



# City of Santa Barbara

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### MAY 21, 2020

1:00 P.M.

This Meeting Was Conducted Electronically  
[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Deborah L. Schwartz, Chair  
Lesley Wiscomb, Vice Chair  
Roxana Bonderson  
Gabriel Escobedo  
Jay D. Higgins  
Sheila Lodge  
Barrett Reed

#### STAFF:

Tava Ostrenger, Assistant City Attorney  
Allison DeBusk, Senior Planner  
Heidi Reidel, Commission Secretary

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### NOTICES

#### A. **CANCELLED: THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020 LUNCH MEETING**

#### **PLEASE BE ADVISED**

**AGENDAS, MINUTES, & REPORTS:** Documents relating to agenda items are available for review in the Community Development Department at 630 Garden Street, and agendas, minutes, and reports are also posted online at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PC](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PC). Please note that online Staff Reports may not include some exhibits. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Planning Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Community Development Department at 630 Garden Street during normal business hours.

**PLANS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The scope of a project may be modified as it proceeds through the planning process. If you have any questions, wish to review the plans, or wish to be placed on a mailing list for future agendas for an item, contact the Case Planner as listed in the project description. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday (see [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Calendar](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Calendar) for closure dates).

**TELEVISION COVERAGE:** Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on City TV-Channel 18 and online at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTV](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTV). See [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTVProgramGuide](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTVProgramGuide) for a rebroadcast schedule. An archived video of this meeting will be available at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PCVideos](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PCVideos).

**APPEALS:** Some items before the Planning Commission may be appealed to City Council. The appeal, accompanied by the appropriate filing fee per application, must be filed with the City Clerk's office within 10 calendar days of the Planning Commission decision.

#### I. **ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken. All Commissioners were present.

#### II. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

A. Requests for continuances, withdrawals, postponements, or addition of ex-agenda items.

**No requests made.**

B. Announcements and appeals.

**No announcements made.**

C. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda. Due to time constraints, each person is limited to two minutes.

**No one wished to speak.**

### III. **NEW ITEM**

**ACTUAL TIME: 1:08 P.M.**

#### **Update to City Traffic Analysis Provisions**

Proposed amendment to the City's Traffic Management Strategy, and adoption of Traffic Analysis Guidelines.

State legislation adopted in 2013 (Senate Bill 743 (Steinberg)) revised the approach for analyzing transportation impacts of projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The new criteria for analyzing transportation impacts are included in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 adopted in 2018. Under the new criteria, travel delay or traffic congestion effects measured by intersection level of service (LOS) standards are not considered a significant impact on the environment under CEQA. Instead, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is identified as the most appropriate measure of the transportation impacts of a project. VMT refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. Other relevant considerations may include the effects of a project on transit or non-motorized travel. The new criteria apply statewide beginning on July 1, 2020.

Although LOS may no longer be used for evaluating the environmental impact of a project under CEQA, cities may continue to use LOS for purposes of congestion management under planning and land use laws and policies. In the City of Santa Barbara, traffic congestion management is needed to ensure implementation of the General Plan. Therefore, staff is proposing to amend the City's Traffic Management Strategy to eliminate conflicts with the new CEQA Guidelines and keep the City's existing traffic congestion standards in place as a growth management policy.

Also, the Transportation Planning and Parking Division proposes to formalize the Land Development Team Traffic Analysis Guidelines. The Traffic Analysis Guidelines describe methodologies and procedures for analyzing development projects as part of the development permitting process, but not as part of the CEQA process.

**Recommend that City Council amend the Traffic Management Strategy to remove outdated CEQA references and replace it with policy-level review (Exhibit A to the staff report); and that City Council adopt the Land Development Team Traffic Analysis Guidelines describing methodologies and procedures to analyze traffic congestion effects under the Traffic Management Strategy (Exhibit B to the staff report).**

**Wiscomb/Bonderson Vote: 7/0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Absent: 0**

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

**ACTUAL TIME: 3:11 P.M.**

A. Committee and Liaison Reports.

1. Staff Hearing Officer Liaison Report

**No report given.**

2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports

**Reports given.**

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.**