



CITY OF SALINAS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 9, 2019

FROM: James Serrano, Transportation Manager

TITLE: SALINAS GENERAL PLAN CIRCULATION ELEMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to receive report on the Salinas General Plan Circulation Element

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

More than half of the Traffic and Transportation Commission membership was not involved in the review of the Salinas General Plan adopted by the City in 2002. This has resulted in some questions from Commissioners that may require a network view of the City's transportation system. Unfortunately, since items on the agenda are focused on seeking Commission actions required for a specific purpose such as a decision to move a process for a development, satisfy a resident's request, or planning activity limited in scope to an area of the City; decisions that do not need a consideration of a whole network, Commissioner's questions are not fully answered. It is also important to note that staff activities result from the Policies and objectives in the Circulation Element of the General Plan. Staff provided a similar update to Commission in 2015.

This report is one of two reports that aims to provide background on network planning objectives that staff works to accomplish. Furthermore, the City is preparing for the update of its General Plan. Staff will provide this bird's eye view of the local network that may provide the backdrop needed by Commissioner's in order to review items brought forward for their consideration.

BACKGROUND

Like other cities and Counties, Salinas is required by law to have a comprehensive planning document that represents the local government's long-term blueprint for the community's vision of future growth.

Certain elements or subject categories are necessary to be included in a General Plan. Land Use, Circulation, and Housing Elements, Noise, Conservation, Open Space and Safety are the seven areas required by law of every General Plan but the city is allowed to have other areas that would help guide its vision further. The City's General Plan includes a Community Design Element as well and recently the Economic Development Element was approved as an amendment to the General Plan. The Housing Element has also received updates in the past years since 2002.

For the Traffic and Transportation Commission, the relevant element of concern and the focus of this report will be the Circulation Element, which is the subject that is focused on the movement of people and goods. The City's Circulation Element, as with all general plans, is closely tied to the Land Use Element; however, goals and policies developed for the Circulation element may also be found in other elements of the City's General Plan therefore showing consistency with other growth subject areas.

The City's Circulation Element discusses the existing transportation network in 2000, and the goals to meet State requirements as well as describe the qualitative goals for the future transportation system. The 2002 circulation element is guided by New Urbanism principles that promote sustainable transportation that meets the City's needs while reducing environmental impacts. The notion of a sustainable multi-modal network that supports convenient and safe movement of all travelers emerges from the circulation element policies.

The Circulation Element then takes into account the proposed growth, land uses, the associated traffic and the needed infrastructure needed to serve the City, inclusive of street capacity and connectivity. The ensuing policy recommendations support the general plan vision. Staff's presentation highlights the envisioned infrastructure network and the policies to support its development so that the network is in place when needed.

Staff provides a copy of the circulation element as an attachment to this report.

Commissioners who would like to read about the other elements of the General Plan can find it at this link:

https://www.cityofsalinas.org/sites/default/files/departments_files/community_development_files/general_plan_files/generalplan.pdf

More information can also be found at this link:

<https://www.cityofsalinas.org/our-government/information-center/general-plan-info>

ATTACHMENTS:

Circulation Element

EDE Circulation Element