



Planning & Transportation Commission

Staff Report (ID # 6747)

Report Type: Study Session **Meeting Date:** 10/26/2016

Summary Title: Comprehensive Plan Update

Title: Comprehensive Plan Update: Quarterly Status Report

From: Hillary Gitelman

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) receive staff's presentation and provide questions and comments as desired.

Executive Summary

The Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) has requested quarterly updates to stay informed about the ongoing effort to update the City's Comprehensive Plan. The last update was provided on May 25, 2016; a video link to that discussion is available online at: <https://youtu.be/5pMV4NK8laI?t=598>.

An updated schedule for the ongoing planning process is attached and an oral presentation will be provided. No formal action will be taken at this meeting.

Background

California State law requires all local jurisdictions to have and maintain a "general plan" providing goals and policies on a number of topics including land use, transportation, housing, conservation, noise, and safety. The general plan is to be used to inform agency decisions regarding land use and development and related issues, including infrastructure investments. Palo Alto's general plan is "*Embracing the New Century, Palo Alto 1998-2010 Comprehensive Plan*."

The Comprehensive Plan, as it's called, was last updated in 1998 and was expected to provide policy guidance through the year 2010. In 2006, the City Council decided to undertake an update of the plan, and in 2008 the City hired its planning consultant and the PTC began work on the process. The PTC held numerous public workshops and labored over suggested changes, ultimately providing their recommendations to the City Council in April 2014.

At that time, the City Council indicated their desire to undertake additional community outreach and in 2015 the Council appointed a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to synthesize the PTC's recommendations, community input, and the Council's direction on the vision and goals for each chapter or "element" of the Plan.

As shown in the attached schedule, the CAC will be completing their work in early 2017 and forwarding their recommendations to the City Council. Following the Council's review, a revised draft plan will be provided to the PTC for their review and a recommendation to the City Council. It's anticipated that the PTC's review will be conducted over the course of multiple meetings in mid-2017. The PTC will also have an opportunity to review a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and provide a recommendation regarding their "preferred alternative" based on that analysis and the February 2015 Draft EIR.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Comp Plan Monthly Schedule October 13 (PDF)

Comp Plan Monthly Schedule October 13, 2016 *

Month	Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Schedule of Meetings & Topics	Schedule of Other Events Related to the Comp Plan Update	City Council Schedule of Comp Plan Discussions
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of the first half of the Natural Environment Element and Introductory Discussion of the Safety Element (October 18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC Natural Environment Subcommittee reviews revised 1st half of the Natural Environment Element (October 5) 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of the second half of the Natural Environment Element and the Safety Element (November 15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC Natural Environment Subcommittee reviews revised 2nd half of the Natural Environment Element (November 1) CAC Safety Subcommittee reviews revised Safety Element (November 3) CAC Safety Subcommittee reviews revised Safety Element (if needed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council review of CAC recommended Land Use Element (November 28)
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation on Natural Environment and Safety Elements (December 13) 		
January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of the Business & Economics Element (January 17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC Business & Economics Subcommittee reviews the Business and Economic Element CAC Business & Economics Subcommittee reviews the revised Business and Economic Element 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council review of the Revised Transportation and Land Use Elements (tentative for January 23)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation on Business & Economics Element (February 21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC Governance & Implementation Subcommittees review Implementation & Users Guide/Governance <i>Publish Scenario 5 and 6 Supplement to the Draft EIR for 45-day public review period</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council Review of CAC recommended Natural Environment and Safety Elements
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion and Recommendation on the Implementation Plan (March 21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>PTC Hearing on the Scenario 5 and 6 Supplement to the Draft EIR</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council Review of CAC recommended Business & Economics Element City Council Hearing on the Scenario 5 and 6 Supplement to the Draft EIR City Council Selection of a preferred Alternative for the EIR
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion and Recommendation on the intro/users guide/governance topics (April 18) 		
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final CAC Session (“Putting it all Together”) & review for Internal consistency (May 16) 		

Comp Plan Monthly Schedule October 13, 2016 *

Month	Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Schedule of Meetings & Topics	Schedule of Other Events Related to the Comp Plan Update	City Council Schedule of Comp Plan Discussions
June, 2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Revised Draft Comp Plan Update Disseminated for Public Review</i> 	
July, 2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PTC Review & Recommendation to the City Council on the Draft Comp Plan Update (Multiple meetings)</i> 	
August			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Review of Transportation & Land Use Elements • Final Review of Natural Environment & Safety Elements
September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Publication of the Final EIR</i> • <i>Preparation of Mitigation Monitoring Plan & CEQA Findings</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Review of Business & Economics, Community Services & Facilities Elements • Final Review of Users Guide/Governance & Implementation Plan
October			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council Final EIR Certification Hearing • Review of City Council's Changes & Errata; Adoption of the Updated Comp Plan

*All dates and topics subject to change. This schedule assumes that City Council comments on CAC work products will be addressed by staff and reviewed by the CAC in a final “putting it all together” session in the spring of 2017 once the Council has reviewed all of the elements.