



City of Santa Barbara Transportation and Circulation Committee Staff Report

DATE: April 25, 2019

TO: Transportation and Circulation Committee (TCC) Members

FROM: Jessica W. Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Westside and Lower West Neighborhood Transportation Planning Effort – Listening Workshop Debrief

Recommendation:

That the Transportation and Circulation Committee hear a presentation from staff debriefing the Listening Workshop in the Westside and Lower West Neighborhoods.

DISCUSSION:

On March 14, 2019, the Public Works Department went before the Transportation and Circulation Committee (TCC) to initiate a bilingual outreach effort on the Westside and Lower West neighborhoods. As was done in the Eastside Neighborhood, Public Works hopes to address community interest around transportation safety. Part of the success of the Eastside Neighborhood effort was positioning for grant opportunities with transportation solutions. Public Works hopes to get Westside Neighborhood transportation improvements grant funded as well.

The first part of the outreach effort was to hold a Listening Workshop, which was held on April 6, 2019, at Harding University Partnership Elementary School. The purpose of the workshop was to hear pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic related concerns directly from the Westside and Lower West residents.

The workshop was in a facilitation format where the staff facilitator had a list of questions to prompt resident feedback based upon the following topics: Driving, Walking, Bicycling, Neighborhood Lighting, Transit, and Parking. Each topic had a corresponding map on which residents marked their concerns. In addition to these topics, staff also included a brief update on two very important safety projects currently in design for the Westside, which were: 1) Westside Bike Boulevard Gap Closure Project that would provide a biking connection from/to the Downtown and Eastside Neighborhoods, and 2) Carrillo/San Andres Intersection Safety and Lighting Improvements.

Based on all the comments staff received during the workshop, the following summarizes the comments received to date:

- ◆ 22 intersections were cited as uncomfortable to for pedestrians
- ◆ 4 intersections were cited as uncomfortable for motorists
- ◆ 10 streets were cited as having high speed
- ◆ 8 intersections were cited for visibility concerns for all modes of travel
- ◆ 14 intersections were cited for poor stop sign compliance or pedestrian yielding by motorists
- ◆ 2 intersections were cited for poor crossing skills by pedestrians
- ◆ 12 missing sidewalk links were cited as priorities to infill
- ◆ 8 areas/corridors cited for uplifted sidewalks
- ◆ 12 intersections were recommended to install access ramps/curb ramps
- ◆ 13 areas cited for overgrown vegetation and tree trimming
- ◆ Bicycle infrastructure inadequacies (want protected routes, visible bike lanes, intersection treatments, more crosstown routes)
- ◆ Rule of the road concerns (motorists not sharing the road with cyclists on narrow streets, pedestrians not stopping at street corners before going into the roadway, motorists not yielding to pedestrians/cyclists)
- ◆ Bus stop inadequacies or concerns
- ◆ 11 corridors cited, 7 intersections cited for additional neighborhood lighting
- ◆ Obstructions/modifications to existing street lighting (put lights below tree canopy)
- ◆ Parking concerns (large commercial vehicles, attention needed to school zone drop off/pick-up areas, and also coordination with street sweeping, hard to find parking in the evenings, parking more difficult near apartments, people are parking in Westside to avoid Elings Park parking fee)

Next steps include a staff review of the concerns in more detail, and compilation of the resident surveys that will be completed on May 10, 2019. The input received via survey will be merged with the information gathered at the workshop. Public Works will then hold an Approach Workshop, tentatively scheduled on June 1, 2019, at Harding University Partnership Elementary School. At the Action Workshop, staff will summarize what was heard through the Listening Workshop and Survey, as well as present potential approaches to the residents' concerns. The objective of the Action Workshop will be to confirm that the solutions address community interests. Based on the feedback received at the Action Workshop, staff will return to the TCC in the fall with a draft Westside and Lower West Transportation Management Plan (Plan). The Plan is scheduled to go before Council for review in November 2019.