Planning Directors/Planning Advisory Committee

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 27, 2014, 9:30 a.m.
Sonoma County Transportation Authority
SCTA Large Conference Room
490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206
Santa Rosa, California 95401

ITEM

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment/Announcements
3. Approval of the agenda – changes, additional discussion items
4. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2014* - ACTION
5. Round table members discussion
6. Climate Action 2020 – update*
7. Healthy By Design 2.0/Healthy Communities Training* presentation by Sonoma County PRMD
8. SB 743 Preliminary Evaluation of Alternative Methods of Transportation Analysis for CEQA by OPR - Comment Letter*
9. Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan*
10. 2014 Highway 101 Corridor Landscaping & Tree Planting Plan*
11. Countywide Transportation Plan update*
12. Other Business /Next agenda
13. Adjourn

*Attachment

The next SCTA meeting will be held March 10, 2014
The next Planning Directors/PAC meeting will be held March 27, 2014

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## PLANNING DIRECTORS/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2014

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### ITEM

1. **Introductions**
   Meeting called to order by Janet Spilman at 9:38 a.m.

   **Members:** Richard Bottarini, LAFCO; Scott Duiven, City of Petaluma; Amy Lyle, PRMD; Karen Massey, Cloverdale; Linda Meckel, SMART; Vicki Parker, City of Cotati; Ned Thomas, Town of Windsor.

   **Guests:** Stefanie Hom, Metropolitan Transportation Commission.
2. **Public Comment/Announcements**

None.

3. **Approval of the agenda – changes, additional discussion items**

Ms. Spilman encouraged Committee members to notify her of any items they wish to have addressed on the agenda.

4. **Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2013**

*ACTION*

Approved as submitted.

5. **Round table members discussion**

   - **City of Cloverdale:** Karen Massey reported that Cloverdale was the last city in the County to have the Climate Action 2020 workshop. Only a few of the public attended.

   The City Council adopted a water conservation ordinance and a Stage 2 Water Conservation Alert to reduce the use of water by 25%.

   - **Sonoma County PRMD:**

     Amy Lyle announced the upcoming implementation of Health Communities training in March, in collaboration with the Sonoma County Department of Health Services. Staff will be meeting with Planning Directors of each jurisdiction to address their jurisdiction’s specific needs.

     Issues identified by staff include review of projects on the basis of their impact on health, as well as their environmental impact. A guest speaker, Robert Ogilvy, a planner and public health official, will be scheduled to appear at a special function that will likely be planned for the coming summer.

     Staff is working with Sonoma State University on updating the *Healthy by Design* workbook. This will be the focus of their spring class.

     This will be addressed further at the next Committee meeting.

     Suzanne Smith led a discussion regarding the trend by jurisdictions to begin addressing health issues, the constraints of limited staff and resources, and finding the balance between developing a good product for the customer/public and keeping up with the workload.

   - **SMART:**

     Linda Meckel announced the resignation of John Nemeth, who accepted a position as Director of the West Contra Costa Transportation Commission.

     Staff awarded the contract for the approved Airport Boulevard station in December. The new design team has moved into the office and is designing the stations.

     Ms. Meckel stated that staff expects to have the pilot vehicle operating in the fall. She agreed to have staff tour the train in the future.

     In response to Ms. Spilman’s inquiry, Ms. Meckel confirmed that staff has established a safety committee, and reported that a safety campaign is under way called “Operation Lifesaver.” She noted that there currently is rail service for freight.

     Ms. Massey pointed out the need for greater awareness of increased activity on the track and safety measures, particularly for schools. Ms. Meckel confirmed that she would follow up on checking to ensure that safety education reaches Cloverdale schools.

     Ms. Meckel explained that the extension of the rail to the Airport and the rail station at this location would not impact plans for the rail station at Cloverdale, as construction north of Windsor is currently only cleared to the environmental phase.

     The Russian River Bridge is the major issue for the Healdsburg and Cloverdale stations.

   - **LAFCo:**

     Mr. Bottarini polled the Committee as to their preference to be emailed or sent a formal letter for updating of the MSRs/spheres of influence. This is required to be completed every five years.

     Mr. Bottarini next thanked staff for the award of the grant that will fund the study of the Roseland area for potential annexation, noting that this will extend the review process to every five years.

     Discussion followed regarding the PDA boundaries for the Roseland study area, the length of time the annexation would take, and the fact that the urban growth area is larger than the sphere of influence. Mr. Bottarini encouraged staff to continue the planning process for the Roseland area and to submit a letter confirming that staff does not wish to have any changes for presentation to the Commission at its April meeting.

   - **MTC:**

     Stefanie Hom announced the retirement of Deputy Director Ann Flemer in April.

     Lauren Casey announced that RCPA staff would be submitting a proposal in February for additional
funding for BayREN and invited Committee members to contact her regarding their respective conservation ordinance. Staff is working on expanding the pilot program and is continuing to identify additional utilities organizations that may be included.

Ms. Smith suggested that this be addressed at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

City of Cotati:
Vicki Parker reported low attendance at the recent Climate Action 2020 public workshop.

Staff recruited for an Assistant Planner; however, due to “sunsetting” of revenue measures in 2015, and a polling of constituents, a decision was made to restructure staff and suspend hiring. In the interim, the Assistant City Manager is assisting with projects as needed.

SMART has submitted a project application for rail.

The Administrative Draft EIR General Plan update has been received. The adoption of the General Plan is being targeted for late spring.

A workshop was conducted for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which included walking audits.

Staff has not yet started on the Housing Element.

Town of Windsor:
Ned Thomas introduced himself as the new Planning Director for Windsor. He reported that repairing of potholes had started for the Bell Village project; the developers have not yet approached the Regional Water Quality Board and are in need of a permit. This will delay the project, but developers plan to have a groundbreaking in April.

Mr. Thomas added that there has been interest in several possible projects.

6. Climate Action 2020 – update*
Misty Mersich reported that the series of public workshops has been completed and that she will be compiling comments from the public.

The first Stakeholders Advisory Group workshop took place January 22, with excellent attendance (33 of 37 invitees). It was a very productive meeting. These comments will also be compiled and provided to the Committee.

Ms. Mersich also reported that during the previous two weeks staff has been meeting with individual Planning Directors to discuss next steps for Climate Action 2020. Meetings have yet to take place with the County and Town of Windsor.

As a result of meetings with Planning Directors, a meeting will be scheduled in February for building officials and Climate Action planning staff to discuss green building strategies and GHG emission reduction strategies.

Ms. Mersich distributed schedules showing the Climate Action timeline.

In response to Committee questions, Ms. Mersich referred to the role and responsibilities of Stakeholder Advisory Group members, City staff and RCPA staff; the main purpose of the SAG is to provide feedback and comment on the direction Climate Action should take.

Discussion followed regarding the roles, expectations and responsibilities of all involved in the Climate Action process. Ms. Smith explained that the SAG will act to provide a “reality check” as to what is viable in their community; e.g. marketing, education, behavioral change and various issues at a policy level.

Ms. Mersich suggested a collective discussion of the following these meetings and that this Committee may be the best forum. Ms. Smith recommended engaging elected to have staff involved from different sectors.

7. SB 743 CEQA revision to replace LOS*
Chris Barney provided a follow-up to this issue from the previous Committee meeting and referred to new information from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research on Level of Service Performance CEQA. Under SB 743, the OPR has been directed to identify a metric that focuses on GHG reduction, pollution reduction, health and safety, smart growth, and land use planning vs. solely vehicle delay (Level of Service or LOS). They are looking at revising criteria used to estimate transportation impacts in the CEQA process. He referred to the OPR report and summarized highlights.

Next steps are a meeting of OPR representatives with regional stakeholder groups March 5, which will be attended by a SCTA staff representative. Mr. Barney invited any interested Committee members to attend. The OPR is accepting public comments on the metrics and their approach through February 14. Feedback will be evaluated and then a draft document recommending an alternative metric for the estimation of transportation impacts in CEQA will be developed. This will be followed by public
comment, and a final draft will be submitted to the Natural Resources Agency July 1, 2014.

Mr. Bottarini noted the difficulty in CEQA trying to encompass fiscal, social and economic effects of projects; he emphasized the need to identify the physical effect and environmental impact of a given project. Mr. Barney noted an increased trend to focus on not just congestion, but on emissions, fuel use and the amount of travel.

8. PDA update

8.1. Regional Timeline and Guidelines for Adding, Removing, or Changing PDAs and PCAs*
Ms. Spilman referred to ABAG’s memo on the above and responded to Committee questions regarding what constitutes a PDA and a Station Area Plan. Further discussion pointed out that station area plans evolve into PDAs.

Further discussion ensued regarding timing and deadlines for submittal and approval for adding, removing or modifying PDAs.

Stefani Hom of MTC noted that she could also get more information and clarification as to what constitutes a PCA.

8.2. Regional call for Projects PDA Planning Program*
Ms. Hom announced that three PDA planning-related programs are available: (1) The PDA Planning Program which helps fund comprehensive planning; (2) the PDA Technical Assistance Program, which helps fund specific projects; and (3) PDA Staffing Assistance is a new program for jurisdictions with limited staffing resources to contract with for assistance in developing a plan.

Applications are due April 2 at 4:00 p.m. A pre-application workshop is scheduled for February 25 at 2:00 p.m. at ABAG.

The review process will take place in April, and applicants will be notified in May if they have been accepted. Ms. Hom referred the Committee to the website for more information: www.mtc.ca.gov/pda.

Ms. Hom responded to specific questions from Ms. Massey regarding the effect of converting two northerly lanes at the interchange in Cloverdale that connects the train depot to a multi-modal transportation pathway for bicycles and pedestrians, and its impact on the onramps.

Ms. Hom explained that the PDA Staffing Assistance is an option to use to examine this, which would provide a dedicated staff person to work on this project. MTC has contracted with a consultant that would send staff to provide assistance.

Ms. Hom agreed to check into the possibility of participating in the pre-application workshop via conference call.

8.3. Investment & Growth Strategy update
Ms. Spilman referred to housing element data and explained that SCTA had submitted the Sonoma County Investment Area and Growth Strategy report to ABAG and MTC in May, 2013. The Board had approved it in April, 2013.

Response to the report was to recommend further discussion regarding policy. An update to the report is due in May, 2014.

9. Smart Growth Area Planning Tool (SmartGAP) presentation*
Chris Barney explained that SmartGAP assesses the impact of smart growth on emissions and other metrics. He demonstrated how different scenarios can be set up and then, using different policy, population and transportation supply levers, see what impact these have on different metrics.

Mr. Barney noted an advantage in using SmartGAP is that it allows analysis of policies that are difficult to analyze using the travel model; it can quickly assess policy impacts. He demonstrated how to set up various types of scenarios, and showed a series of scenarios for comparison purposes.

Mr. Barney explained that this can be used to quickly prescreen scenarios vs. the much lengthier time it takes to use in the travel model. Mr. Barney pointed out that the timesaver with SmartGAP is in setting up the scenario.

There is no cost except the investment of staff time to configure the program for Sonoma County. There is no support provided for this tool.

10. Other Business /Next agenda
Ms. Spilman announced that the Healthy by Design workbook update will be presented by Amy Lyle of PRMD at the next meeting.

Ms. Smith suggested addressing the Highway 101 Corridor Landscaping and Tree Planting Plan at the next meeting.

Ms. Parker reported that she had attended a training hosted by Sonoma State University in December where they presented a scalable water conservation model; it starts at the parcel level and can scale it to neighborhood level. She stated she would be using
this for two projects she is involved in. She referred the Committee to contact Tom Jacobson of Sonoma State University for further information on this tool.

11. Adjourn
11:30 a.m.
MEMO

Date: February 27, 2014
To: PAC Members
From: Amy Lyle, Planner III (Comprehensive Planning)
Subject: Healthy Communities Training/Healthy By Design Workbook 2.0

In 2012 the County Health Services Department received a Community Transformation Grant from the US Center for Disease Control. The grant was awarded to local governments in an effort to implement broad sustainable strategies to reduce health disparities and expand clinical and community preventive services, with an emphasis on healthy communities.

Healthy Communities Training

PRMD is partnering with the Health Services Dept and is responsible for a portion of this grant aimed at training local professionals on healthy community principles, including tools and case studies. The grant requires PRMD to provide training to at least 50% of the Redwood Empire Chapter of American Institute of Architects and 20 local government stakeholder groups. PRMD has hired Lois Fisher of Fisher Town Design to help develop the trainings which will be provided from March through September. Attached you will find a list of the tools and case studies that are currently under development. We welcome any feedback and/or suggestions.

Healthy By Design 2.0

Sonoma State University is also partnering on the grant by creating healthy communities curriculum. As part of their spring course, the students will be updating the Healthy By Design Workbook, nicknamed “Healthy By Design 2.0.” You might remember the original document developed in 2009, in large part with the PAC members.

The 2010 Healthy By Design Workbook can be viewed here: http://www.cdphe.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/HealthyByDesign.pdf

We are hoping to have a meaningful dialogue at this PAC meeting to receive your input on case study ideas within your respective cities.
Sonoma County Healthy Communities Training – Potential tools

Feb 18, 2014 rev

Training is intended to reach:

1. Local planning staff (public and private?)
2. 50% Redwood Chapter AIA members (also public architects?)
3. Development community (Developers, Landscape Architects, Design review members?)
4. City Managers
5. Planning Directors
6. Planning Commissioners and City Council by invitation only

Planning Directors Survey:

• Self-evaluation survey for planning directors/staff: “Do you think that planning/urban design has a role in creating health? What do you think is healthy design? What things are you already doing towards Healthy Design that others can learn from? Would you like to have in place....?

Sample of Indicators for Safe & Healthy Communities:

- % of children that feel safe at their nearby park during the day
- % of adults that feel safe in their neighborhoods
- % of adults that report doing physical activity within the past week
- % of residents surveyed that rate the ease of walking in ____ as excellent or good.

Would you find the tools below helpful? What would you find helpful?”

‘A’ List tools:

• Sample RFP’s and RFQ’s for:
  Health Impact Assessments
  Plaza/ creek path and/or park design for safety checklist for potential consultants (pre-design for public projects)
  Form-based coding zoning work
  Other?

• Plaza/Park/ Creek path- Defensible space planning checklist for design review (post-design for public and private projects). Would you prefer to do it yourself vs. having county planners assist you on this via referral?)

• Checklist for walkable design/complete neighborhoods: This could be expanded from the Richmond HiAP Complete Neighborhood checklist. Designs could be rated as excellent, medium or poor in several design areas. I.e. gates or cul-de-sacs in proposed residential design= poor, large blocks but interconnected= medium, block perimeter of 1400’ for residential= excellent.
This checklist could be used to evaluate existing neighborhoods or as a tool to evaluate proposed subdivision or mixed use projects.

- Image library of walkable frontage types such as stoops, porches, urban apartment or hotel style frontages for applicant/planning commission meetings to help describe walkable frontage types and how they would help to put ‘eyes on the street’ for safety.

‘B’ List tools:

- Sprawl repair training (single lot walkable design instead of larger area with walkable zoning)
- Techniques for avoiding sound walls in the residential subdivision design process
- Implications of private open space requirements on urban forms

‘C’ List tools:

- Do you need a way to integrate healthy planning into your staff report? One idea—‘CEQA’ for Health checklist: Health indicators report card for planning staff to give to Planning Commissions/Town Councils

Possible Architect Training/Tools (Architecture-focused health boosting ideas):

- Zoning for walkable places-3 hour workshop on how to create a form-based code
- Key elements of walkable design (checklist)
- Frontage types (including defining active frontages in downtown infill)
  - Retail shop front design (including taller first floor, front door recesses, frequency of shop doors for optimum pedestrian activity, window size, etc.)
  - Stoop frontage type and ADA: Options-elevators, common walk at stoop level, rear accessibility, etc.
  - Image library of walkable frontage types especially, urban apartment or hotel style frontages for client/planner meetings
- Building elevation design
  - Street wall and expression line design for active sidewalks
  - Fenestration (window design for defensible space)
- Apartment design for defensible space
- Techniques for avoiding sound walls in the design process
- Sprawl repair training
- Outdoor stair dimensions-based on Versailles

Engineers:

- ASHTO versus context sensitive design manual
- Ross or Camp Meeker sized fire trucks versus Rohnert Park sized trucks-grant funding?
California Planning Roundtable Definition of a “Healthy California Community”:

Basic Needs for All:
- Affordable, accessible and nutritious foods and safe drinking water
- Affordable, accessible, high quality health care
- Affordable, safe, integrated, and location efficient housing
- Safe, sustainable, accessible and affordable transportation options
- Safe, clean environment access to quality schools
- Access to affordable, safe opportunities and spaces for physical exercise and fun activities
- Safe communities, free of crime and violence

Safe, Sustainable Environment
- Clean air, soil, and water
- Green and open spaces
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants
- Reduced waste
- Affordable and renewable energy resources
- Habitat conservation and renewal
- Nourishes the interrelationship between people, nature and the built environment

Economic and Social Vitality
- Living wage, safe and equitable job opportunities to support individuals and families
- Strong, resilient economy supportive of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit
- Support and investment in the healthy development of children and adolescents
- Access to high quality, affordable education from preschool through college and including vocational opportunities
- Community empowerment through robust social and civic engagement that takes into account diversity and cultural competency
- Opportunities for recognizing the intangible and tangible value of people's history and cultural heritage imprinted in the built and natural environment
- Meaningful public participation opportunities that all segments of the community can access
- Access to opportunities to thrive regardless of income, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, identity, creed or disability
- Equitable access to opportunities for physical, mental and spiritual well-being and development in a safe environment, especially for women and children
- Promote an understanding of the social determinants of health and health equity as strategies to reduce health disparities affecting the most vulnerable populations
- Opportunities for exercising creativity, artistic expression and fostering imagination.

Efficient Development Patterns
- Sufficient affordable housing development in appropriate locations
- Mix of land uses and built environment that support walking and biking
- Multimodal, affordable transportation choices
- Infill and compact development appropriate to setting (urban, suburban and rural)
- Safe public spaces for social interaction
- Conservation and restoration of open space and preserve agricultural lands
County of Sonoma Healthy Communities Training Case Study Topics:

“Recent and locally relevant projects designed to improve health outcomes through creative design or redesign of public spaces.”

Feb 18, 2014

List of case study topics:

1. New York’s “Fit City”. See http://vimeo.com/72361525
   - What is working or not working?
     - Stair design-Versailles as model, incorporate seating into stairs
     - Entice people, pull them through the space
     - Center for Active Design-non-profit : What do they do?
     - NYC Active Design Guidelines- Are some relevant to Sonoma County?

2. LEED for Neighborhood Development: Thornton Place in Seattle parking lot near light rail was converted to mixed use using LEED ND. http://www.fastcoexist.com/3023360/how-a-giant-mall-parking-lot-turned-into-a-park-and-a-walkable-community?goback=%2Egde_1961663_member_5821275596763717632#11

3. Sprawl repair successes: Study one success story i.e. Mashpee Commons, Massachusetts, BelMar, Lakewood, Colorado, USA, but try to find a rural example.

4. Study Petaluma’s SmartCode Theatre District area-what worked/didn’t work/changes with updated code.

5. Mixed use neighborhoods and Equity: How is it possible to keep disadvantaged communities intact when integrating with higher income residents? Social mix issues. This would apply to any Roseland redevelopment.
   Also see page 28 of Richmond, CA draft HiAP plan for displacement mitigation measures.

6. Center for Active Living – Humboldt
Staff Report

To: Planning Advisory Committee
From: Diane Dohm, Transportation Planner
Item: SCTA Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update
Date: February 27, 2014

Issue:
What is the status of the SCTA Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan update?

Background:
The SCTA Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was last completed and adopted in 2008. This plan was developed through a 2-year public process whereby a consulting firm, W-Trans, assisted in managing the development of our plan. There are various reasons to update our Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, such as updating project lists, maps and census data. Therefore, SCTA is in the process of updating this plan. Since this is an update of an existing plan, the process and timeline will be shorter than the previous process that was used to develop the current plan.

To begin this plan update process, the existing Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was reviewed to determine which updates need to occur (e.g. demographic data, bicycle and pedestrian mode share, countywide map, etc). There are other areas in the Plan where information will be enhanced where necessary (e.g. complete streets, bicycle and pedestrian count program, economic benefits of bicycling and walking, etc). Please see our website to view the current Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which includes each jurisdiction’s individual bicycle and pedestrian master plan: http://www.sctainfo.org/Bike_Main_files/index.htm.

Plan Update Progress:
Completed work (✓) and in-progress work (o).

✓ Census data: demographics, journey to work, travel time to work, and mode share data
✓ Collision data (SWITRS: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System)
✓ Bicycle and pedestrian count data (both MTC and SCTA data)
✓ Countywide Vision, Principal Goal and Objectives edits
✓ Jurisdiction plan sections
✓ Draft Countywide Project List
✓ Draft Countywide Overview Section
  o Draft Maps
The Countywide Overview Section of the Plan has been updated. The CBPAC reviewed the Countywide Section, including the countywide project list at their January 28 meeting. Please see attachment A for the schedule.

Next Steps

SCTA has been working with jurisdictions to update each individual bicycle and pedestrian map. The final remaining task of the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update is completing the updates on maps. It is anticipated that the SCTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will review the final draft, and make a recommendation to the Board for approval of the updated Plan, on March 25. It is also anticipated that the SCTA Board of Directors will be reviewing the final updated Plan at their May 12 meeting.

Policy Impacts:
None at this time.

Fiscal Impacts:
None at this time.

Staff Recommendation:
Staff is requesting comments to the updated Countywide Overview Section. Comments should relate to data accuracy or missing data. Any and all questions regarding specific bicycle or pedestrian projects should be directed to the jurisdiction in which the project is listed.
## SCTA COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN UPDATE SCHEDULE

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### Tasks

- **SCTA**: Update Project Lists
- **SCTA**: Update 'Setting and Context' Chapter, schools lists
- **SCTA**: Vision/GOPs
- **SCTA**: Local Network Chapter, Project Costs and Funding Chapter

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- **December**: CBPAC

### SCTA

- **January**: SCTA
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