meeting facilitator to ensure participants followed established ground rules for engagement and to increase participation from less vocal community members. Bilingual (English/Spanish) project objectives and workshop ground rules were provided (Attachment 3).

The workshop included a review of the residents and property owner survey results, and information about project funding and construction. Based on results of the surveys and the first public workshop, Alta Planning and Design presented exhibits of focused project concepts and options with cost estimates (Attachment 4). Workshop participants were asked to select their top three priority project concepts with a dot vote on the exhibits. Time was allocated at the end of the workshop for questions and answers with Supervisor Farr and representatives from the Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, Public Works, and Planning and Development.

The second workshop was very productive with participants appreciating the new format and opportunity to participate. The results of the dot vote were as follows:

Los Alamos Workshop #2 Design Concepts	
Concept	Votes in Favor
U.S. 101 underpass improvements	21
Bell Street crosswalk with curb extensions	18
Bell Street/SR 135 lane configurations	15
Bell Street crosswalk with raised center median	9
Centennial Street between Bell and Waite lane configurations	1
Centennial Street south of Waite lane configurations	1
Concepts Introduced at Workshop	
Painted crosswalk only	10
Lower speed limit on Bell Street	7
Angled parking on side streets	4
Street lighting near Flatbread	1
None	0

Based on the results of the surveys and the two workshops, the County has worked with Alta Planning and Design to promote a limited number of focused project concepts that result in meaningful improvements for pedestrian and bicyclist circulation and safety. These concepts, together with cost estimates and phasing, will be presented to decision-makers as priorities for future funding and implementation.

Central Board of Architectural Review (CBAR) Meeting

Following the second public workshop, staff presented the focused project concept exhibits to the CBAR for courtesy review (Attachment 5, CBAR Memo). The CBAR appreciated the opportunity to view the exhibits at this conceptual stage and offered the following comments:

- Be sure to include beautification features in plan.
- Don't do anything that could preempt parallel parking on side streets.
- Consider pavers for crosswalks; City of Buellton put in pavers on a State Highway (246).
- There is too much paint shown on the exhibits for the rural town setting.
- Consider wider sidewalks.
- Business owners should consider forming a Business Improvement District to fund and maintain landscape beautification.
- Consider street trees at the concept level; they provide a significant temperature difference and could encourage people to linger downtown and spend more money.
- Work with the County and Caltrans to be innovative and consider public/private partnerships for street trees.
- Reconsider angled parking for safety on side streets.

- Slow traffic down at the beginning and end of town.
- All the shown concepts plus increased enforcement should work together to slow down traffic.

Current Status and LAPAC's Role

Following the CBAR meeting, Alta Planning and Design prepared additional concept design exhibits for the LAPAC's consideration (Attachment 6). These additional concept exhibits respond to the CBAR's comments by providing options for angled parking on side streets and use of pavers instead of paint. Alta also prepared photo simulations of what Bell Street could look like with street trees and other amenities. Alta staff will attend the LAPAC meeting to answer any questions about the concept plans.

As stated in the grant work scope, staff will present workshop summaries, outreach results, and draft concept sketches and alternatives to the LAPAC. The LAPAC's role is to make any additional recommendations to County staff.

Information about Caltrans Role

As a reminder, Bell Street is a State highway and any proposals for improvements in Caltrans right-of-way must be reviewed and approved by Caltrans. State highways that also function as main streets need to balance the public's need for roadways with regional and statewide connections with local needs for a vibrant community street. Caltrans has published the "*Main Street, California*" guide that includes planning, design, maintenance, and operational concepts that are conceptually compatible with established traffic engineering and design practices, policies, and standards. It is available at the website below:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/mainstreet/>.

4. LAPAC Administrative Briefing: Staff and the LAPAC Chair will provide a briefing on current projects and items of interest to Los Alamos.

5. Next Steps:

A second LAPAC meeting is planned to review any final revisions to the concept design exhibits and consider a Resolution recommending the concepts to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The second meeting will need to be scheduled in mid-September. The Planning Commission hearing is tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2014 and the Board of Supervisors hearing will be in early 2015.