

**AGENDA MEMO - PLANNING**

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE: JANUARY 8, 2013

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING

ITEM DESCRIPTION: APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS

**** STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S) ****

<i>CASE NUMBER</i>	<i>RECOMMENDATION</i>	<i>REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL</i>
DIR-47207	Staff recommends APPROVAL.	N/A

Staff Report Page One
January 8, 2013 - Planning Commission Meeting

**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a presentation of the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan final draft. Policies within the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan direct the City to review existing neighborhoods for opportunities to include design elements such as street furniture, landscaping, and pavement treatments to promote walkability. The Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan (from here on out, referred to as the 'Plan') focuses on the neighborhood within a half-mile radius of the intersection of Jackson Avenue and F Street. The Plan serves as a guiding document designed to offer walkable components to enhance existing community amenities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc</i>	
03/23/09	At the joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop, walkable community plans were discussed as contributing to the implementation of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, assisting with sustainability goals as well as improving the quality of life of residents.
07/23/09	The Department of Planning provided an update (DIR-35033) on the development of walkable community plans, outlining the six areas of the city to be targeted for such plans, to the Planning Commission.
12/03/09	The Department of Planning provided an update (DIR-35929) regarding the development of walkable community and corridor plans, including a summary of the initial public meeting, to the Planning Commission.

<i>Neighborhood Meeting</i>	
08/14/10	The Department of Planning attended the Ward 5 Back to School Fair to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan at Lorenzi Park, Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza located at 700 Twin Lakes Drive.
01/13/11	The Department of Planning attended the West Las Vegas Advisory Board meeting to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan at the NAACP Conference Room, Nucleus Plaza, 1052 West Owens Avenue.
02/28/11	The Department of Planning attended the Berkley Square Neighborhood Association meeting to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan at Kit Carson Elementary School, 1052 West Owens Avenue.
08/02/11	The Department of Planning hosted the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan Open House Event at the Doolittle Community Center, 1950 J Street.

Staff Report Page Two
January 8, 2013 - Planning Commission Meeting

08/23/11	The Department of Planning hosted the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan Open House Event at the Elks Lodge, 600 West Owens Avenue.
09/14/11	The Department of Planning hosted the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan Open House Event at the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club, 800 North Martin L. King Boulevard
11/02/11	The Department of Planning hosted the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan Open House Event at Doolittle Community Center, 1950 J Street.
08/07/12	The Department of Planning attended the Safe Summer Nights meeting to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan at Matt Kelly Elementary School, 1900 J Street.
08/09/12	The Department of Planning attended a Neighborhood Meeting to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan at Doolittle Community Center at Doolittle Community Center, 1950 J Street.
08/18/12	The Department of Planning attended the Back to School Fair to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan at Doolittle Community Center, 1950 J Street.
11/13/12	The Department of Planning attended a Neighborhood Meeting to discuss the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan located at Doolittle Community Center at 1950 J Street.

ANALYSIS

The city of Las Vegas has recognized the needs for walkable communities and has been taking the appropriate steps to foster their development. Several policies within the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan direct the City to review existing neighborhoods for opportunities to promote walkability. In the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011, the Department of Planning held a total of three meetings with community members to survey the community interest in the development of a walkable community plan and to find out what the public wanted addressed in such a plan.

Comments received from the open houses focused on the following issues:

- Completing the sidewalk network within the neighborhoods, including the following streets; Owens Avenue, Lake Mead Boulevard, D Street, H Street, I Street and Washington Avenue
- Providing pedestrian connections to recreation and commercial amenities;
- The need for additional shade trees;
- The need for additional bike lanes;
- The need for shaded bus shelters; and
- The desire to remove of obstacles from sidewalks.

Staff Report Page Three
January 8, 2013 - Planning Commission Meeting

After this initial contact with community members, staff began the process of area data collection, demographics, identification of neighborhood social issues, physical data collection, physical characteristics that constitute the community, as well as the identification of the community goals. As these steps were completed staff met with community members a total of six times in 2011 and four times in 2012 and performed outreach sessions at community association meetings, the local community centers and at various events within and adjacent to the plan area. These meetings provided community members with updates on the plan status and allowed direct interaction between the residents and the Department of Planning. These meetings helped guide the development of the draft plan. As the final draft plan was completed, a final community-wide public open house meeting was held by the Department of Planning on November 13, 2012 to address any remaining comments or concerns expressed by the community. Community feedback was instrumental in refining the plan document to accurately address the needs of the community.

The Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan document is divided into four main sections. They are as follows:

- Introduction
- Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan
- Implementation
- Appendix

Introduction:

This portion of the plan identifies walkable communities, their importance within our city, and the benefits of living in a walkable environment. Support for walkable communities, as discussed in the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, the Unified Development Code, the Community Design Element, the Resolution in Support of Governmental Action to Reduce Global Warming Pollution (R-57-2006) and the Resolution Adopting a Sustainable Energy Strategy for the City of Las Vegas (R-50-2008) are discussed within this portion of the plan, as is the methodology as to how the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan area was selected. Examples of walkable community types are provided, indicating the wide range of forms, settings, locations and types of environments pedestrian-oriented development occurs in.

Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan:

The Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan portion of the document inventories the community and identifies opportunities and constraints towards creating a walkable community plan. This portion of the plan is further broken down into several subsections detailing Community Amenities, Community Design, Complete Streets and Community Input and Support. Demographics of the community are examined, while a detailed explanation of the public hearing and meeting process leading up to the development of the Plan document are discussed in the Community Input and Support section.

Staff Report Page Four
January 8, 2013 - Planning Commission Meeting

A full inventory of the Community Amenities is provided, detailing the shopping centers within the Plan area, walking distances between residential and retail destinations and a breakdown of the number of businesses, religious facilities, schools and recreation facilities are located within the Plan area. One of the issues noted is that the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan area contains an abundance of single and multi-family residential housing options, yet provides very few retail amenities within the Plan area.

The Complete Streets portion of this Plan section examines the major roadways within the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan document, providing an inventory of existing roadways, their widths, amenities and pedestrian facilities, as well as suggested improvements to those streets that would create a more walkable environment. These suggestions address the following streets: Owens Avenue, Harrison Avenue, Monroe Avenue, Adams Street, Madison Avenue, Washington Avenue, B Street, D Street, F Street, H Street, J Street and carry a wide-range of proposed implementations including additional sidewalks, shade trees, crossings, bike lanes and vehicle lane width reductions.

Plan Implementation:

The Plan Implementation portion of the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan document outlines recommendations that will permit for greater walkability within the Plan area. The funding sources to implement the recommendations may include, but are not limited to, Special Improvement Districts, Federal Grants or piecemeal as new development occurs. Concurrently, the City is moving forward with Capital Improvement Project (CIP-41375, 45397 and 45920) to provide for infill of sidewalks and provide ADA compliant crosswalks and curb cuts within the majority of the Plan area. Based on the input received from public meetings, a total of 47 recommendations are made, ranging from community design, connectivity, transit stop, landscaping and roadway improvements. These recommendations are based on the analysis, inventory and observations that were recorded and discussed in the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan section of the Plan document.

Appendix:

The Appendix contains a development check list that was designed to ensure that any new development within the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan area contains the pedestrian-oriented features found in the Unified Development Code. The inclusion of this checklist is meant to highlight required features within the Unified Development Code as items which are keys to promoting walkability.

Staff Report Page Five
January 8, 2013 - Planning Commission Meeting

SUMMARY

The Department of Planning has worked to engage residents within the Historic West Las Vegas Walkable Community Plan area before, during and after the development of the draft Plan document. The components found within the Plan are those which were highlighted by the community members as issues, concerns or areas in need of improvement. Funding for the recommendations suggested by the Plan document may include Federal Grants, Special Improvement Districts or be done piecemeal as new development occurs; however, no permanent or secure funding sources have been identified. Concurrently, the City is moving forward with Capital Improvement Project (CIP-41375, 45397 and 45920) to provide for infill of sidewalks and provide ADA compliant crosswalks and curb cuts within the majority of the Plan area. The Plan serves as a guiding document designed to offer walkable components to enhance existing community amenities and fulfills Recommendation #2 of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan and meets the Community Design Element strategy of creating opportunities for nodes or districts with identifying amenities that foster community ownership and enhance unique characteristics.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED

NEWSPAPER ONLY

NOTICES MAILED N/A

APPROVALS 0

PROTESTS 0