

Circulation Element 101

October 20, 2015
Sausalito City Council meeting



Circulation Element

- One of the seven elements that make up the General Plan.
- Involves all transportation network issues.
- Contains goals, objective, policies, and programs for mobility of cars, bikes, transit, shuttle, ferry, pedestrians
- Addresses public safety and accessibility.
- Contains background on current and future circulation and parking issue and impacts, and ways to address issues in the short and long term.

Circulation Element

- Marinship Steering Committee's recommendation
- Circulation is critical issue in Marinship, and also Citywide.
- City Council approved mid-year budget in July – Circulation Element as initial topic for General Plan Update
- Task Force – Council members Hoffman and Withy, Planning Commission Bill Werner, HLB John McCoy, and Staff Danny Castro, Lilly Whalen, and Mary Wagner.
- Task Force meeting in November
- Meetings open to public.

What is a General Plan?

- Long range planning document
- Provides the community, City decision-makers, and City staff a framework for action and the direction to focus that action
- Visionary – a road map for the next 20 years.
- Shapes future budget decisions and allocation of City services.
- Sausalito's last General Plan Update – 1995, updated the 1974 General Plan.

Seven Mandatory Elements of a General Plan

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Noise
- Safety
- Housing
- Conservation
- Open Space

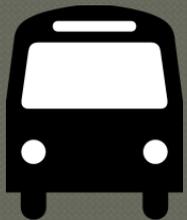
New Legislation

- Assembly Bill 1358 – California Complete Streets Act

“In order to fulfill the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, make the most efficient use of urban land and transportation infrastructure, and improve public health by encouraging physical activity, transportation planners must find innovative ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and to shift from short trips in the automobile to biking, walking, and use of public transit. “

Assembly Bill 1358 – California Complete Streets Act

- Legislation requires that General Plan updates done after January 2011 modifies the Circulation Element to plan for a balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of the streets, roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner that is suitable to the urban context.



AB 1358 – California Complete Streets Act

Update to the General Plan Guidelines: Complete Streets and the Circulation Element, Governor's Office of Planning and Research



New Legislation – Senate Bill 743

- September 2013, Governor Brown signed SB 743 which could fundamentally change transportation impact analysis as part of CEQA compliance.
- Changes will include **elimination of auto delay, level of service (LOS)** as a basis for determining significant impacts.
- LOS (Level of Service) of an intersection is a grading system used to rank the efficiency of each intersection in handling peak traffic loads. LOS C represents a condition with limited congestion and is widely accepted as a desirable level of traffic operation.

New Legislation – Senate Bill 743

- Parking impacts not considered significant impacts on environment for select development projects within infill areas with nearby frequent transit service.
- Legislative intent to balance the needs of congestion management with statewide goals for infill development, promotion of public health through active transportation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sausalito's Circulation and Parking Element

- Comprehensive plan.
- Background section: describes transportation conditions (1995), streets classification, data on public transit, bus and ferry, tourist traffic, future transportation issues.
- Downtown parking demand; parking impacts on residential streets
- Street capacity improvements to achieve LOS C or better.
- Technical traffic analysis – daily vehicle trip generation, parking counts/inventory, intersection LOS analysis, and mapping of city street network, parking areas, bus stop locations, and pathways and bikeways plans.

Objectives, Policies, and Programs

- Street network: roadway improvements and maintenance
- Circulation system for the Marinship Specific Plan
- Maintaining a Level of Service (LOS) “C” for signalized intersections; signal timing
- Minimize commuter through traffic in residential areas
- On-street parking restrictions and requirements for new development
- Managing encroachments on public street rights-of-ways
- Review and revise zoning parking standards
- Consideration of alternate Caledonia parking designs
- Liveaboard parking standards
- Long-term parking in Downtown
- Reevaluate residential parking permits
- Street widening for residential streets
- Maximizing public transit
- Bus service

Objectives, Policies, and Programs

- Ferry system; promote increased patronage; protecting ferry terminal area from overly intensive use
- Promote alternate transportation such as shuttle service
- Develop/implement bicycle master plan
- North-South bicycle route system
- Shoreline pedestrian pathways
- Pedestrian trails and paths
- Pedestrian safety
- Commuter Park and Ride
- Fort Baker Shuttle Service
- Handicap accessibility
- Cooperation with regional transportation system

Sausalito's Circulation and Parking Element

- Staff believes Sausalito's Circulation Element is compliant with Complete Streets Act (AB 1358)



Major Amendment in 1999

- October 1999 – add policies to enhance bicycle and pedestrian circulation.
- To implement a comprehensive bicycle master plan
- Current plan being updated.
- Pedestrian and Bike Advisory Committee active in carrying out the policies.



Circulation Element need to be updated?

- Introduction and Purpose statement - “transportation system which will accommodate and support the land use and economic activities planned for Sausalito to the year 2005.”
- Compliance with AB 1358 Complete Streets Act
- Compliance with SB 743
- Update the traffic analysis
- Implementation Plan

Example of Implementation Plan

Town of Fairfax

GOAL C-2: Promote the safe use of collector streets by automobiles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Policy C-2.1: Vigorously and consistently enforce speed limits and other traffic laws for all modes of transportation.

Program C-2.1.1: Re-evaluate speed limits in residential neighborhoods to promote a safe and livable community.

Responsibility: Public Works

Schedule: Year One

Program C-2.1.2: Develop an enforcement and educational program to increase compliance with existing traffic laws and promote a safe and livable community.

Responsibility: Police

Schedule: Year One

Example of Implementation Plan

City of Sierra Madre

Table 5-1 Circulation Implementation Program		2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	Annual	On-going
IM-3 The City shall continue to set aside sufficient budget to maintain facilities for bicyclists (such as signage and pavement marking), pedestrians and transit users. The City shall also consider whether additional funds are available to develop new facilities.							
Implements Which Policy(ies)	L51.3, L51.4, L51.5, L51.6						
Responsible Department(s)	Public Works						
Supporting Department(s)							✓
IM-4 The City shall prepare and implement a Citywide Sidewalk Master Plan, to include sidewalk maintenance and prioritization of sidewalk infill projects.							
Implements Which Policy(ies)	L51.7, L51.8, L52.1, L52.5, L52.4, L52.9, L56.3						
Responsible Department(s)	Public Works						
Supporting Department(s)							✓
IM-5 The City shall consider opportunities to provide bicycle facilities in the city and include them in the new bikeway plan as appropriate.							
Implements Which Policy(ies)	L52.3, L52.7, L52.8						
Responsible Department(s)	Public Works						
Supporting Department(s)	Planning and Community Preservation, Police Department						

Circulation Element: Review and Assessment

Some Questions/Considerations:

- Are the goals, policies, and programs established in 1995 relevant today and looking to the future?
- Have we not taken action on some policies and programs? Why? Were they over-reaching or infeasible?
- Is new traffic and transportation analysis necessary to understand existing and future impacts to the City's street networks?
- How has parking demand in downtown changed? Parking demand citywide?
- Are alternate modes of transportation (transit, ferry, bike) used more extensively now than in 1995? How does this affect existing and future roadways, streets and sidewalks?
- Does the impact of visitor and tourism traffic change the way we plan for the future?
- How should streets, roadways and pathways be planned for the future of the Marinship? What are the circulation opportunities and improvements that the Marinship can benefit from?

Recommendation

Information Item – No Action Requested

Task Force to review and assess the Circulation Element

Circulation element must correlate directly with the Land Use element. Land use plan and transportation network should be complementary.

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