



# City of Santa Barbara

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### MINUTES

### 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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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schwartz called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

### I. ROLL CALL

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

### STAFF PRESENT

Tava Ostrenger, Assistant City Attorney  
Allison DeBusk, Senior Planner  
Ellen Kokinda, Planning Analyst  
Timmy Bolton, Associate Planner  
Rob Dayton, Transportation Planning & Parking Manager  
Jessica Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner  
Julia Pujo, Environmental Analyst  
Tony Ruggieri, City TV Production Supervisor  
Heidi Reidel, Commission Secretary

### II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

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

No requests.

B. Announcements and appeals:

No announcements.

C. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda:

Public comment opened at 1:07 p.m., and as no one wished to speak, it closed.

### 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.

Rob Dayton, Transportation Planning & Parking Manager, gave the Staff presentation. Jessica Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner and Julia Pujo, Environmental Analyst, were available to answer questions.

Public comment opened at 1:54 p.m., and as no one wished to speak, it closed.

**MOTION: Wiscomb / Bonderson**

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).

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Noes: 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.

2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Commissioner Wiscomb reported on the May 21, 2020 meeting of the Water Commission.
- b. Commissioner Escobedo reported on the May 15, 2020 meeting of the Water Vision Stakeholders' Group.
- c. Commissioner Schwartz reported on the status of the Olive Mill/ Coast Village Road Roundabout project.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Submitted by,

  
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Heidi Reidel, Commission Secretary