

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2010**2009-0454: Work Plan for Lawrence Station Area Plan 2010-2011 (Study Issue) SB**

Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, presented the staff report. She said staff recommends that the Commission recommend to City Council the approval of the Work Plan in Attachment A, the approval of the schedule in Attachment B, and to direct the City Manager to continue pursuing additional grant opportunities as they become available.

Comm. Hungerford confirmed that staff is seeking authorization from City Council to apply for a grant from Caltrans (California Department of Transportation). Comm. Hungerford discussed with staff the phase one land use planning and the risk of planning for land use before the City knows what will happen with the high-speed rail. Ms. Ryan said there is a risk that plans may have to be changed depending on the outcome of the high-speed rail, however there would likely still be a local station in this area and it would be appropriate to evaluate the types of land use at this time. Comm. Hungerford discussed the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) grant with staff and the different players involved in planning the land use.

Comm. Klein said he is happy to see this plan going forward and having a land use plan that would make this area a transportation node would be useful. He said one of his issues is regarding open space with staff explaining that in regards to this area the open space is the space along the transportation corridors and not just open space in a park sense.

Comm. Sulser discussed with staff the coordination of plans with other government agencies including Santa Clara County and the concern about entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Santa Clara.

Chair Chang opened the public hearing.

Vu Nguyen represented Urban Habitat, a social equity and environmental justice non-profit based in Oakland, CA. He acknowledged that this plan is important to Sunnyvale and regionally. He said Urban Habitat works collaboratively with other non-profits who deal with open space and transportation around transit nodes. He stressed that the Lawrence Station area is important in bridging the gap between the housing and job imbalance in the area and Caltrain connects Sunnyvale to the rest of the Bay Area. He stressed the importance of community engagement. He said he cares about Sunnyvale, is a former resident, and that

Urban Habitat has submitted a letter of support of the Caltran Community Based Transportation Planning grant that the Sunnyvale would be submitting in April.

Chair Chang closed the public hearing.

Comm. Rowe moved for Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 to recommend to City Council: to approve the proposed Work Plan for the Lawrence Station Area Plan (Attachment A); to approve the proposed schedule for the Lawrence Station Area Plan (Attachment B); and to direct the City Manager to continue pursuing additional grant opportunities, as they become available. Comm. Sulser seconded the motion.

Comm. Rowe said reading the report brought back a lot of memories of when the Planning Commission previously looked at this issue, adding that it looks like staff is doing a great job at stretching the dollars.

Comm. Sulser said he is excited to see this study going forward and he hopes a higher-density, transit-oriented development near the Lawrence Station Area will come to pass.

ACTION: Comm. Rowe made a motion on 2009-0454 to recommend to City Council: to approve the proposed Work Plan for Lawrence Station Area Plan (Attachment A); to approve the proposed schedule for Lawrence Station Area Plan (Attachment B); and to direct the City Manager to continue pursuing additional grant opportunities, as they become available. Comm. Sulser seconded. Motion carried 6-0, with Vice Chair Travis absent.

APPEAL OPTIONS: This recommendation will be forwarded on to City Council and is scheduled to be considered at the April 27, 2010 City Council meeting.