
STAFF COMMENTS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2010

PLAN: **MP-1-10**

TITLE: **TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN ELEMENT**

REQUEST: **Resolution of the Planning Commission Approving an Amendment to the General Plan for the City of Gaithersburg Master Plan, the Transportation Element and Recommending Adoption of this Plan by the Mayor and City Council.**

ZONE: N/A

APPLICANT: City of Gaithersburg Planning Commission

STAFF PERSON: Rob Robinson, Planner
Kirk Eby, GIS Planner

Enclosures:

Staff Comments
Draft Resolution
Revised draft Transportation Element, dated 6-11-2010
Memo to Planning Commission RE: Changes to draft Element
Index of Memoranda (Exhibits in **bold**)

STAFF COMMENTS

A Master Plan Element, Transportation will serve as an informational and policy document to the Mayor and City Council, the Planning Commission, other boards and committees of the City, and the residents of Gaithersburg. This element is the third amendment of the 2009 Master Plan update. This element will present recommendations for the future of Gaithersburg's transportation system while being consistent with the State and City visions laid forth in the City's 2009 Process and Overview Element.

The 2009 Transportation Element presents an overall account of conditions, projects, and policies that are now shaping the local transportation system. The link between land use impacts and transportation will be highlighted. The plan will identify needs and provide recommendations for improving the transportation system over the next six years.

The draft Transportation Element was made available to the public, State and County agencies, and to the Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission on February 17, 2010. The Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission held a joint public hearing on May 17, 2010. Following the public hearing the Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission conducted a joint work session on the Transportation Element on May 24, 2010.

In response to comments made by the Council, the Planning Commission, and received from the Maryland Department of Transportation and Montgomery County Park & Planning, staff has revised the draft document. A complete list of the changes made to the document has been included in a memo and submitted as Exhibit 23. The revised complete draft, reflecting these changes, has also been included as Exhibit 22.

The Planning Commission record closed at 5 PM, Friday June 11, 2010.

Conclusion: staff recommends to the Commission **TO APPROVE RESOLUTION PCR-3-10 AND RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF MP-1-10, THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT, TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.**

RESOLUTION No. PCR-3-10

RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN
FOR THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG MASTER PLAN
REVISING THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT
AND RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF THIS PLAN
BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

(MP-1-10)

WHEREAS, Section 3.05 of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland sets forth the function and duty of the Planning Commission to make and approve a general plan or amendments thereto and recommend same to the local legislative body for adoption, to serve as a guide to public and private actions and decisions to ensure the logical development of public and private property in appropriate relationships; and

WHEREAS, as codified in Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the General Plan, at a minimum, is required to contain goals, objectives, principles, policies, and standards, which shall serve as a guide for the development and economic, environmental, and social well-being of the local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.05(a)(4)(iii) of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland sets forth that the General Plan must include a Transportation Element; and

WHEREAS, the City has drafted a Transportation Element that was the subject of a joint Planning Commission and Mayor and City Council public hearing on May 17, 2010 (MP-1-10) and joint Planning Commission and Mayor and City Council work session on May 24, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City has revised and amended the Transportation Element in response to the aforementioned joint public hearing, joint work session, and public comments received, with all changes documented and in the public record as Exhibit 23; and

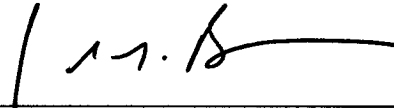
WHEREAS, a thorough review and study of testimony, correspondence and other documentation on the draft plan was completed through a joint public hearing, joint work session, and a Planning Commission discussion on June 16, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Gaithersburg Planning Commission that the General Plan for the City of Gaithersburg, approved by this Commission on December 30, 1974, and last amended on January 20, 2010, be and it is hereby further amended as follows:

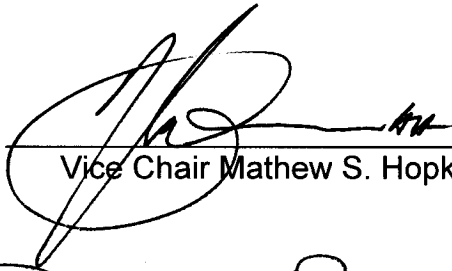
The Master Plan Transportation Element, dated February 17, 2010, and entered in the official record as Exhibit 1, is hereby approved, subject to the revisions documented in Exhibit 23:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission recommends adoption of this plan by the Mayor and City Council.

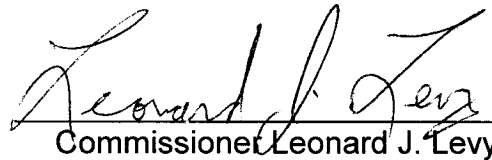
WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above resolution was adopted by the City of Gaithersburg Planning Commission by the following vote of 5-0, on June 16, 2010:



John Bauer, Chair
Gaithersburg Planning Commission



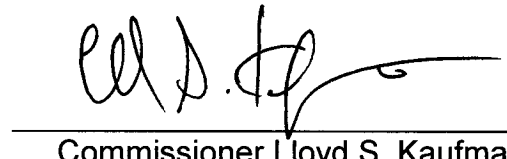
Vice Chair Mathew S. Hopkins



Commissioner Leonard J. Levy



Commissioner Danielle L. Winborne



Commissioner Lloyd S. Kaufman

COMMUNICATION: PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Planning Commission

DATE: June 17, 2010

SUBJECT: MP-1-10 -- Amendment to the General Plan for the City of Gaithersburg Master Plan to incorporate a Transportation Element to the 2009 Master Plan

At its regular meeting on June 16, 2010, the Planning Commission made the following motion:

Commissioner Levy moved, seconded by Commissioner Winborne, to APPROVE Planning Commission Resolution PCR-3-10, approving and recommending adoption of MP-1-10 to the City Council.

Vote: 5-0

Further, to implement the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, the Planning Commission recommends that the City establish the Transportation Committee in a timely fashion.

Joint Hearing - MCC & PC
MP-1-10
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RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
ADOPTING THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT
AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN
FOR THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG MASTER PLAN

AS APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED BY
THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON JUNE 16, 2010

AS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ON JULY 19, 2010

WHEREAS, Section 3.05 of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland sets forth the function and duty of the Planning Commission to make and approve a general plan or amendments thereto and recommend same to the local legislative body for adoption, to serve as a guide to public and private actions and decisions to ensure the logical development of public and private property in appropriate relationships; and

WHEREAS, as codified in Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the General Plan, at a minimum, is required to contain goals, objectives, principles, policies, and standards, which shall serve as a guide for the development and economic and social well-being of the local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.08 of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland states that the local legislative body shall adopt the plan and or amendment thereto, and

WHEREAS, Section 3.05(a)(4)(i) of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland sets forth that the General Plan must include "A statement of goals and objectives, principles, policies, and standards, which shall serve as a guide for the development and economic and social well-being of the local jurisdiction"; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.05(a)(4)(iii) of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland sets forth that the General Plan must include a Transportation Element; and

WHEREAS, the City has drafted a Transportation Element, dated February 17, 2010 and entered into the record as Exhibit 1, that was the subject of a joint Planning Commission and Mayor and City Council public hearing on May 17, 2010 (MP-1-10) and joint Planning Commission and Mayor and City Council work session on May 24, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission approved Resolution No. PCR-3-10 on June 16, 2010, being the approval of a master plan amendment entitled the Transportation Element and transmitted an attested copy of the same and a copy of the June 17, 2010 Communication: Planning Commission as its recommendation to the Mayor and City Council, which is hereby attached and incorporated as part of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council discussed the aforementioned Transportation Element and the Planning Commission recommendation (PCR-3-10) during its regular meeting on July 19, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan and amendments made from time to time provide a general framework for assisting the Mayor and City Council and City Planning Commission in making land use policy and facilities decisions:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council that the Master Plan Amendment MP-1-10, the Transportation Element amendment to the General Plan, thoroughly reviewed by the legislative body during the joint public hearing conducted on May 17, 2010 and the joint work session on May 24, 2010; approved by the City Planning Commission on June 16, 2010 (as PCR-3-10); and recommended to the legislative body in a Communication: Planning Commission, dated June 17, 2010, is hereby adopted by the Mayor and City Council as an amendment to the General Plan for the City, the 2009 City of Gaithersburg Master Plan Transportation Element, as heretofore amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other recommendations of the City Planning Commission, as documented in Exhibit 27 (June 17, 2010 Communication: Planning Commission) and Exhibit 23 (Memorandum of changes to the initial draft Element entered into the record as Exhibit 1), pursuant to the adoption of PCR-3-10, are hereby approved and ratified to the extent not inconsistent with this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that maps and illustrative material may be revised where necessary to conform to City Council actions. The text may be revised as necessary to achieve clarity and consistency and to convey the actions of the City Council.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 19th day of July, 2010.

Sidney A. Katz, Mayor and
President of the Council

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City Council on the 19th day of July, 2010.

Angel L. Jones, City Manager



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010

A joint work session of the Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Commissioners present: Bauer, Winborne, Hopkins, Kaufman, and Levy. Staff present: City Manager Jones, Assistant City Manager Tomasello, Planning and Code Administration Director Ossont, Planning Director Pruss, Planners Eby and Robinson, and Engineering Services Director Mumpower, and City Attorney Board.

I. TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION

MP-1-10: Transportation Element

Planning and Code Director Ossont began a power point presentation outlining several transportation-related issues for which staff was seeking guidance.

Staff presented the first issue, M-83, Midcounty Highway, and indicated that the project study is apparently on hold due to financial and political constraints. The Council requested staff to contact Montgomery County to determine the status of the project. The Council and Commission requested that staff include the M-83 alternatives supported by the City in the official record.


Staff presented the next issue, the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) critical lane volume (CLV) standard of 1450. The Council discussed trip reduction, trip mitigation, transit use and promotion, and an interconnected versus fragmented pedestrian and bicycle system. The Commission requested information regarding "through" traffic on the major roads resulting from development outside the City and discussed the impact of traffic signals on congestion and delay. The Council next discussed the CLV standard and two possible alternatives: allowing an exception or waiver from the standards and increasing the CLV standard for certain areas or intersections within the City.

Council member Drzyzgula discussed suggested changes to the draft Element, including one-way streets and MD 355 development access from side streets, to which staff responded that additional language would be added to the Element to clarify that the intent of these strategies is to improve safety on MD 355 while limiting cut-through traffic on the adjoining residential streets. The Council next discussed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the need for a circulator bus within the City, and possible public/private partnerships to fund transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and other alternatives to the automobile. Staff responded that the Element will be updated to include additional traffic mitigation strategies and the City's support of public/private partnership opportunities.

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kirk Eby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Kirk Eby
GIS Planner