



LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

200 N. Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801, (213) 978-1300
<http://cityplanning.lacity.org/>

Determination Mailing Date: MAY 29 2014

CASE: CPC-2011-3043-GPA
CEQA: ENV-2004-1950-EIR
(SCH No. 2004101084)
Addendum: ENV-2012-1035

Applicant: City of Los Angeles and
University of Southern California

Location: University of Southern California Health
Sciences Campus

San Pablo St., between Zonal Ave. and Valley Blvd.;
Alcazar St., between Eastlake Ave. and Soto St.;
Eastlake Ave., between Alcazar St. and San Pablo St.;
Norfolk St., between San Pablo St. and Soto St.;
Playground St., between Norfolk St. and Alcazar St.; and
Biggy St., between Zonal Ave. and Eastlake Ave.

Council District: 14 - Huizar

Plan Area: Northeast Los Angeles

Request: General Plan Amendment

At its meeting of April 10, 2014, the City Planning Commission took the following actions:

1. **Approved a General Plan Amendment** to the Transportation Element of the General Plan and the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan to redesignate the following:
 - a. The portion of San Pablo Street, between Zonal Avenue and Valley Boulevard, from a Secondary Highway to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - b. The portion of Alcazar Street, between Eastlake Avenue and Soto Street, from a Collector Street to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - c. The portion of Eastlake Avenue, between Alcazar Street and San Pablo Street, from a Collector Street to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - d. The portion of Norfolk Street, between San Pablo Street and Soto Street, from a Local Street to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - e. The portion of Playground Street, between Norfolk Street and Alcazar Street, from a Local Street to Modified Local Street designation.
 - f. The portion of Biggy Street, between Zonal Avenue and Eastlake Avenue, from a Local Street to Modified Local Street designation.
2. **Adopted the attached Findings.**

Recommendations to City Council:

1. **Recommend** that the Mayor and the City Council **adopt a General Plan Amendment** to the Transportation Element of the General Plan and the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan to redesignate the following:
 - a. The portion of San Pablo Street, between Zonal Avenue and Valley Boulevard, from a Secondary Highway to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - b. The portion of Alcazar Street, between Eastlake Avenue and Soto Street, from a Collector Street to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - c. The portion of Eastlake Avenue, between Alcazar Street and San Pablo Street, from a Collector Street to Modified Collector Street designation.
 - d. The portion of Norfolk Street, between San Pablo Street and Soto Street, from a Local Street to Modified Collector Street designation.


- e. The portion of Playground Street, between Norfolk Street and Alcazar Street, from a Local Street to Modified Local Street designation.
 - f. The portion of Biggy Street, between Zonal Avenue and Eastlake Avenue, from a Local Street to Modified Local Street designation.
2. **Recommend** that the City Council **Find** that the Addendum and certified Environmental Impact Report No. **ENV-2004-1950-EIR**, and related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and required Findings, previously adopted by the City Council on April 9, 2014, are adequate environmental clearance for this action.

Fiscal Impact Statement: There is no General Fund impact as administrative costs are recovered through fees.

This action was taken by the following vote:

Moved: Cabildo
Seconded: Choe
Ayes: Katz, Mack, Perlman, Segura, Dake-Wilson
Absent: Ahn, Ambroz

Vote: 7-0



 James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II
 City Planning Commission

Appeal Status: The General Plan Amendment is not further appealable.

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

Attachments: Findings, Resolution, Maps
 Planning Assistant: Milena Zasadzien

FINDINGS

A. General Plan/Charter Findings

1. **Framework Element.** The General Plan Framework is a guide for the City to implement growth and development policies by providing a comprehensive, long-range view of the City of Los Angeles as a whole. It allows for amendments to the community plans which further refine land use boundaries and categories to reflect local conditions, street characteristics, and public input. The Framework plan denotes the general University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus area as a "Community Center" and a "Pedestrian-Priority District", and the Plan encourages the implementation of streetscape amenities and traffic-calming measures that enhance pedestrian activity.

The attached street standards will ensure that the proposed General Plan Amendment will assist the City in achieving its goal of fostering community centers through safer and more accessible street design, as well as adhering to the goals and policies of the Framework Plan and associated Elements.

2. **General Plan Street Designation.** The subject streets are located within the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan, updated and adopted by the City Council on June 15, 1999, as part of the Land Use Element. These streets are also identified in the Transportation Element of the General Plan, updated and adopted by the City Council on September 8, 1999, and designated as Secondary Highway, Collector Street, or Local Streets. However, these streets currently carry vehicle capacities below those identified as typical for Secondary Highway purposes and standards. The recommended plan amendment would change these designations to Modified Collector Street and Modified Local Street capacities with modified standard plans for street and sidewalk widths. The proposed street designation and modified standards are in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent and provisions of the General Plan as reflected in the adopted Land Use and Transportation Elements.
3. **General Plan Text.** The **Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan** text includes the following relevant goals, objectives, policies and programs:

GOAL 10: *A SYSTEM OF FREEWAYS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS THAT PROVIDES A CIRCULATION SYSTEM WHICH SUPPORTS EXISTING, APPROVED, AND PLANNED LAND USES WHILE MAINTAINING A DESIRED LEVEL OF SERVICE AT ALL INTERSECTIONS.*

Objective 10-1 To comply with Citywide performance standards for acceptable levels of service and ensure that necessary road access and street improvements are provided to accommodate traffic generated by all new development.

Policy 10-1.1 Maintain Levels of Service for streets and highways not to exceed LOS "D" for secondary arterials, collector streets, and local streets; not to exceed LOS "E" on Major Highways or in the community's major business districts.

GOAL 13 *A SYSTEM OF SAFE, EFFICIENT AND ATTRACTIVE PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE AND EQUESTRIAN ROUTES.*

Objective 13-2 To promote pedestrian-oriented areas, greenways, and pedestrian routes for commuter, school, recreational use, economic revitalization, and access to transit facilities.

In addition, the Community Plan also lists recommendations for Public Works agencies to encourage the importance of streetscape design during public right-of-way improvement projects and to maximize opportunities for the undergrounding of utilities. The Plan also recommends the following applicable criteria for comprehensive streetscape and landscape programs: prioritizing special districts such as pedestrian-oriented districts, including drought-tolerant and high-quality landscaping, minimizing the visibility of utilities, and installing functional and complementary street furniture, lighting, sidewalks, crosswalks, and signage.

The proposed street redesignation would support the above listed policies of the Plan and would promote pedestrian-oriented areas by transforming car-centric streets within the campus to better accommodate multi-modal transit, while still maintaining high Level of Service standards on the vehicular circulation system. The redesignation would also better serve pedestrian traffic with widened sidewalks, traffic bulb-outs for safer street crossings, and other traffic calming measures, with the additional benefit of encouraging a bicycle use. As a result of the redesignation, a street beautification program could be implemented, providing significant pedestrian amenities such as those directly endorsed in the Community Plan text. The streets are not subject to any Community Plan footnotes and are otherwise not located within any other specific plan or special land use district.

Text from the **Transportation Element** of the General Plan also includes the following relevant land use goals, objectives, policies and programs:

Objective 4 Maintain pedestrian-oriented environments where appropriate.

Policy 4.4 Identify pedestrian priority street segments (through amendments to the Community Plans) in which pedestrian circulation takes precedence over vehicle circulation, and implement guidelines to develop, protect, and foster the pedestrian-oriented nature of these areas.

Objective 9 Ensure that adequate maintenance of the street system is provided to facilitate the movement of current and future traffic volumes, as well as emergency services.

Objective 10 Make the street system accessible, safe, and convenient for bicycle, pedestrian, and school child travel.

The objectives of the Transportation Element support the street redesignation and beautification program, since the street project collaboration with the University would serve to upgrade and maintain the street system while facilitating vehicular and pedestrian movement through the completion of the new Norfolk Street extension, intersection and traffic signal improvements to mitigate traffic demand, and increased sidewalk widths and safety features. The beautification program would also foster the pedestrian-oriented nature of the area with improvements to aesthetics, landscaping, and safety.

The site is also located within the **Adelante Eastside Redevelopment Plan** area and is in general conformance with the Redevelopment Plan and its amendment. The alteration and realignment of streets is allowed under the Adelante Eastside Redevelopment Plan Section 504.2.

Therefore, the recommended street standards and improvement program meet the objectives of the General Plan and are consistent with the proposed general plan street designation.

B. Environmental (CEQA) Findings

On July 18, 2006, the City of Los Angeles certified Environmental Impact Report ENV-2004-1950-EIR (SCH 2004101084) and related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and required Findings for the University of Southern California's Health Sciences Campus Project ("Project").

On April 9, 2014, the City of Los Angeles adopted an Addendum to the previously certified EIR, for a modified Project, which included an analysis of the proposed pedestrian and streetscape improvements.

Pursuant to the California Public Resources Code Section 21166 and the State's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, on the basis of substantial evidence contained in the whole record, no additional environmental review is required for the Project, since from the date of adoption of the Addendum to the previously certified EIR, there have been no substantial changes in the Project, or substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is being undertaken, or new information of substantial importance concerning the Project, which cause new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

Therefore the Final EIR and Addendum serve as the required environmental clearance for all discretionary or ministerial approvals and permits required to implement the Project as described in the Final EIR and Addendum, including the redesignation of streets and implementation of pedestrian and streetscape improvements along Hazard Park and the University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus area.

DETERMINATION LETTER
CPC-2011-3043-GPA
MAILING DATE: 05/29/14

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