



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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June 2, 2011

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council adopt *The Principles for Active Living and Complete Streets* in accordance with a PLACE grant for the Long Beach General Plan update. (Citywide)

APPLICANT: Amy J. Bodek, AICP
Director of Development Services
City of Long Beach
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Long Beach, CA

DISCUSSION

In 2008, the City of Long Beach received a grant from the Los Angeles County Public Health Department (the PLACE Grant) to update the City's General Plan (Long Beach 2030) with "active living" and "complete streets" policies and to expand the network of bike facilities in Long Beach. The grant also funded the City's mobility coordinator, annual bike counts, numerous walk audits throughout the City and partial funding of the Vista Street Bike Boulevard.

On September 16, 2010 and on October 7, 2010, the Planning Commission held a study session on the Urban Design and Mobility Elements of Long Beach 2030, respectively. These study sessions presented the culmination of extensive community dialogue and outreach on how the City should enhance the public realm and improve circulation. Throughout the winter, the Public Works Department conducted public workshops to identify and prioritize new bike facilities for the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) in anticipation of the update.

Through these planning activities, staff has coalesced ten principles for complete streets and active living for review and approval by the Planning Commission for this policy direction. The *Principles for Active Living and Complete Streets* will also serve to satisfy the requirements of the PLACE Grant and allow the City to seek funding for additional bike facilities and other green infrastructure initiatives. The principles are:

- Balance the needs of all modes of travel
- Be a bicycle friendly city
- Promote walking
- Promote transit
- Create dynamic and context-sensitive streets
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Create healthy and active neighborhoods
- Create transit-oriented developments along transit routes
- Ensure connectivity to activity centers and other modes
- Maximize public return on mobility investments

These principles are a significant shift in emphasis for the City's General Plan from the 1990s and they provide the context for many of the City's current implementation projects.

For a city of the size and complexity of Long Beach, a General Plan update requires an approach that is iterative and deliberate. The *Principles for Active Living and Complete Streets* is the first in a series of principles staff will bring forward for policy maker's advisement and consent, leading up to the adoption of the 2030 General Plan. The forthcoming *Long Beach 2030 Framework* will provide further clarification of the overarching policy direction for updating Long Beach 2030, and is based upon three key sections: Urban Design, Land Use and Mobility. These sections form the core of the Long Beach 2030 and are vital to shaping the physical development of Long Beach in the coming years.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public has been involved in the bicycle planning process. Public workshops were held in Long Beach on January 20 and 22; February 9 and 24; and March 2, 5, 12, 19 and 23. The first set of community dialogue was conducted at small group discussions with cyclists and at neighborhood associations to identify needed new facilities. At the second set of meetings, preliminary routes and policies were discussed and finalized. Announcements for the public workshops were made through the City of Long Beach Public Information Office, local newspapers, ten local bicycle shops and the Bikestation. The workshops were held at four different neighborhood locations throughout the City. Public attendees included residents, Long Beach Cyclists and Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, Bikestation representatives and Bikes 90800. In addition, public input was gathered in a survey.

Notice of this item was published in the Press Telegram on May 14, 2011. Notices were also posted at City Hall and mailed to interested parties.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a categorical exemption was issued. When individual projects are entitled,

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each individual project will undergo a specific CEQA and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review, when necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



AMY J. BODEK, AICP
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AJB:DB:IB

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Attachments: Exhibit A – Principles for Active Living and Complete Streets