



Fremont City Council

3300 Capitol Avenue
Fremont, CA 94538

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 03/05/19 07:00 PM

Div/Dept: Public Works

Category: Plans, Policies and Studies

STAFF REPORT (ID # 3658)

Sponsors:

DOC ID: 3658

MOBILITY ACTION PLAN - Approve the Fremont Mobility Action Plan; Exempt from CEQA Review; Dissolve Mobility Task Force; and Recommended Implementation Actions.

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Executive Summary: The purpose of this report is to facilitate approval of the Fremont Mobility Action Plan, which is intended to guide the City's local implementation priorities and regional advocacy efforts to address Fremont's transportation issues and needs. This report includes a summary of input from the City Council Work Session held on February 19, 2019 along with staff recommendations on near-term implementation actions.

BACKGROUND: In May 2017, the Mayor and City Council initiated the process to prepare a Mobility Action Plan (MAP) and appoint a Mobility Task Force to guide staff and consultants in the preparation of the MAP. In accordance with Council direction, the goal was to create a "plan of action" to address Fremont's transportation issues and needs, with a focus on traffic congestion, travel alternatives, safety improvements, and new technologies.

A 14-member Task Force was appointed in September 2017. The consultant team of Nelson/Nygaard and Kearns & West was hired in October 2017 to support the effort. For the 16 months, between October 2017 and January 2019, the Mobility Task Force met 11 times. To solicit community input regarding Fremont mobility issues and ideas, five community events were held and the Fremont Open City Hall online survey tool received a record level of over 2600 responses. A community meeting to introduce and discuss the recommendations from the MAP was held at the Fremont Main Library on January 24, 2019.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS: The MAP is intended to be a five-year strategy of local actions and regional advocacy. The plan acknowledges and recommends continuing with the many existing efforts already underway and funded such as traffic signal modernization, safe routes to schools, AC Transit modernization, pedestrian and bicycle master plans, Transportation Demand Management policy, Vision Zero traffic safety program, Smart City/Smart Mobility Action Plan, managing impacts from navigation apps, and various regional transportation projects.

Significant recommendations identified in the draft MAP include:

- Pursue regional land use policy changes designed to ease regional traffic congestion through Fremont
- Convene an annual Fremont Mobility Summit with participation from Fremont's representatives from regional, state, and Federal agencies to facilitate collaboration and review current issues, ideas, and priorities

- Encourage increased travel by carpooling, transit, walking and bicycling and decrease drive alone commuting from 73% to 50% by 2040 (with a goal to shift travel away from driving by 1% per year)
- Seek additional local funding to expand programs related to traffic signal modernization (\$20 million), safe routes to schools (\$25 million), and pedestrian/bicycle facilities (\$200 million)
- Create an ongoing Fremont Mobility Commission to support and monitor implementation of the Mobility Action Plan

City Council Work Session

The draft Mobility Action plan was presented to the City Council at a Special Meeting Work Session on February 19, 2019. Staff proposed a set of follow up actions to begin considering key policy-related elements of the MAP as follows:

MAP Action Item

Suggested Follow Up

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| <p>1. Pursue regional land use policies to reduce traffic through Fremont (address regional job/housing imbalance)</p> | <p>Refer to Work Session on Housing/Growth Management (tentatively on 4/9)</p> |
| <p>2. Seek additional local funding to expand programs for traffic signal modernization (\$20M), safe routes to schools (\$25M), and major ped/bike facilities (\$200M)</p> | <p>Refer to Work Session on Capital Improvement Program (tentatively on 3/26) and Budget process</p> |
| <p>3. Adopt mode shift goal for increased travel by carpooling, transit, walking, bicycling and decrease drive alone commuting by 1% per year (shift drive alone commuting from 73% to 50% by 2040)</p> | <p>Referral to staff to develop program</p> |
| <p>4. Convene an annual Fremont Mobility Summit with regional, state, and federal representatives</p> | <p>Referral to staff to develop program</p> |
| <p>5. Create an ongoing Fremont Mobility Commission</p> | <p>Council to provide input on role of Commission; Refer to Budget process</p> |

The City Council expressed appreciation to the Mobility Task Force, Staff and consultants for the work involved in preparing the Mobility Action Plan. Councilmembers communicated support for the MAP, support for the suggested approach on “next steps”, and identified the following themes for future attention:

- Continue to work with Fremont Unified School District: on Safe Routes to School program; encouragement for increased walking, bicycling and transit use; redesign

of pick-up and drop-off zones with school improvement projects; and coordination with AC Transit on supportive bus services.

- Increase emphasis on local land use topics contributing to mobility issues as part of the City's land planning and development process, in addition to advocacy of improved regional jobs/housing balance.
- Support for traffic signal modernization program and include opportunities to integrate benefits for the Police Department's public safety programs.
- Acknowledge that the southern Fremont area is uniquely impacted with neighborhood traffic intrusion and a concentration of new development near the Warm Springs BART station, and give priority to developing traffic management solutions.
- Continue to work with Alameda CTC on funding opportunities.
- Support for creating a Mobility Commission and include members able to assist City with external agency advocacy.

Mobility Task Force

As a subject body established by the City Council, the membership of the Mobility Task Force shall terminate upon completion of the study which caused his/her appointment. The Mobility Task Force successfully guided staff and consultants in the development of the Mobility Action Plan they were tasked with. Staff recommends dissolving the Mobility Task Force subsequent to the approval of the Mobility Action Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: The adoption of the Mobility Action Plan has no direct fiscal impact. Recommendations in the Plan having budget implications will be addressed as part of the City's budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The adoption of the proposed Mobility Action Plan would conform to goals and policies in the Mobility Element of the General Plan, including those that provide for multi-modal streets that offer safe and attractive choices among travel modes, improved safety for pedestrians and bicycles, reduced vehicle miles traveled, bus service improvements, transfers between transit modes, reduced single-occupancy vehicle commuting, and transportation system management. Therefore, no further environmental review is required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH#2010082060) was previously certified for the General Plan Update and none of the conditions requiring a subsequent or supplemental EIR stated in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines are present. Specific projects would be subject to appropriate environmental review as they are developed and funded.

LINKS:

Fremont Mobility Action Plan: March 2019
<https://fremont.gov/mobilityactionplan>

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Find that the adoption of the proposed Mobility Action Plan is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Action (CEQA)
2. Approve the Fremont Mobility Action Plan dated March 2019
3. Dissolve the Mobility Task Force

4. Direct staff to pursue the following actions to support implementation of the Fremont Mobility Action Plan:
 - a. Refer discussion of regional land use policies to the upcoming Work Session on "Housing and Growth Management"
 - b. Refer discussion of additional local funding to the upcoming Work Session on the "Capital Improvement Program"
 - c. Return to Council with a program to implement the proposed "mode shift goal"
 - d. Return to Council with a program to convene an annual Mobility Summit
 - e. Refer discussion of a Mobility Commission to the upcoming budget process