



**Resource Management
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: September 30, 2014

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010				

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Adopt the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area.
- (2) Authorize transmittal of the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area to the Tulare County Association of Governments.
- (3) Authorize the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to seek funding for construction and related matters involving this project.

SUMMARY:

Background

On August 13, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved the submittal of a grant application, along with a detailed scope of work, to the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) in the amount of \$150,000 for development of a Complete Streets Policy. On December 13, 2013, the Board approved the initiation of a General Plan Amendment for the Traver, Goshen and Pixley Community Plan Updates.

Legislatively, the California Complete Streets Act (AB 1358) requires all cities and counties to identify how to provide for routine accommodation of all roadway users, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, people with disabilities, seniors, and

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users of public transportation.

In a nutshell, this integrated approach is characterized as “designing complete streets for all users.” Thus, these Complete Street Policies, once approved, can lead to an award of construction funding from TCAG for these three communities.

In terms of the larger land use and environmental planning process, the Resource Management Agency (RMA) launched an aggressive community plan updating process as part of the implementation of the General Plan Update recently approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Specifically, during this fiscal year (i.e., 2014-2015), there are three community planning areas that are being addressed, namely, Goshen, Pixley and Traver.

The reasons supporting the initial focus on the Traver, Goshen and Pixley community planning areas are identified as follows:

- **From a land use and environmental planning perspective**, promoting development within these existing planning areas along the Highway 99 Corridor is expected to help achieve the General Plan Update’s goals of (a) infill development, thereby discouraging leapfrog development within the County; (b) reducing development pressure on agriculturally-designated lands within the Valley Floor; (c) reducing vehicle miles travelled throughout the County, thereby positively affecting air quality and greenhouse gas reduction; and (d) promoting a safe and efficient circulation/pedestrian system within the three affected community planning areas.
- **From a fiscal perspective**, it is prudent to allocate additional financial resources to these three planning areas because Tulare County is the recipient of three state planning grants affecting the Highway 99 Corridor.
- **From an economic development perspective**, since all three planning areas are within the State Highway 99 Corridor, it is likely that business opportunities will be created, expanded and retained in these areas because of (a) immediate access to one of the largest travelled highways in California, and (b) proximity to a “center of gravity” for Tulare County businesses to Northern and Southern California transportation hubs and markets.
- **From a “disadvantaged communities” perspective**, it is expected that disadvantaged communities within these planning areas could be improved in that (a) with a safer travel environment, better housing and employment opportunities are likely to be promoted by the private sector, and (b) additional infrastructure funding opportunities for the public sector could be enhanced to improve transportation, water, wastewater, and storm water

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facilities.

Complete Streets Policy Plan

Based on the above description of the community plan updating process, the Complete Streets Policy Planning process consisted of three parts: (1) Proposed Plan, (2) Expected Outcomes and (3) Use of Conclusions. Each of these parts is described below.

1. Proposed Plan for Complete Streets Policies for the Traver Community Planning Area

The Plan for the Complete Streets Policies addressed the following streets:

- **Traver:** (1) Merritt Drive, from Burke Drive to Canal Drive
(2) 6th Street, from SR99 to Merritt Drive

Building on the project management approach applied extensively in RMA, planning and engineering staff provided their collaborate expertise to insure that the Complete Streets Policies are practical, feasible and effective. In this way, a realistic approach was taken to insure that the most appropriate policies are recommended for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Specifically, the work effort included a comprehensive analysis of the selected streets including (a) traffic analysis, (b) numerous public meetings and workshops, (c) walkability audits of the project area, and (d) recommendations regarding the accommodations that are needed to make each street more complete, thus insuring that all affected streets can better accommodate all users.

In the final analysis, the proposed Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver area can serve (a) as a basis to be awarded construction funding from TCAG to implement these policies, and (b) as a template that could be used to develop future Complete Streets Policies applicable to other unincorporated community planning areas, as well as hamlets. Cities can also benefit from the work produced by the County.

2. Report Outcomes

For the Traver area, the Complete Streets Plan achieved the following outcomes:

- Addressed congestion, climate change and oil dependence by shifting to lower-carbon modes;
- Improved safety by addressing shoulders, sidewalks, better bus placement, traffic speed reduction, treatments for travelers with disabilities; and,
- Helped to create “livable communities” by encouraging walking and bicycling for health, and by providing a safe walking and bicycling environment as an essential part of improving transportation movement and safety within the

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three communities to be studied.

These outcomes addressed the following matters:

- Included all users namely, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and users, and motorists. In drafting this report, all users were invited to comment on how the County could better serve the community. The implementation of complete streets directly shifts the emphasis to lower-carbon (using) modes of transportation. The shift from the gas using automobile to pedestrian and bicycle transport is achieved through the creation of sidewalks, improving sidewalks, and including bike lanes and/or bike routes for a wider range of people to use. The shift to transit is included in improving policies, programs and facilities in the operations of the County's transit system.
- Created a comprehensive integrated and connected network that supports "livable communities" that promote a safe interwoven fabric are provide for by the Policies Section using the transportation goals in the 2030 General Plan Circulation Element and by further defining complete streets network.
- Emphasized flexibility recognizing that all streets within these communities are different; and thus, balancing user needs. No one standard was applied to all streets and the street designs were adjusted to existing conditions, differing jurisdictions and the desires of the community.
- Considered both new and retrofit projects, including design, planning, maintenance, and operation, for the entire right-of-way within these communities. In addition to the various sections of the Complete Streets Report the Report includes the plans, designs, and existing and proposed maintenance plans and operations.
- Used the latest and best design standards. By using newer design standards as represented in the preliminary design plans verses the County's Roadway Standards the County is able to provide wider sidewalks and include such amenities as traffic calming measures (bulbouts).
- Conducted extensive public outreach to ascertain the solutions that best fit within these communities. The community was consulted every two weeks throughout the three-month window in which this report was prepared. Two "walkability" audits were conducted in July. This culminated in two meetings in which the Community provided final comment on preliminary design.

3. Use of Conclusions and Future Funding Opportunities

The intended effect of identifying the outcomes and reaching the conclusions in this report is that future funding opportunities will be enhanced because the Community will be supported by fully updated Community Plans. The conclusion to the report addressed the Circulation Element of the Community Plan including policies and

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plans. The other conclusion to the report included preliminary design drawings.

Specifically, the funding sources that are found in the Funding Section will be pursued by Tulare County to complete the work identified in the studies including, but are not limited to, the following:

- California Safe Routes to Schools Funds
- Federal Safe Routes to Schools Funds
- Highway Safety Improvement Funds
- Federal Transportation Activity Program (TAP) Funds
- Federal Transit Funds
- Federal Communities Putting Prevention to Work Grant
- Federal Highway Administration Pedestrian Safety and Design
- Strategic Growth Council
- Walkable and Livable Communities Institute
- California's Local Public Health and Built Environment Program
- State Cap and Trade Funding

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Adopt the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area;
- (2) Authorize Transmittal of the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area to TCAG; and
- (3) Authorize RMA to seek funding for construction and related matters involving this project.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There will be no Net County Cost as the funding for this matter is provided by TCAG.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area will be consistent with Tulare County's Strategic Business Plan in that the strategic goals of improving the Quality of Life and Economic Well-Being will be furthered by promoting a safe and efficient circulation/pedestrian system.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Michael C. Spata
Associate Director

cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment: Attachment "A" - Complete Streets Policy Plan for Traver Community
Planning Area (On file with the Board of Supervisors)

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF THE)
COMPLETE STREETS POLICY PLAN) Resolution No. _____
FOR THE TRAVER COMMUNITY) Agreement No. _____
PLANNING AREA)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD September 30, 2014
BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

That the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Adopted the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area.
- (2) Authorized transmittal of the Complete Streets Policy Plan for the Traver Community Planning Area to the Tulare County Association of Governments.
- (3) Authorized the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to seek funding for construction and related matters involving this project.