PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT


Continued review of the PC goals and work program items for the 2021-2023 Financial Plan.

FROM: Tyler Corey, Principal Planner

DISCUSSION

Bi-annually the City adopts a budget and financial plan. To prepare for the budget process, all City departments and advisory bodies are asked to identify their goals and major work programs for the next two years. The City Council then uses this information, along with public comment and other input, to set community priorities and to allocate resources to accomplish the identified Major City Goals.

Input from City advisory bodies is specifically solicited, because the advisory body members are recognized as representatives of the community, that are committed to the long-term best interest of the City and its residents. Advisory body members are in tune with the “pulse” of the community in terms of their specific area of interest. Other key points as we continue this goal-setting process are:

1. The Council is seeking advisory body input focused on the purview area of the advisory body and is also interested in input on other issues that are important to the community.
2. Advisory body input is highly valued by the Council and City staff.
3. Goals can include completing projects from a previous work program.
4. Identifying priorities implies recommending fewer rather than more goals to the Council. Advisory bodies are encouraged to only recommend activities that can reasonably be accomplished during a two-year financial plan cycle.

GOAL SETTING

Modified Goals: 2021 - 2023

On October 28, 2020, the Planning Commission reviewed and discussed changes to its goals that were recommended during the 2019-2021 budget cycle. These changes were based on the evaluation of completion status; community need; input received; special and urgent conditions that need to be addressed; and the availability of City resources to accomplish the identified goals and work programs within the financial plan timeframe. Below are the PC suggested modifications for further review and consideration that will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration as part of the 2021-2023 financial planning and budget cycle:

Preamble:

The City Council approved the creation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) Task Force to provide guidance and a foundation for creating a potential 2021-2023 DE&I focused
Major City Goal. It is the Planning Commission’s intent that all of the following goals are viewed through the lenses of DE&I.

1. **Land Use: Implementation of the Downtown Concept Plan and Revisit Special Focus Areas**
   Implement the Mission Plaza improvements as identified in the Downtown Concept Plan. Revisit the Special Focus Area development guidelines for the Foothill Boulevard/Santa Rosa Area and Upper Monterey to establish detailed design guidelines that enhance neighborhood integrity and the diverse community character.

2. **Housing: Increase Affordable and Workforce Housing Supply**
   Provide public information and educational materials that promote the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units. Continue to emphasize affordable housing programs, encourage flexible use and non-traditional housing product types to facilitate development of workforce housing. Review existing regulations to identify cost and time saving measures to promote the development of accessory dwelling units, while maintaining the owner occupancy requirement to protect neighborhood compatibility and wellness.

3. **Sustainability: Reduce GHG Emissions by Reducing VMT and Improving Residential Energy Efficiency of Pre-1990 Housing Stock**
   Update and implement the Climate Action Plan with emphasis on: 1) identify, implement and promote financial incentives and public information and educational materials for improving energy efficiency in pre-1990 housing stock; 2) encouraging project design that promotes accessible, convenient and safe pedestrian, bicycle and transit access that reduces project generated vehicle miles traveled by 20-40% below average; and 3) developing standards that support infrastructure improvements for alternative transportation and electric vehicles.

4. **Multi-Modal Circulation: Improve Walkability and Transit**
   Implement the Multi-Modal objectives identified in the LUCE and the Downtown Concept Plan by encouraging in-fill development to include non-automobile alternatives. Conduct a walkable community survey in major neighborhoods to inform the development of the Active Transportation Plan, and to identify improvements that would encourage and support pedestrian activities for people with varying degrees of mobility. Implement the Short-Range Transit Plan to improve transit ridership by exploring operational improvements that could reduce run times to less than 20 minutes along routes that serve densely populated areas.

**NEXT STEPS**

The Commission should take public testimony and finalize Commission goals and work program items for the 2021-2023 Financial Plan. Advisory body goals are due by December 15th, 2020. The Council will receive the final report with all advisory body recommendations in late December 2020 before they begin the community goal-setting process.