



Planning & Transportation Commission

Staff Report

From: Jonathan Lait, Planning and Development Services Director
Lead Department: Planning and Development Services

Meeting Date: April 26, 2023
Report #: 2304-1242

TITLE

Review and Adopt 2023-24 PTC Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) review the draft 2023-2024 Work Plan (Attachment A) and provide staff direction for refinements.

BACKGROUND

On March 29, 2023, the Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), Office of Transportation (OOT) staff, and the PTC discussed the accomplishments related to the 2022-23 PTC Work Plan the prior PTC adopted on April 27, 2022. The PTC discussed the status of the 18 projects/goals in the 2022-23 plan. The PTC noted that/recommended to:

- Be realistic with goals in the 2023-24 year work plan, with a note that some goals had no action from the PTC during the work plan period
- Clarify whether the plan is for Fiscal Year or calendar year
- Use letters instead of numbers to minimize the impression goals are prioritized
- Focus could be given to the Council priorities
- Delete the work plan 22-23 Goals #4, 5, 6, 15, and 17 to not carry forward in the 23-24 plan (Goal 4 was a Cal Ave study session; Goal 5 was Wireless standards; Goal 6 was Downtown in lieu parking; Goal 15 was an ADU update; Goal 17 was a Cal Ave subscription in lieu program)
- Merge/combine goals 2 and 7, and parking goals 11-13
- Refresh or expand other goals (Goals 8, 9, 14, 16, 18)
- Add new goals: rental registry and bird-safe glass/dark skies ordinance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Incorporating the PTC's feedback, staff has prepared the attached draft work plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, to cover the period July 2023 through June 2024. The draft plan uses an alphabet letter for each goal, as one PTC member suggested (so as not to imply prioritization).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/DISCUSSION

The PTC's March 29th discussion resulted in direction to merge several goals, delete others, and add new goals to the list for FY beginning July 1, 2023 through June 2024. The below brief summary is intended to be an overview of the draft plan for 2023-24 as discussed on March 29th, with a crosswalk to the 22-23 work program goals. Additional potential goals are noted below but staff did not add them to the attached draft plan; if PTC wishes to add them staff will do so prior to sending the plan to the City Clerk for inclusion in the Council packet.

Road Safety: Goal A (PRIOR Goal 1 reworked)

- On March 29th OOT staff noted that this goal had been accomplished in the prior year's workplan via the October 26 meeting that reviewed the Local Road Safety Plan for Palo Alto compiled by VTA.
- Staff suggest retaining this item for the new workplan, noting that several safety-related reports will come to PTC, specifically the Crescent Park Traffic Calming pilot, the Caltrain Corridor Quiet Zone Project, and a Federally-funded Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan.

Retail Recovery: Goal B (PRIOR Goal 2 merged Goal 7 CUP Thresholds and reworked)

- This goal aligns w/Council priorities, to resume CUP thresholds discussion from August 31st; the retail study report was not published in 2022; the scope was revised, and work is in process.

Coordinated Area Planning: Goal C (PRIOR Goal 3, Neighborhood Planning Study Session)

- Council directed staff to construct a preliminary schedule by end of 2023 calendar year for starting new coordinated area plans (CAP) for San Antonio Road; California Ave; Downtown; and El Camino Real. This macro discussion will likely involve study sessions with the Architectural Review Board (ARB) jointly with the PTC about the work scope.
- This goal will include process analysis – to study how a CAP process can be different (more efficient) than the NVCAP process

NVCAP: Goal D (PRIOR Goal 8, refreshed)

Housing Element Implementation: Goal E (PRIOR Goal 9 refreshed)

- Zoning changes to meet RHNA
 - Upzoning RM & GM/ROLM (density)
 - Carry-over sites (by right approvals w/20% affordable housing)
 - Stanford owned land (3 sites)
 - Housing Incentive Program expansion & adjustments

State Law Implementation/ Policy Updates: Goal F (PRIOR Goal 10 updated/refreshed)

- Goal F-1 relates to:

- the 2021 law SB9 (completing review of standards/updating standards, about which the ARB is conducting ongoing study sessions) and ordinance adjustment if a new SB9 clean up law is signed in fall 2023, and
- the January 2023 law AB2097 which necessitates a parking ordinance modification
- Goal F-2 relates to the July 1, 2023-effective legislation AB2011 and SB6 and any other 2023 legislation that may pass in the fall of 2023 and go into effect January – June 2024

Parking Programs: Goal G (PRIOR Goals 11-13 combined)

The PTC will receive an update regarding options for improving the City’s parking programs. This includes a Roadmap for Residential Parking Permit Program improvements and commercial parking improvements. PTC will receive an update regarding parking availability data, to be provided on the City’s website, on a Parking Data Portal page. The new license plate reader technology allows for regular collection and reporting of parking availability.

On-Demand Shuttle Program: Goal H (PRIOR Goal 14 refreshed)

Staff expects to bring a one-year evaluation of the Palo Alto Link on-demand transit service to PTC in Spring of 2024.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (BPTP) Update: Goal I (PRIOR Goal 16 refreshed)

The BPTP Update will identify opportunities to enhance and connect the City’s bicycle and pedestrian networks. Meetings to garner PTC input for the plan update are included in the scope of work for this project.

Car-Free Streets: California Ave and Ramona Street: Goal J (PRIOR Goal 18 refreshed)

Council tasked staff to study, plan, and design alternatives for permanent closures on California Avenue and Ramona Street, including demonstration projects that are underway. Based on input from initial public engagement, the City will bring on a design contractor to develop alternatives which will be brought to PTC.

Renter Registry: Goal K (NEW Goal)

Staff intends to bring this effort forward in June to the PTC, and in September to City Council.

Bird Safe Glass/Dark Skies Ordinance: Goal L (NEW Goal)

This was noted as a Council priority/objective.

Additional Goals/Projects Staff Identified: Goal M (NEW Goal)

Comprehensive Plan Policy Implementation – this includes several existing policies and programs in the Comprehensive Plan that need to be implemented, such as stream corridor regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Environmental Review The subject project is not subject to review according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Thus, no CEQA review has been performed.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

The Council is anticipated to review the board and commission work plans in June. If the PTC continues the review of the 2023-2024 work plan to refine the verbiage, the May 10th PTC meeting would be the final meeting to discuss the work plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft 2023-24 Work Plan

AUTHOR/TITLE:

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