



CITY OF LONG BEACH

H-1

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

333 West Ocean Blvd., 3rd Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 (562) 570-5237

February 7, 2017

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the supporting documentation into the record, conclude the public hearing, and adopt a Resolution approving the Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) Pedestrian Plan as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan; and,

Accept Categorical Exemption No. CE-16-268. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

Beginning in October 2003, the City Council authorized funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to operate the Healthy Active Long Beach (HALB) program. Funded by the California Department of Public Health's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch (NEOP), the HALB program focuses on preventing obesity and chronic diseases linked to poor nutrition and inactivity. The program also conducts activities aimed at improving food security among persons eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) throughout the City of Long Beach.

In the summer of 2009, 2010, and 2013, the HALB program team conducted neighborhood assessments in ten NEOP eligible neighborhoods located in Central and West Long Beach. The Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) assessments looked at multiple indicators to evaluate the food and physical activity environment for these neighborhoods. The indicators included markets and grocery stores, fast-food restaurants, outdoor marketing, safety and walkability, and the availability of alternative food sources such as farmer's markets and community gardens. Based on community input from these health assessments, improved pedestrian access and mobility to recreational and activity centers, as well as healthy food options, were identified as a priority. These assessments followed the CX3 framework established by the California Department of Public Health. The CX3 framework also includes an implementation component. The HALB project team selected the preparation of pedestrian guidelines to meet the Policy, Systems and Environmental Change (PSE) requirements.

In July 2014, the HALB project team started community outreach within each of the ten CX3 neighborhoods located around Cabrillo and Poly High Schools, Washington and Franklin Middle Schools, and Lafayette, Burnett, Mary Butler, Whittier, International, and

Edison Elementary Schools, as well as St. Mary's Hospital. To be part of the CX3 area, the neighborhood must have at least 50 percent or more of the resident population at or below 130 percent Federal Poverty Level. Building upon earlier work related to developing the CX3 neighborhoods assessments, additional walk audits were conducted along major corridors and neighborhood connectors to determine the physical conditions of the pedestrian environment.

The CX3 Pedestrian Plan, attached as an exhibit to the Resolution, assesses existing conditions in CX3 areas, identifies paths for improving the pedestrian environment, and lays out a framework of tools, project types, policies and programs for improving CX3 neighborhoods. The CX3 Pedestrian Plan identifies 76 capital projects to improve pedestrian circulation including walking/jogging loops around Polytechnic High School and Long Beach City College – Pacific Coast Campus. The CX3 Pedestrian Plan is one of several tools that will be prepared to implement the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan. As such, once adopted, the CX3 Pedestrian Plan will serve as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element, and changes to the projects and programs in the plan will not require amending the General Plan. The CX3 Pedestrian Plan was also developed through community workshops, City departmental coordination meetings and stakeholder interviews.

On September 1, 2016, the Planning Commission held a study session on the CX3 Pedestrian Plan, and the CX3 Pedestrian Plan has been made publicly available and posted online for comment since September 20, 2016.

On November 17, 2016, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the CX3 Pedestrian Plan and recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution approving the CX3 Pedestrian Plan as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element (Exhibit A – Planning Commission Staff Report).

Since the CX3 Pedestrian Plan is a Citywide document, a public hearing notice was provided through newspaper publication on January 21, 2017, and no responses were received as of the preparation of this report.

In accordance with the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, a Categorical Exemption (CE 16-268) was issued for the proposed project (Exhibit B – Categorical Exemption).

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Amy R. Webber on January 12, 2017 and by Budget Management Officer Rhutu Amin Gharib on January 18, 2017.

SUSTAINABILITY

The nation is facing an epidemic of obesity as nearly one in three children (ages 2-19) in the nation are overweight or obese, putting them at risk for serious health problems. The likelihood of being overweight is influenced by the environment in which you live, from your ability to be physically active to your access to healthy food options and non-processed food choices. The CX3 Pedestrian Plan addresses access and mobility to health food options for low-income communities, which tend to have the poorest food

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

February 7, 2017

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choices with greater densities of restaurants and stores selling processed foods rather than fresh produce. For these communities, the easiest choice, if there is one, is most often not the healthy choice.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

The CX3 Pedestrian Plan is a policy document that lays out a framework of tools, project types, policies and programs for improving CX3 neighborhoods. Although the plan includes project and program descriptions, detailed designs and project specifics have not been developed. As such, the CX3 Pedestrian Plan does not constitute City Council approval of projects, programs or expenditures. There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. If adopted by City Council, the CX3 Pedestrian Plan will assist in securing funding to implement the programs and projects in the plan.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



AMY J. BODEK, AICP
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



KELLY COLOPY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AJB:LT:CK:IB

P:\Planning\City Council Items (Pending)\Council Letters\2017\2017-02-07\CX3 Plan v4.docx

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

Attachments: Exhibit A – Planning Commission Staff Report
Exhibit B – Categorical Exemption
City Council Resolution with Exhibit - CX3 Pedestrian Plan



#3

Exhibit A

CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

333 West Ocean Blvd., 5th Floor

Long Beach, CA 90802

(562) 670-6194 FAX (562) 570-6068

November 17, 2016

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept Categorical Exemption CE-16-268 and recommend that the City Council adopt a Resolution approving the draft Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) Pedestrian Plan as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan. (Districts 1, 2, 6, and 7)

APPLICANT: City of Long Beach
Department of Development Services
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

DISCUSSION

The nation is facing an epidemic of obesity as nearly 1 in 3 children (ages 2-19) in the nation are overweight or obese, putting them at risk for serious health problems. The likelihood of being overweight is influenced by the environment in which you live, from your ability to be physically active to your access to healthy food options and non-processed food choices. Low-income communities tend to have the poorest food choices with greater densities of restaurants and stores selling processed foods rather than fresh produce. For these communities, the easiest choice, if there is one, is most often not the healthy choice.

The Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) is a grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide assistance to low-income households to buy nutritious foods for better health. The Department of Health and Human Services received a CX3 grant to develop a framework to increase access to healthy food options and encourage physical activity by active transportation in ten neighborhoods in Long Beach. The neighborhoods were selected based on criteria defined by the USDA to include only neighborhoods having at least 50 percent or more of the resident population at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level based on the 2010 Census. These neighborhoods are geographically oriented around school campuses including: Cabrillo and Poly High Schools, Washington and Franklin Middle Schools, and Lafayette, Burnett, Mary Butler, Whittier, and Edison Elementary Schools, as well as St. Mary's Hospital.

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

November 17, 2016

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The draft CX3 Pedestrian Plan (Plan) assesses existing conditions in CX3 areas, identifies paths for improving the pedestrian environment, and lays out a framework of tools, project types, policies and programs for improving CX3 neighborhoods. The Plan is one of several tools that will be prepared to implement the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan. As such, once adopted, the Plan will serve as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element and changes to the projects and programs in the Plan will not require amending the General Plan.

Long Beach is a mostly built-out city with a well-developed street network with a grid pattern in most neighborhoods with limited opportunities to acquire additional rights-of-way to widen streets or build new streets to accommodate additional vehicular traffic. As a result, the City is focusing future improvements on making the existing mobility network more efficient by facilitating the use of other modes of transportation – primarily walking, bicycling, and public transit. The Mobility Element establishes this citywide vision and the policies necessary to achieve this balanced mobility system by implementing improvements that provide multi-modal access to all users of the public rights-of-way.

One of the objectives of this multi-modal access policy is the increased use of transit and walking as a viable option for both work and non-work trips. Long Beach is a young city with nearly a quarter of the City's residents under the age of 18, many of whom are transit-dependent. Moreover, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, a full 16 percent of the City's households (25,000) do not own or have access to a vehicle. As such, a "walkable" public realm is a public good. The Mobility Element identifies pedestrian priority areas, increased amenities, and safety treatments for pedestrian routes and paths. Safety is a key consideration in the CX3 plan, with special attention to creating walking routes to schools, parks and amenities that are well lit, comfortable, and that limit potential conflicts with vehicles. The Plan is consistent with and provides additional policies and programs to implement the Mobility Element.

The Plan is an implementation-oriented document, as it provides a blueprint for the Department of Public Works to develop a multi-modal system that provides safe and direct connections to healthy food options and active recreational opportunities as a means to enhance community life, recreational opportunities, and ecological benefits. The Plan will also provide guidance to the Department of Development Services to encourage improvements to the public realm as new development occurs.

The pedestrian toolkit chapter of the plan provides potential solutions for different concerns including safety, expanding open space, or otherwise. The toolkit does not propose where the infrastructure enhancements shall go, but instead provides a context for communities to work with City officials to improve their pedestrian environment. The majority of the treatments within this chapter are based on the PEDSAFE: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System 2013, published by the Federal Highway Administration.

The implementation chapter of the plan identifies how and when specific improvements

are put in place with priorities and resources for their execution. As such, the CX3 Pedestrian Plan provides a strategic approach to implementation by providing a matrix with short-, mid- and long-term projects that have been determined based on a variety of objectives including aligning the analysis of the area's existing conditions with community priorities, industry best practices and overlapping project goals.

Public Participation

The Plan was developed through a comprehensive and collaborative process that included community outreach, City departmental coordination meetings and stakeholder interviews. Public outreach was organized around fun, innovative, and meaningful community events to solicit input from Long Beach residents, visitors, and business owners, within the CX3 neighborhoods.

Building upon earlier work related to developing the CX3 Neighborhoods Assessments additional walk audits were conducted along major corridors and neighborhood connectors to determine the physical conditions of the pedestrian environment. The walking workshops were built as much for engaging local residents and stakeholders as educating them to think critically about the pedestrian environment. These workshops used walking tours customized for each neighborhood to share with participants how the physical characteristics of the public right-of-way and adjacent properties effect movement and influence behavior, as well as feelings of comfort and safety. The resulting conversation focused on where residents enjoyed walking in their neighborhood and where they had concerns for safety or were uncomfortable and collectively drew conclusions as to why that might be, so that these concerns could be addressed.

One of the primary goals within the community engagement process was reaching greater equity by including the voice of those not typically heard in the planning process. To that end, community engagement included meeting these stakeholders where they were, at grocery stores, transit stops, and on their way to school, where a few moments could be spared in between destinations, especially for those on foot.

A study session on the CX3 plan with the Planning Commission was held on September 1, 2016. Ongoing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings were held throughout the development of the plan. These TAC meetings allowed Public Works and Development Services Department staff to consult an extensive and diverse array of expertise toward developing the prioritized project list.

The Plan has been made publicly available and is posted online for comment since September 20, 2016. Staff has received no written comments on the plan, as of the preparation of this staff report. If adopted by City Council, the Plan will assist in securing funding to implement the programs and projects in the Plan.

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

November 17, 2016

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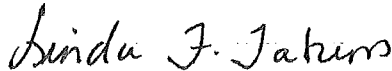
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the City's Municipal Code and Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for General Plan amendment items, a 1/8-page public notice was published in the Press Telegram on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. This notice included the date, time and location for this meeting. Notice was also provided via eNotify announcements on the City's web page.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, a Categorical Exemption (CE-16-268) was issued.

Respectfully submitted,



LINDA F. TATUM, AICP
PLANNING BUREAU MANAGER



AMY J. BODEK, AICP
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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AJB:LT:CK: IB

Attachment: Exhibit A – CX3 Pedestrian Plan
Exhibit B – Categorical Exemption CE-16-268



NOTICE of EXEMPTION from CEQA

CITY OF LONG BEACH | DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
333 W. OCEAN BLVD., 5TH FLOOR, LONG BEACH, CA 90802
(562) 570-6194 FAX: (562) 570-6068
lbd.s.longbeach.gov

TO: Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Development Services
333 W. Ocean Blvd, 5th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

L.A. County Clerk
Environmental Fillings
12400 E. Imperial Hwy., Room 1201
Norwalk, CA 90650

Project Title: CE-16-268

Project Location/Address: Portions of East and Central Long Beach

Project Activity/Description: A framework plan to increase access to healthy foods options and encourage physical activity by active transportation in ten neighborhoods in Long Beach. The Plan assesses existing conditions and identifies paths for improving the pedestrian environment.

Public Agency Approving Project: City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California

Applicant Name: Long Beach Development Services

Mailing Address: 333 West Ocean Boulevard

Phone Number: _____ Applicant Signature: _____

BELOW THIS LINE FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Application Number: ME-2 Planner's Initials: IB

Required Permits: Resolution

THE ABOVE PROJECT HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE EXEMPT FROM CEQA IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE GUIDELINES SECTION _____

Statement of support for this finding: The Plan is a general public policy document that does not direct the level of location of new pedestrian improvements that would result from its adoption. As such, its too speculative to evaluate the impact from adoption.

Contact Person: Ira Brown Contact Phone: 562-570-5972

Signature: _____ Date: November 8, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH ADOPTING, AFTER PUBLIC HEARING, THE COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE IN NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND OBESITY PREVENTION (CX3) PEDESTRIAN PLAN, AS A TECHNICAL APPENDIX TO THE MOBILITY ELEMENT OF THE LONG BEACH GENERAL PLAN

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Long Beach has adopted, pursuant to Section 65302 of the California Government Code, a Mobility Element as part of the City of Long Beach General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the General Plan of the City of Long Beach by approving and adopting the Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention ("CX3") Pedestrian Plan as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element; and

WHEREAS, in October 2003, the City Council authorized the funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to operate the Healthy Active Long Beach ("HALB"); and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2009, 2010, and 2013, the HALB program team conducted neighborhood assessments and based on community input, improved pedestrian access and mobility to recreational and activity centers as well as healthy food options was identified as a priority; and

WHEREAS, in July 2014, the HALB project team started community outreach to determine the physical conditions of the pedestrian element; and

WHEREAS, the CX3 Pedestrian Plan assesses existing conditions in CX3

1 areas, identifies paths for improving the pedestrian environment and lays out a
2 framework of tools, project types, policies and programs for improving CX3
3 neighborhoods; and

4 WHEREAS, on November 17, 2016, the Planning Commission conducted
5 public hearings on the CX3 Pedestrian Plan and recommended the City Council adopt a
6 resolution approving the CX3 as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element of the Long
7 Beach General Plan;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as
9 follows:

10 Section 1. On February 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., the City Council conducted
11 a duly noticed public hearing at which time it gave full consideration to all pertinent facts,
12 information, proposals and recommendations and the views expressed at the public
13 hearing and afforded full opportunity for public input and participation respecting all parts
14 of the Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention
15 (CX3) Pedestrian Plan as a technical appendix to the Mobility Element of the Long Beach
16 General Plan.

17 Section 2. Following receipt of all appropriate documentation, full
18 hearings and deliberation, the City Council did concur with the recommendations of the
19 Planning Commission and did approve the Communities of Excellence in Nutrition,
20 Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) Pedestrian Plan as a technical appendix
21 to the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan, as shown on Exhibit "A", which
22 is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

23 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
24 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2017, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Lona Beach, CA 90802-4664