



Regular Meeting
Of the
San José
Transportation & Environment Committee
Held
May 5, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Forrest Williams; Vice Chair Sam Liccardo; Councilmember Judy Chirco;
Councilmember Nora Campos

Chair Forrest Williams opened the meeting by asking for a motion to defer item a on the agenda to August. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to defer the item.

- a. **Quarterly Update Report on Performance Measures for Airport, Environmental Services, General Services, Transportation and Police Departments (CMO) – Deferred to August**
- b. **Status on Strategy to Reduce the Deferred Infrastructure Maintenance Backlog (CMO)**

City Manager's Office staff presented the status report on the deferred maintenance and infrastructure backlog for City facilities. By providing a status report staff is able to effectively communicate the latest progress on all thirteen programs included in the Infrastructure Report in the context of the 2009-2013 Proposed Capital Improvement Project. Since February 2007, the City Council has identified reducing the City's deferred maintenance and infrastructure backlog as one of the City's top five priorities. During the October 25, 2007 Study Session, Council requested further information on the breakdown of the needs based on funding sources. As discussed in the Study Session, given the General Fund deficit limited General Fund budgeting strategies such as creation of program reserves and sinking funds would make sense for specific programs, however, staff will need to continue to pursue other ongoing strategies such as:

- Prioritization of critical safety needs and strategies to minimize life cycle costs
- Continuous improvement to operational practices and preventative maintenance
- Rate adjustments for user-financed infrastructure (e.g., sanitary storm systems)
- Partnerships with private entities and other agencies, including grants.

Given the limitations of available funding, staff has also been looking at the feasibility and timing of new funding sources including formation of special assessment/community facilities districts, seeking voter approval to increase existing taxes such as Conveyance Tax, service rate and impact

fee increases, issuance of bonds, and partnership and grant opportunities. A stakeholder group, chaired by Councilmember Constant and consisting of staff and community members, has been formed to review staffs analyses for various strategies. The group will develop a list of pros and cons for each strategy to be reviewed by Council in mid May. Upon the motion of Councilmember Nora Campos, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to accept the report.

c. Status Report on Traffic Calming Policy 5-6 and Related Traffic Safety Items (DOT/PD)

Department of Transportation staff presented the status report on revisions to the Traffic Calming Policy 5-6 and related safety items. Council Policy 5-6 addresses Traffic Calming for Residential Neighborhoods and was adopted by the City Council in June 2001. During the fall of 2007, a series of 10 Residential Traffic Calming Community Meetings were held to gather input from San José residents on the existing policy, to solicit feedback on potential changes to the policy, and to recommend priorities for the City to consider in continuing to address neighborhood traffic concerns. Proposed revisions to the Traffic Calming Policy are being developed based upon input received from the community in the Fall of 2007, benchmarking of programs in other cities, consideration of ongoing budget constraints, and other factors. Before bringing the proposed policy changes to the T&E Committee, the Department of Transportation plans to hold a community meeting in May to solicit feedback on the proposed new policy, with Councilmember Oliverio facilitating the meeting. Staff would then have the opportunity to incorporate input received from this meeting and present a final proposed policy to the T&E Committee in June 2008. Staff will also bring forward a detailed report on benchmarking activities that have occurred in reviewing the Red Light Running (RLR) camera pilot program based upon research of systems in other cities, an update on the feasibility of increasing fines for traffic violations, developing partnerships with school districts on traffic calming near schools, and the Assembly Bill 321. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Councilmember Nora Campos, the Committee voted to accept the report.

d. Report on General Plan Greening (PBCE/ESD)

Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Assistant Director, Laurel Prevetti and Environmental Services Director, John Stufflebean presented the report on "Greening" the General Plan. The report outlines how the Envision San José 2040 General Plan update process will result in a green General Plan and achieve Green Vision Goal #7. Green Vision goal #7 of the City's Green Vision is "Adopt a General Plan with measurable standards for sustainable development." One of the seven central themes (called Major Strategies) in the current San José 2020 General Plan is Sustainable City. This Strategy seeks to reduce traffic congestion, pollution, wastefulness and degradation of our natural environment. This Strategy is also a commitment by the City to encourage and participate in cooperative/regional efforts to improve the quality of air and water, and to conserve land, soil, water, energy and ecosystems, such as baylands, forests, riparian corridors, fisheries, grasslands, etc. The San José 2020 General Plan is facilitating the development of a City where people can drive less and have opportunities to walk, bicycle and take transit to their destinations. On June 26, 2007 the City Council approved eight Guiding Principles for Envision San José 2040. The Guiding Principles are "ground rules" for the General Plan Update process and shape the direction for development of the General Plan's major policy framework. Sustainability is one of the eight Guiding Principles and has emerged as a major issue

at the Envision San José 2040 Task Force meetings. The Task Force and public identified the need for San José to become a city with a more interconnected and mixed land use fabric where jobs, residences, shops, parks, and other public facilities are closer together, affording people the opportunity to drive less to meet their daily needs. Creating a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly city with a need to improve public transportation. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Councilmember Nora Campos, the Committee voted to accept the report.

e. Report on Sustainable Energy Action Plan (ESD)

Environmental Services staff presented the report on achievements detailed in the 2007 Sustainable Energy Policy and Action Plan report. In April 2003, Council adopted the Sustainable Energy Policy and corresponding Action Plan. The goals of the San José Sustainable Energy Policy are to:

- Lead by example in pursuing the most efficient use of energy in City facilities and activities.
- Explore opportunities to improve energy reliability, supply and price stability to meet current and future needs.
- Promote collaboration on energy issues.
- Promote and achieve a cleaner and healthier environment, including improving air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Encourage the development and use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels.

Citywide, the total electrical usage by all sectors is almost 5 billion kilowatt hours on an annual basis, according to 2006 data. The commercial sector is the largest use of electricity. The Green Vision Goal for energy efficiency is to reduce per capita energy use by 50% within 15 years. Vision goals will require city-wide energy use reductions of almost 5% per year for the next 15 years. According to the City of San José's General Services, department energy usage at the City's twelve largest facilities has reduced 20.7% since 2001. The City of San José is the only city in the United States to have received both a Department of Energy Solar Showcase Award and a Solar America City designation. In the next year, the following principles will guide the activities of staff:

- Leading by Example
- Partnerships and Advocacy
- Engaging the Community
- Facilitating the Community Adoption of Renewable Energy

Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to accept the report.

f. Waste Characterization Report (ESD)

Environmental Services staff and representatives from Cascadia Consulting Group presented the report on the Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Characterization Study. In October 2007 the City Council directed staff, as a part of the Zero Waste resolution, to complete a waste characterization study. Environmental Services staff worked with Cascadia Consulting Group to determine more than 50 types of materials to categorize the solid waste and recyclables in the study. Cascadia visually characterized 17 loads of commercial waste. The study found that waste from single family dwelling garbage carts comprise of the following materials:

- Recyclable paper constitutes 13%
- Organic Material, primarily food waste, make up 52%
- Other traditional recyclables make up 15%
- Materials considered "non-recyclable" total almost 20%.

Determining what materials are still thrown away in the garbage carts will help the City to target these wastes in new programs and outreach. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to accept the report.

g. Recommendations to Reduce Plastic Bag Use (ESD)

Environmental Services Department staff presented the report the ban of plastic carryout bags and reduction in single-use bags and hard-to-recycle foodservice wares. In January 2008, the Rules and Open Government Committee directed staff to add the prohibition of plastic checkout bags to the initiatives being evaluated under the Green Vision Goal #5, Divert 100% of Waste from Landfill. During the Green Vision Study Session held in February of 2008, the City Council discussed that reusable bags are the environmentally superior alternative to single-use bags and requested strategies to reduce the use of paper bags in addition to plastic. The City of San José has incorporated the recycling of plastic bags in its programs for over fifteen years. This strategy has proven to be ineffective with low recycling rate and high contamination levels. The most effective means to reduce the use of plastic bags is limiting their distribution at the point of sale. Retailers and other public entities agree that the promotion of reusable bags is the best solution.

Representatives from California Waste Solutions, the American Chemistry Council and the California Grocers Association spoke on the item. Tim James, Manager of Local Government Relations for the California Grocers Association (CGA) shared a letter that was submitted to the Mayor and City Council that states his Associations position. The CGA has concerns with a prohibition on recyclable plastic carryout bags. By prohibiting the use of recyclable plastic carryout bags grocery stores would be forced to use paper bags which provide no environmental benefit. CGA believes encouraging consumers to use few carryout bags, reuse carryout bags and use reusable grocery bags consistently is the only way to change consumer behavior, essential to environmental gain. CGA is willing to discuss with San José opportunities to reduce carryout bag use through encouragement and disincentives, with a goal of moving consumers to use reusable bags consistently. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Councilmember Nora Campos, the Committee voted to accept the report and forward the staff recommendations to the full Council for discussion.

h. Oral Petitions

There were no Oral Petitions

h. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m.


Councilmember Forrest Williams, Chair
Transportation & Environment Committee