

LIVABLE WEST LONG BEACH

THE WEST LONG BEACH LIVABILITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

DRAFT
JULY 2015

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July 2015 DRAFT

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Credits

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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contents

pg. 1

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**

- » What is Livability?
- » Port Related Efforts
- » Relevant Plans and Policies
- » How to Use this Document

pg. 7

- **Chapter 2: Existing Conditions**

- » Project Area
- » Demographics
- » Neighborhood Mapping
- » Photo Reconnaissance

pg. 17

- **Chapter 3: Engaging the Community**

- » Workshop #1 Summary
- » Workshop #2 Summary
- » Stakeholder Drop-Ins
- » Port Related Outreach

pg. 25

- **Chapter 4: Livable Neighborhood Connections Strategy**

- » Step 1: Identify Related Plans & Projects
- » Step 2: Review Projects with City Departments
- » Step 3: Measure Projects by Criteria (MAE Tool)
- » Step 4: Rank Plans and Projects
- » Step 5: Package Projects & Programs
- » LINC Strategy

pg. 51

- **Chapter 5: Funding & Implementation**

- » Barriers to Development
- » Case Studies
- » Funding Mechanisms

- **Appendix**

- » Full Workshop Summaries
- » Full (MAE) Spreadsheet Tool



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Livable West Long Beach (also referred to as the West Long Beach Livability Implementation Plan) presents a comprehensive approach for achieving the community's vision for healthy, vibrant, attractive and safe neighborhoods.

- **Livable West Long Beach identifies, prioritizes, and strategizes the implementation of projects and initiatives that will provide a variety of neighborhood benefits** including enhancements to the community's physical environment, improved accessibility and connectivity, a cleaner environment, a vibrant economy, and improved community health. Over the last several years, various City planning efforts have proposed numerous physical, environmental, and health-related projects and initiatives – some of which have been executed, but many of which have not. Aided by valuable feedback from community members and stakeholders, Livable West Long Beach coordinates these already-proposed projects and initiatives into a comprehensive implementation program composed of three strategies for “Livable Neighborhood Connections”, or LiNCs. The LiNCs will be supported by health services, education, and other livability programs that have been previously funded by the Port. The Plan also identifies funding mechanisms for implementing these projects and strategies.

What is Livability?

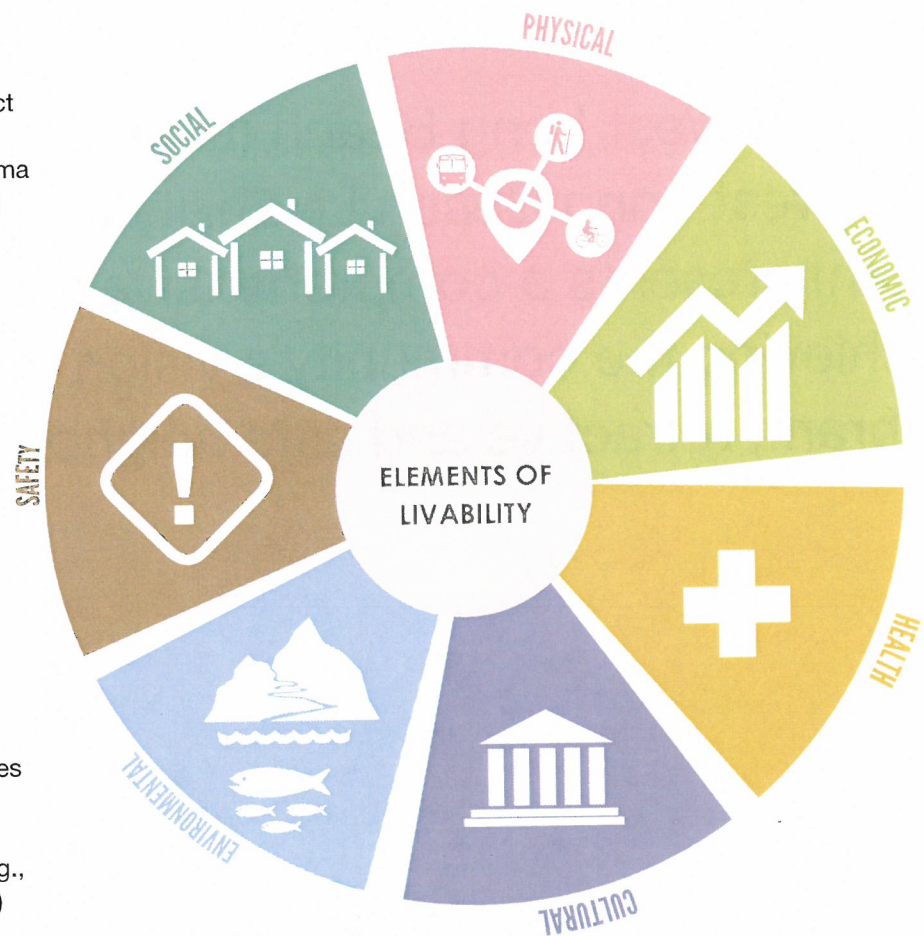
A community can be perceived as livable based on many factors including environmental quality, community health, safety, the quality of its built environment, and economic vitality. A livable community encourages walking, bicycling, using public transit, and exercising outdoors, and provides economic and social opportunities for all community members.

Figure 1.1

Livability Wheel

Seven primary elements affect livability in a community:

- Public health (e.g., asthma rates, levels of exercise)
- Public Safety (e.g., physical security, comfort)
- Physical elements (e.g., supportive land uses, open space, ped/bike infrastructure)
- Environmental elements (e.g., noise, air quality, water quality)
- Social elements (e.g., community networks, organizations)
- Cultural and environmental resources (e.g., historic, trees, architectural)
- Economic elements (e.g., financial stability, jobs)



Relevant Plans and Policies

Given the many plans and policies already developed that propose project concepts for West Long Beach, this plan does not generate new project concepts. Rather, Livable West Long Beach identifies, prioritizes, and synthesizes proposals and identified projects from already-established plans, policies, and studies that are relevant to the West Long Beach community.

In order to develop the implementation strategies presented in Livable West Long Beach, proposed projects and policies from 10 primary sources were carefully surveyed. These were chosen because they promote projects that enhance 'livability', addressing issues relating to community safety and access, environment and health, and a vibrant economy. The scope and goals of these sources are described on pages 4 and 5.

Port Projects

The Port of Long Beach is continuing to implement projects and programs that enhance livability in West Long Beach. This is mandated by two existing port-related policy documents:

- Port of Long Beach Green Port Policy
- San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan
 - Port Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals
 - Community Facilities
 - Health Care and Senior Facilities
 - Schools and Related Services
 - Clean Trucks
 - Air Quality Mitigation
 - Technology Advancement Programs

Since the Clean Trucks, Air Quality Mitigation, and Technology Advancement programs are implemented on Port property, or within Port operations, these programs are not addressed in this plan. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction projects, Community Facilities, Healthcare and Senior facilities, and Schools and Related Services programs have been funded by the Port in West Long Beach neighborhoods in the past. Since those project types have been prioritized by the Community, they are included in this Plan.

For those using this document, Chapters 4 and 5 provide a framework and suggest priority projects and programs to fund throughout the West Long Beach community. This list of projects and programs may be used by Port operations for project mitigation, by the City of Long Beach to promote and seek funding for specific projects, by local Port tenants seeking to fund West Long Beach projects, or by local residents to use to promote specific neighborhood projects.

How This Document is Organized

Chapter 1: Introduction

Provides an overview of livability, lists relevant plans and policies, and lays the foundation and background behind the Livable West Long Beach Plan. This section defines the project scope, and the list of plans surveyed.

Chapter 2: Existing Conditions

Provides a brief overview of the demographics, land use, and makeup of the West Long Beach neighborhood. Includes mapping of neighborhood bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and vehicular networks.

Chapter 3: Community Outreach

Presents documentation and findings of two public workshops held throughout the project process. Findings directly influence the steps taken in Chapter 4, and provide insight into the priorities and top areas of concern for residents.

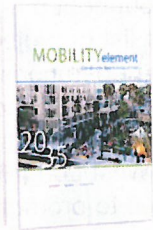
Chapter 4: Livable Neighborhood Connections

Using a Multiple Accounts Evaluation tool (MAE Tool), previously adopted projects and programs are ranked and categorized. Chapter 4 offers a road-map for selection and prioritization of funding for each project and program.

Chapter 5: Funding and Implementation

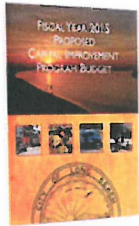
Based on the nine project types, funding and implementation strategies are described in detail. Local agencies may use this chapter to streamline grant proposals.

Goals of Relevant Plans and Policies



Long Beach Mobility Element Update (City of Long Beach, 2013)

- » Establishes the vision, goals, policies, and implementation measures to enhance the City's local and regional transportation networks
- » Goals include:
 - » Balance the needs of all roadway users, providing accessible and comfortable streets for transit riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists
 - » Develop context-sensitive street classifications
 - » Ensure multi-modal connectivity and accessibility
 - » Encourage active transportation (bicycling and walking)



Long Beach Capital Improvement Program (City of Long Beach, 2014-2015)

- » Outlines the city's short range strategic capital investment program for fiscal year 2014-2015
- » The programs are organized by the type of capital investment: Marinas, Beaches & Waterways, Parks and Recreation, Marine, Public Facilities, Storm Drains, Street Rehabilitation, Transportation Enhancements, Airport, Gas and Oil, Harbor, Successor Agency (SA), and Water.



Long Beach Open Space & Recreation Element (City of Long Beach, 2002)

- » Establishes the vision, goals, policies, and implementation measures to address the need for more high-quality and accessible open space within the City, and to encourage enhanced opportunities for both outdoor and indoor recreational activities.
- » Goals include:
 - » Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources
 - » Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources
 - » Open Space for Health and Public Safety
 - » Open Space for Outdoor Recreation and Recreation Facilities



Long Beach Housing Element (City of Long Beach, 2013)

- » Establishes the vision, goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide development and programs in order to ensure healthy, stable and attractive neighborhoods, housing affordability, and increased housing availability.
- » Goals include:
 - » Ensure a strong network of healthy, safe neighborhoods in Long Beach.
 - » Encourage strong community leadership, collaboration, stewardship and public participation
 - » Provide healthy neighborhoods where diversity is celebrated, arts and cultural programs flourish, services are accessible, and all community members have tools to improve the quality of their lives
 - » Support neighborhood efforts to create beauty and pride by removing blight and providing high-quality public infrastructure, parks, and public facilities
 - » Improve availability of housing by addressing declining homeownership, neighborhood stability and overcrowding



The Yards

- » Community proposal for the second largest park in Long Beach while relocating some of the most impactful infrastructure away from the community. Included in this proposal is a concept for converting the segment of the Terminal Island Freeway between Pacific Coast Highway and Willow Street, controlled by the City of Long Beach, from a freeway to a local road and open space buffer

San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) (Port of Long Beach and Port of LA, 2006, updated 2010)

- » Seeks to reduce health risks associated with air pollution from port-related ships, trains, trucks, terminal equipment and other harbor craft
- » Includes long-term goals for emissions and health-risk reductions for both the San Pedro and Long Beach ports



Port of Long Beach Green Port Policy (Port of Long Beach, 2005)

- » Provides a guide to decision making and establishes a framework for environmentally-sensitive port operations
- » A comprehensive set of guidelines for improving air, water and soil quality, protecting wildlife habitat, encouraging community engagement, and ensuring sustainable practices



Long Beach River Link (City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine, 2007)

- » Identifies areas for the acquisition of additional open space. The primary goal is to provide eight (8.0) acres of recreational open space for each 1,000 residents of the city. To achieve this, approximately 1,100 acres needs to be added to the current inventory of 2,855 acres
- » Identifies ways to connect city residents to the Los Angeles River. This is oriented towards improving physical access to the bicycle and pedestrian trails on the levees and open spaces along the River
- » Identifies locations along the Los Angeles River where the native habitats could be restored
- » Provides guidance to Improve the aesthetics of the Los Angeles River and the City



Community Livability Plan - I-710 Corridor Neighborhoods (City of Long Beach Public Works, 2008)

- » Addresses impacts that area neighborhoods are experiencing from the operations of the I-710 freeway
- » Identifies community assets along the I-710 Freeway corridor
- » Includes 58 projects and 15 Livability Plan design concepts to illustrate livability improvements in specific locations along the corridor



Healthy Communities Policy (City of Long Beach, 2014) / Health Department Programs

- » Includes policies for the built environment, health and wellness, and health equity and safety
- » Includes a description of existing City policy documents and programs that affect community health



Additional Policy Consulted

- » Port of Long Beach Community Mitigation Grant Programs



CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

West Long Beach is characterized by its cultural diversity, unique neighborhoods, and wide variety of land uses.

- **West Long Beach is characterized by its cultural diversity, unique neighborhoods, and wide variety of land uses.** Because of its proximity to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the community is impacted by Port-related industrial uses, other industrial uses (e.g. refineries), as well as associated truck and rail traffic. A survey of existing conditions – including demographics, environmental conditions, and land uses – provides valuable context for the projects and programs identified later in the plan.

As a first step in the project process, neighborhood assets in the corridor were mapped, including schools, institutions, parks and health facilities within the project study area. Land use maps and the delineation of neighborhood boundaries also informed the preliminary analysis. The mapping analysis allows for a concentrated look at the project study area, and helps set the foundation for the collection of projects that are included in Livable West Long Beach.

Project Area

The project area for Livable West Long Beach encompasses neighborhoods and districts located around the I-710 Freeway and Los Angeles River corridors, that includes a mix of industrial, commercial and residential uses. The project area is roughly bounded by the 405 Freeway to the north, Long Beach Boulevard to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the South, and the City's western boundary.

The project area corresponds to Zone 1A of the Port of Long Beach Community Mitigation Grant Program, which aims to improve community health by reducing the impacts of Port-related air pollution and/or by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While the Port continues to implement mitigation technologies on its own project sites, it utilizes the Port Mitigation Grant Programs to provide other entities – including municipal agencies, Port tenants, and nonprofit organizations – with funds to implement projects that reduce, avoid or capture GHG and particulate matter emissions.

The population of West Long Beach is around 85,000, or roughly 18% of the City's total population of around 460,000 (2010 Census). West Long Beach neighborhoods are ethnically diverse, with large Hispanic, Asian, and African American populations. In addition, the percentage of families with children is around 37%, slightly above the citywide figure of 34%.

Zone 1A of the Port of Long Beach Community Mitigation Grant Program is the innermost of four "eligibility zones." A project's proximity to the Port is a main criteria for receiving implementation funds.

Shown on page 9, the West Long Beach community is impacted by air, noise, light, and visual pollution from industrial activities. A program to measure a community's environmental health has been developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency, called "CalEnviroScreen". The program helps pinpoint communities that may be particularly vulnerable to pollution. EnviroScreen scores are computed for each census tract based on a broad range of pollutants and health indicators including pollution exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors. The EnviroScreen score for West Long Beach is 42.3, placing it as the worst 20% of California census tracts.

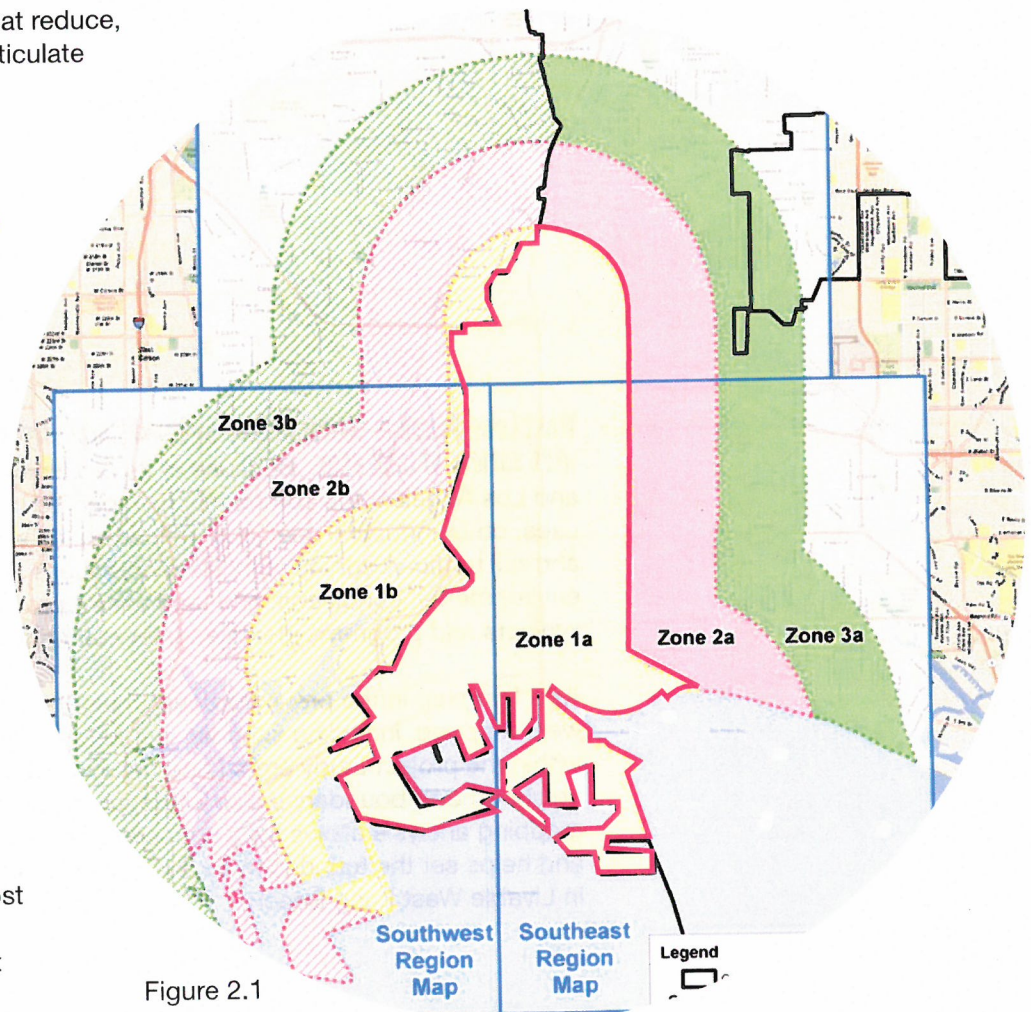


Figure 2.1

Population (2010)

85,475

CalEnviroScreen Score

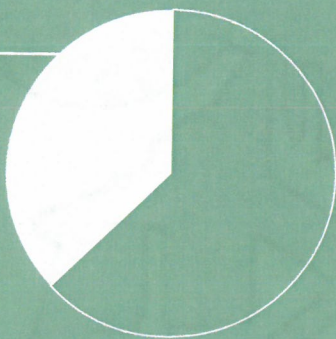
42.3
score*

School Count

21 schools

Households w/ Children

37%



* See description of CalEnviroScreen score on previous page.

Neighborhood Assets

This map depicts the neighborhood assets of the West Long Beach project area, including schools, parks, recreational facilities, health facilities, cultural facilities, and civic institutions.

The map to the right provides an important context for the prioritization of projects and programs. For example, streets that lead from residential neighborhoods to schools are especially suited for improvements that make it safer and more convenient for students to walk and bike to school; examples of these improvements include bicycle lanes and pedestrian safety enhancements such as continental crosswalk striping and pedestrian signalization.



Figure 2.2

Existing Land Uses

This map provides valuable context for the projects and programs that are presented later in this plan, showing existing land uses based on the existing zoning code and illuminating the types of future development that might occur within the project area.

This map clearly shows the locations of residential neighborhoods, where most of the projects are located. The residential neighborhoods to the north of the Pacific Coast Highway contain mostly lower-density single-family housing. A mix of residential densities are located in the southeast quadrant, including the large area to the north of Downtown zoned as a “Planned Development District”. Community-serving commercial corridors are concentrated along several arterial streets.

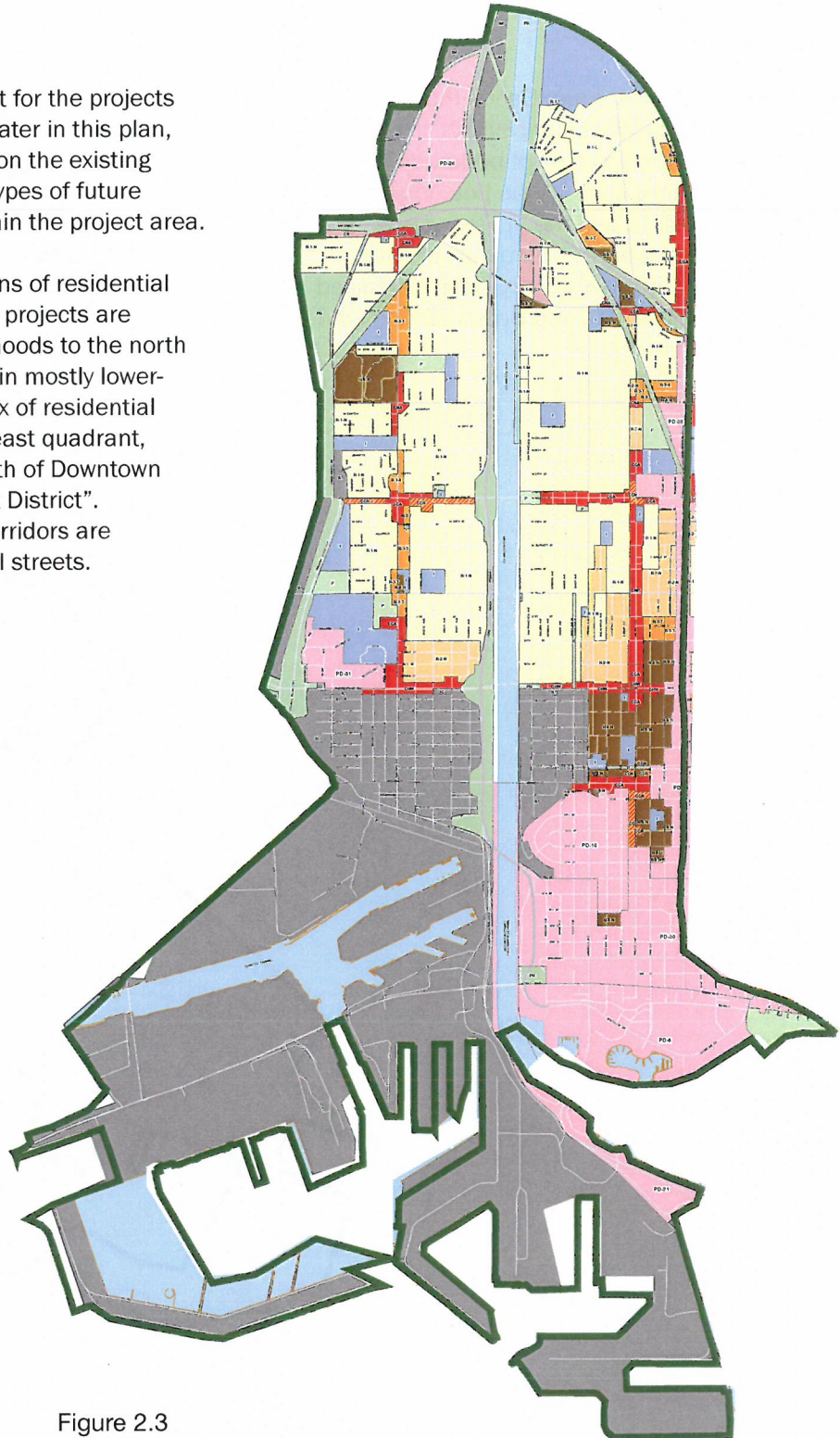


Figure 2.3

Neighborhoods

While the Livable West Long Beach Plan encompasses all of West Long Beach, it is comprised of a number of neighborhoods. Geographic features such as the Los Angeles River and the 1-405, I-710, and the TI Freeway have historically influenced the boundaries of these neighborhoods. Each neighborhood is discussed as part of the Livable West Long Beach strategy that is described in Chapter 4.

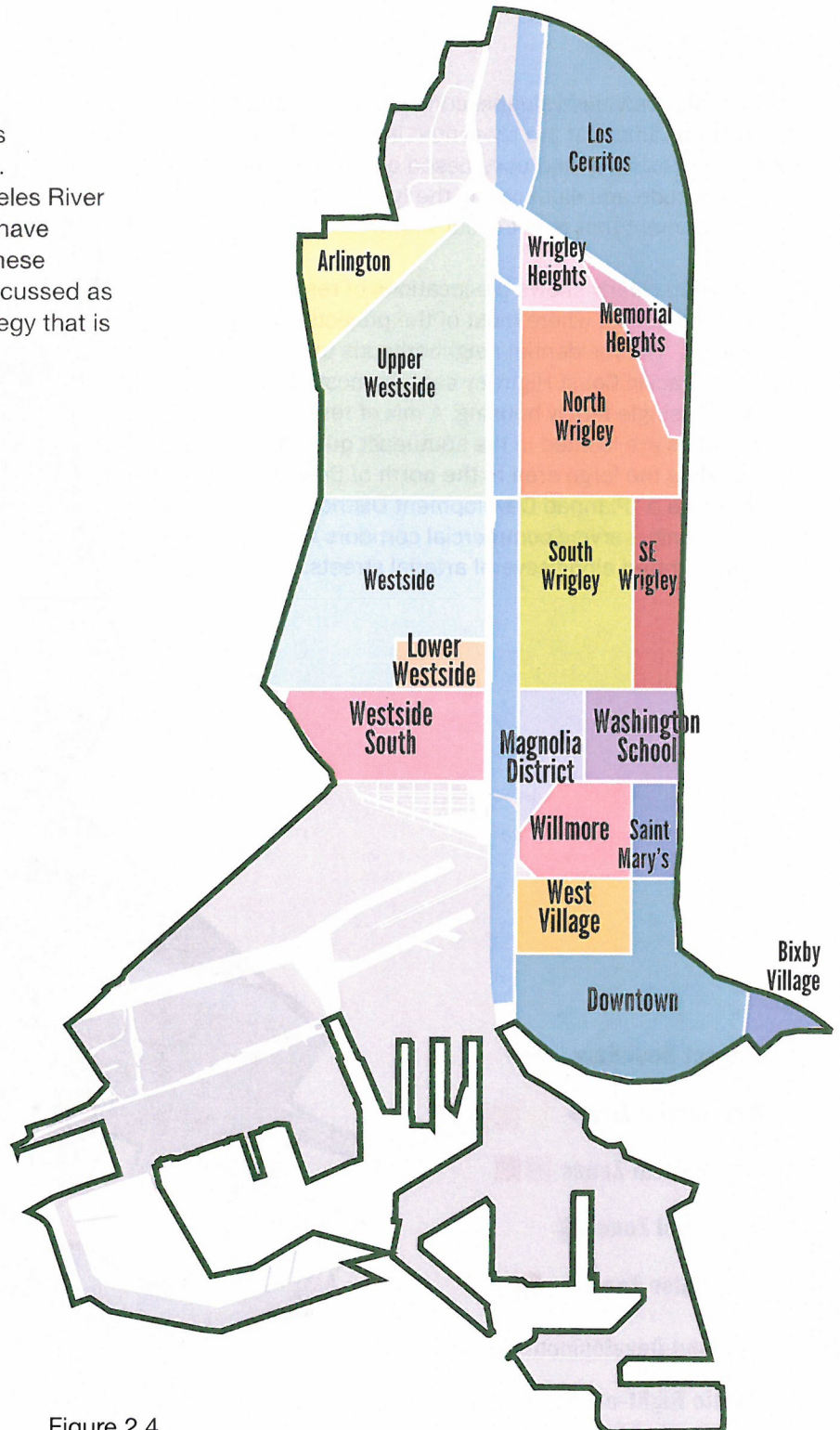


Figure 2.4

Street Network / Connectivity

This map shows the overall street network and denotes individual street types, illuminating connectivity and accessibility within West Long Beach.

The Long Beach Freeway (I-710) is a vital transportation artery, linking the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to major Southern California distribution centers and intermodal rail facilities. An essential component of the regional, statewide and national transportation system, it serves both passenger and goods movement vehicles.

The West Long Beach community is divided along a north/south axis by the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) and the adjacent Los Angeles River channel. The resultant gap in the urban fabric and street network varies from roughly 800 to 1000 feet wide. Transportation connections between the two sides are limited to a handful of arterial roads with bridges that span the wide distance; local and neighborhood streets dead end at the freeway and River. The result is a loss of connectivity between neighborhoods and business districts, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists. Livable West Long Beach includes many projects that enhance community connectivity.

-  Freeway
-  Boulevard
-  Regional Corridor
-  Major Avenue
-  Minor Avenue
-  Neighborhood Street
-  Local Street

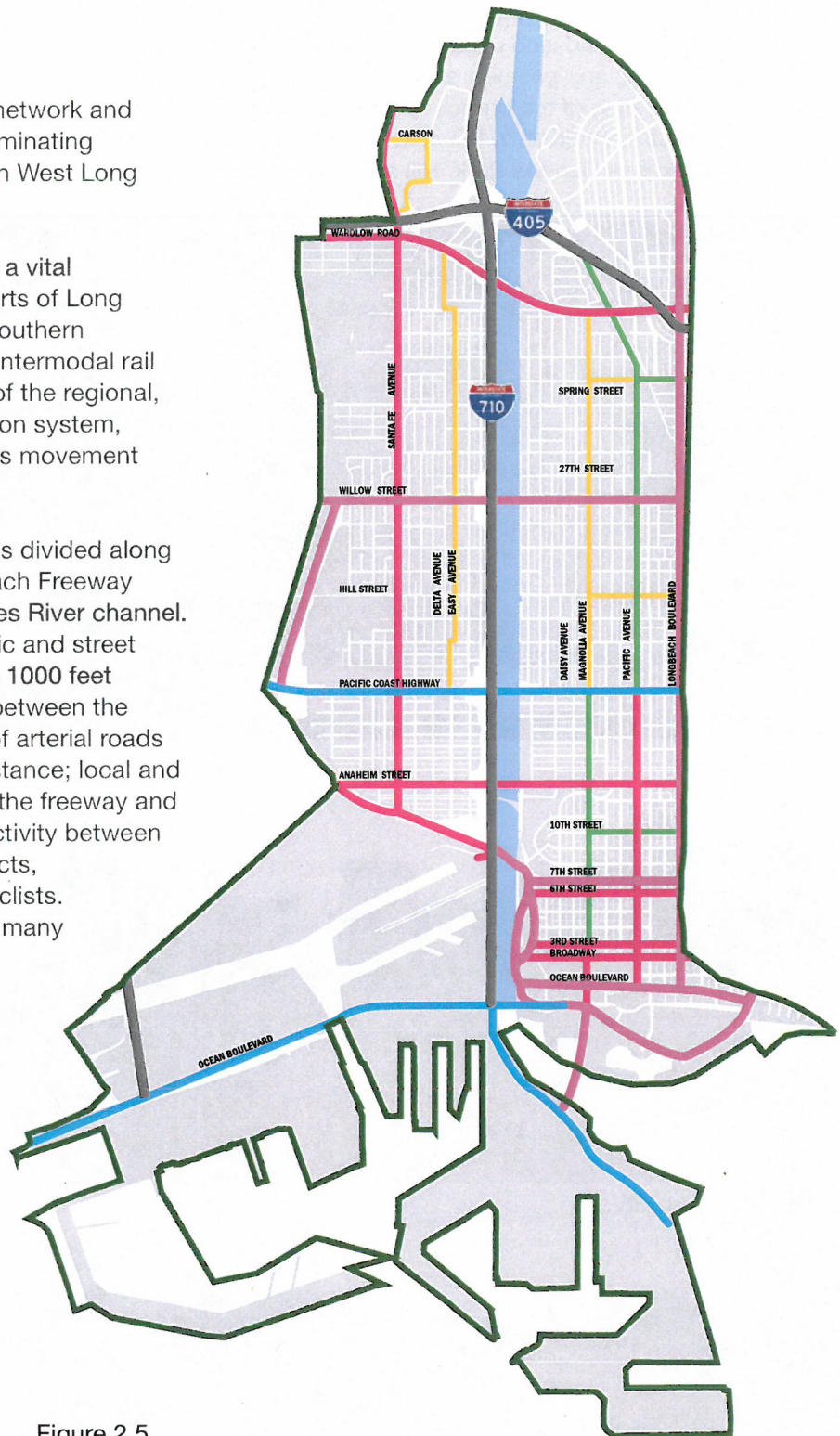
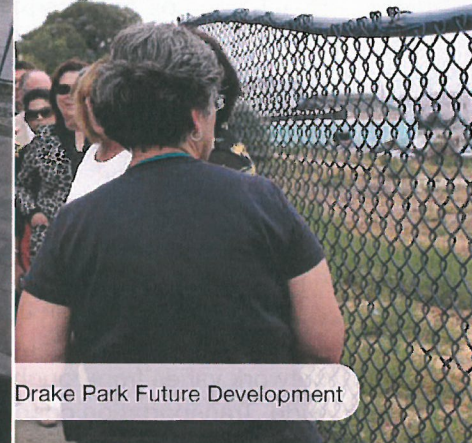


Figure 2.5

The project team and staff from the Port, the Council Offices, and the City conducted a field survey to assess existing conditions and land uses. Participants stopped at the locations in West Long Beach, and discussed existing conditions and planned projects in the area. The field survey provided the project team with a better understanding of the proposed projects in the boundary zone, and it allowed the team to discuss the intentions of future projects in the area. Tour stops included: the Port of Long Beach, Villages at Cabrillo, Silverado Park, Los Cerritos Park, Hill and Deforest Avenue, and the Drake Park future development site.



Port of Long Beach Anaheim Green Streetscape Improvements



Drake Park Future Development



On the TI Freeway



Overlooking Future Drake Park



Existing TI Freeway on-ramp



Shoemaker Bridge Discussion



Educational signage at CVC



Team photo



Team discussing street conditions near Century Villages at Cabrillo



City of Long Beach Waterfront from Harbor District



New fitness stations at Villages at Cabrillo

