

GPAC 10/22/08, Meeting Notes

Discussion of Transportation / Circulation Policies

Pam- Recap of what has been going on in the past three months.

Jim Stevens- Can we get the homework questions digitally?

Pam- Yes. Explains the role and process.

Brendan- Will use GPAC as a guide of what is important.

Public Comment-

- ❖ Elizabeth Devreaux- Ring transit corridor, purpose; link transportation around the city. Inner and outer ring. Wider sidewalks, mixed-use housing, density and TOD. Small electric buses. Include images in the plan.
- ❖ Dave Campbell - Hegan Business Park, not enough routes to service the distribution center on Hegan. Need some secondary access. Can't have downtown. Need another route. Public transit and pedestrian access. Too much traffic from park ave to Hegan.
- ❖ Bill Brouhard - Business Park is a huge part of the economy. Access is a major issue. Otterson to Myers. Politically charged referendum. Did not address the problems. Lack of bike lanes and poor safety.
- ❖ Sandi- Needed warehouse space, but because of lack of access Hegan did not work.

Discussion and Questions-

Aaron Clark and Jeff Hoyt (Fehr & Peers)

Level of Service- Group exercise

Kirk, Jim, Dave- Can accept a lot more congestion. Willing to accept worse level of service. Alternative modes can mitigate worse level of service. Count the number of people through an intersection instead of cars.

David, Thomas, and Noel- More congestion is okay. Regional traffic should be kept moving. Need to look at level of service for other modes of transportation. What does the community get in return for greater congestion? Is it worth it?

Nancy, James, Sara, Mike- Yes, yes, yes. Need to know more about how different land use will effect LOS and answers to question. Some problems are with actual intersections, not traffic.

Jeff- Will take the Land Use plan and work it into the traffic model.

Aaron- Different levels of traffic during different parts of the day for specific areas.

Kirk- Complete street LOS should be counted differently.

Jeff- Multi-model, how many people are we getting through the intersection.

Jim- Esplanade versus Mangrove, more streets like esplanade. Need to accept worse traffic.

Scott- Are there places where we can not accept worse levels of service.

Kirk- Lets fix Hegan Lane, 20th st around the mall needs to be fixed.

Jim- Mangrove has too much strip commercial. Need to improved access.

David- LOS standards are different for everyone depending on where you are from and what you are used to. Are we required to use LOS?

Nancy- How does safety play into the process?

Jeff- Difficult to quantify how accidents will happen, more intense or increased frequency.

Sara- Safety first, LOS later.

Question #2- Ring Corridor

Scott- Inner or Outer ring concept. An area where higher densities are allowed. Circular system. May need to improve the rings. Headways and frequency are important.

Thomas- Why does it not include the NV mall? Great idea overall. Needs to be built. Connect residential areas to destinations.

Noel- Thinks the concept is good. Ring exists; question is how to redevelop streets and improve design. Public safety should be first and considered a priority.

David- Likes the inner ring. Need better bus line services with improved headways. Need to consider a possible inner ring redesign based on existing destination nodes and points of interest. Outer ring or beltway is a bad idea. Does not work, destroys farmland.

Nancy- should buses be running on pine and cypress? Mostly residential. Ring along the east should be planned for or considered long term.

Dave- Ring is not the best way to describe Chico. Existing system, need much more density to support transit. There are ways to improve what exists today.

Kirk- Thought the ring was a good idea. Density and transit are inner linked. Outer ring, there will be no beltway on the east side.

Jim- agrees with Kirk about the outer ring. Deal with what we have. Can't build a ring, needs to evolve over time. Need to improve transit headways. Need improved density.

Sara- More of a transit focus. Need a smother ring, need to consider pedestrians and bikes.

Mike- Lots of destinations but not very many people along the inner ring route. Chico will need to redo the routes. We can have as much transit as we want. Need to make it a priority, if the money is there. Need to set reasonable prices. External ring does not make sense. 99 is fast enough. Likes skyway to midway along the rail road.

James- Likes the inner road concept. 1994 plan did increase the density, but not enough. Mangrove is ready to be redeveloped. If you're going to build an outer ring road then don't put lots of driveways along it.

Question #3- Should Chico change its parking standards?

Mike- CSUC should solve there own parking problems. The city should not have to deal with it.

Thomas- Too many studies, not enough action. Need to deal with downtown. Need to vary levels.

Jim- Lower standards in downtown. Provide opportunities for parking in a focused way, higher density lower parking requirements.

David- Don't waste the space on parking requirements, especially in intense use areas.

Kirk- No preferential residential parking permits. No more parking structures downtown. Put meters in all areas close to downtown, use income to fund street amenities. Parking as part of residential should be built in the cost.

Nancy- Do need some parking where it makes sense. Permits need to be addressed.

Noel- Plenty of parking exists now. Need a more integrated approach to dealing with the parking issues.

Sara-No need to add additional parking downtown. Plenty of parking exists. Need to address parking needs if it actually becomes an issue. If people want to live downtown.

James- Build more parking garages, then expand the sidewalks.

Dave-Need some more parking downtown, needs to be dispersed. Should provide for residential parking if residents want to live downtown.

Kirk- Get rid of parking requirements downtown. Does not allow redevelopment of downtown. Let the market decide parking needs.

Mike- Parking structures don't solve problems. Downtown is not all bars and tattoo parlors. No empty spaces. Parking garages are crime magnets. CSUC should solve their own problems.

Noel- Parking zones are a good idea. Different requirements in different parts of town.

Sara- People will live without cars, more and more people are doing it.

Question #4 Complete Streets.

Aaron- Explanation of what complete streets are.

Mike- Likes sidewalks and pedestrian connectivity.

Jim- Complete streets are common sense.

Dave- Bike safety is very important.

Nancy- Thinks it's unrealistic to convert all our streets to complete streets. Should deal with the ones that are the most used.

David- Likes a common sense appropriate streets for different places. Depending on the context.

Noel- Public safety should be the priority. Context is very important.

Thomas- Need safe bikeways. Separation of different street users is good. Increases safety.

James- Complete streets make a lot of sense. Need to make necessary improvements, context is very important.

Question #5 Traffic Calming

Sara- HW32 needs to be dealt with.

Thomas- 8th and 9th streets need to be improved. Pine/cypress underpass is great. Will improve the connectivity.

Noel- Connect park ave to Otterson. Need to consider barber yard in the future.

David- Thinks the one-way streets are a big problem. Hegan lane needs to be dealt with.

Nancy- Avenues neighborhood has some issues. Need to figure how to deal with the neighborhood groups while infilling and expanding the city.

Mike- Connect Otterson to 99.

Jim- Need to make the connection for barber yard- otterson- and CUSC. Economically important.

Kirk- Need bike connection north of Shasta that can go across 99. Link Myers to ivy. Warner and Holly need to be aligned. Ped and bike access on East 1st Ave. Westplace houses on Nord need to be better connected. No more street closures.

Dave- North section needs to be dealt with, Bell/muir. Need to improve south east area, deal with Barber yard. Improve Norte Dame to take pressure off of Bruce road.

James- there are lots of areas that have needs. Hegan lane needs to be dealt with. Airport needs help too.

Public Comment:

Internal ring would cause additional stress on Hegan. External ring is problematic. Need some bike plan connectivity. Need to consider innovative strategies to deal with issues.