



AGENDA MEMO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: MARCH 18, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION: ABEYANCE - GPA-27003 - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS

**** CONDITIONS ****

The Planning Commission (7-0 vote) and staff recommend APPROVAL.

**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This request is to adopt a Transportation and Streets and Highways Element and to incorporate it into the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan.

The Transportation and Streets and Highways Element intends to accomplish the following:

- State goals, objectives and policies to guide and influence planning and implementation of transportation systems;
- Compile a comprehensive listing and description of the street network, grade separations, and terminals;
- Describe building line setbacks, the functional classification system, and street addressing and numbering used within the city of Las Vegas;
- Support the city's Sustainability Initiative;
- Analyze short and long term goals and priorities for transportation planning;
- Describe the city's role in facilitating the development of streets and highways;
- Evaluate the effectiveness and potential benefit of land-use tools in transportation planning;
- Identify strategies/actions to enhance the city's role in coordinating transportation planning and implementation with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and other governmental entities.

The Transportation and Streets and Highways Element satisfies the Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 278.160 requirements for both a Transportation Plan and a Streets and Highways Plan. It complies with NRS 278.150, which requires entities with a population of 400,000 or greater to adopt a master plan that addresses these elements.

As a component of the Master Plan, the Transportation and Streets and Highways Element is intended not only to satisfy NRS requirements, but also to provide a comprehensive document that will assist with the long-range planning of the future expansion of and improvements to the public transportation system to meet the needs of the city as it continues to grow.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc.</i>	
04/01/92	The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3636, thereby adopting the Las Vegas General Plan as required by NRS 278. This master plan contained a Circulation Plan that combined traffic circulation, mass transit, paratransit, bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian, air, and rail considerations into a single document.
09/06/00	The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 5250, which adopted the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan.
02/12/09	The Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend APPROVAL (PC Agenda Item #12/ss).
<i>Neighborhood Meeting</i>	
03/24/08	A public meeting was held at Mirabelli Community Center.
03/25/08	A public meeting was held at Centennial Hills Community Center.
03/26/08	A public meeting was held at Rafael Rivera Community Center.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Transportation and Streets and Highways Element (hereinafter Element) of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan is to address the requirements of state law as set forth in the Nevada Revised Statutes and to recommend strategies and actions to facilitate implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies contained in the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan (Master Plan) related to transportation issues.

The Master Plan contains numerous goals, objectives, and policies pertaining directly and indirectly to transportation planning. As a component of the Master Plan, the Element is intended not only to satisfy NRS requirements (see below), but also to provide a comprehensive document that will assist with the long-range planning of the future expansion of and improvements to the public transportation system to meet the needs of the city as it continues to grow.

The Element recognizes that decisions about transportation may affect land use, and that land use decisions may affect the transportation system. Amendments to Title 18, 19 and the city's land use plan are recommended to support requirements that will help create vibrant, livable streets. The goal of this interaction between land use and transportation is the efficient movement of persons while at the same time reducing vehicle traffic.

The Element advocates collaborating with the Department of Public Works to improve the walkability (that is, the safety and overall appeal) of streets by adding streetscaping, amenities and features that increase the safety of non-motorized travelers. Future text amendments would also be necessary to carry out this objective.

As transportation is a regional issue, it is important that the city engage in project coordination efforts with regional entities. The Element recommends continued interagency coordination for various transportation planning and service provision efforts and support for the efforts of regional agencies such as the RTC and SNRPC to plan for projects outside the city limits.

Other recommendations focus on compliance with existing and preparation for proposed transportation-related legislation, actively seeking funding opportunities for projects and improving air quality in conjunction with the other entities in the Las Vegas Valley.

The following sections show how the Element relates to the requirements of state law, the Master Plan and the city's Strategic Plan.

Relationship to Nevada Revised Statutes

The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) are the current codified laws of the State of Nevada. The Statutes of Nevada are a compilation of all legislation passed by the Nevada Legislature during a particular legislative session. With respect to these laws, the Element conforms to the following:

NRS 278.150 through 170 inclusive requires that the governing body (in this case the city of Las Vegas) prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city. This document, known as the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, must include a Transportation Plan, which must show a comprehensive transportation system, including, without limitation, locations of rights-of-way, terminals, viaducts and grade separations. The plan may also include port, harbor, aviation and related facilities. The Master Plan must also include a Streets and Highways Plan, which must show the general locations and widths of a comprehensive system of major traffic thoroughfares and other traffic ways and of streets and the recommended treatment thereof, building line setbacks, and a system of naming or numbering streets and numbering houses, with recommendations concerning proposed changes. The Transportation and Streets and Highways Element addresses the NRS requirements of these two plans while combining them into one interrelated document. While the previous General Plan for the city contained a Circulation Plan, the proposed Element will be the first municipal transportation plan to fully comply with all of the NRS mandated requirements.

Relationship to Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan

The city of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan policy document was adopted in September 2000. It provides a broad policy structure intended to direct the actions of the city regarding land use and development for the period from 2000 to 2020. The individual elements are intended to provide more specific direction, through detailed analysis and recommended actions, as to how the City should react to certain issues. The Transportation and Streets and Highways Element recommends strategies and actions to facilitate implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies contained in the Master Plan as it relates to transportation issues.

Relationship to city of Las Vegas Strategic Planning Guide Priorities

The Element is supported by the City of Las Vegas Strategic Planning Guide with the following priorities:

- Create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of our community.
 - Assure multi-modal transportation options are available that connect home, workplace, commercial centers and recreation areas in all neighborhoods throughout the Las Vegas community.
- Revitalize and invigorate our mature areas and the urban core.
 - Coordinate city resources, funds, and programs on revitalization of mature areas and urban core to maximize impact.

FINDINGS

In addition to addressing the specific requirements of NRS 278.160, the Transportation and Streets and Highways Element contains six broad-based recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Improve consistency between transportation and land use decisions in order to reduce the number of vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Comply with existing transportation-related legislation and actively support proposed State and/or Federal legislation which generates funding, with growth potential for transportation infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Coordinate local actions with regional agencies, and undertake active efforts for transportation improvements.

RECOMMENDATION 4: Pursue sources that will fund the construction and maintenance of needed improvements to the city's street system.

RECOMMENDATION 5: Implement streetscape enhancements by coordinating with the Department of Public Works to improve the visual appearance of city streets.

RECOMMENDATION 6: Coordinate with regional entities to fund and implement programs that aim to improve air quality in the Las Vegas Valley.

Each recommendation contains a list of actions needed to carry out the broad policy contained in the recommendation. While amendments to various codes and plans will be necessary to implement the policies of the Element, some of the actions, such as collaboration with regional entities, already take place and will be ongoing for the life of the Plan.

<u>NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED</u>	N/A
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<u>ASSEMBLY DISTRICT</u>	N/A
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<u>SENATE DISTRICT</u>	N/A
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<u>NOTICES MAILED</u>	NEWSPAPER ONLY
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<u>APPROVALS</u>	0
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PROTESTS	0
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