



4/23/2020

VIA EMAIL

Planning and Design Commission
City of Sacramento
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Ad Hoc Ordinance Streamlining the Planning Entitlement Process (M19-004)

Dear Commissioners:

The staff report discusses several implementation measures to improve public outreach. We have comments on some of the measures to improve the opportunity and quality of public participation in the City's review of development projects.

The Early Site Posting and Public Hearing Notices measures will notify passersby and nearby property owners but will do little to inform members of the public that may be interested in the project, affected by the project or concerned with its potential impacts to City policy. As it is, WALKSacramento does not reliably receive notices for staff level hearings for projects on which we have commented. • **The City Clerk's *Meetings & Agenda* web page should include links to agendas for staff level hearings.** Staff level hearings are currently open to the public and with the proposed streamlining they will be of greater concern to the public. • **Video and audio of the hearings should be streamed and archived.**

The Development Tracker measure proposes to enhance Development Tracker so that in-progress projects will be accessible to the public. • **Enhancements to Development Tracker should include improved search capabilities including specifying date ranges for planning applications and the ability to identify the neighborhood for a specific location on the map chosen with the cursor that could then be used in the search options.** • **All planning projects should include the Project Routing document in the list of downloadable attachments available on the Property Page.**

The measure also says the Planning webpage will advertise pending policy and development projects. • **The Planning webpage should also include updates to reflect the new process.** The Planning webpage currently includes a link to the latest *Site Plan and Design Review Project List*. • **The SPDR Project List would be more informative and searchable if it included project names.**

The Meeting Structure measure is concerned with lengthy long-range and/or complex policy items and will require staff to improve agenda management. The measure also says that policy materials are provided several weeks in advance of scheduled hearings to provide Commissioners and the public more time to consider the materials. • **The**

public would benefit if policy materials that are provided to Commissioners in advance are also available to the public for the same period rather than just after posting of the agenda.

The Performance Measures measure says that the Ad Hoc members expressed interest in regular updates on private development projects to determine the efficacy of development policy. • **These updates should be submitted to the Commission as part of a written Director's report in order to enhance public understanding of the efficacy of development policy.**

WALKSacramento is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved public health and physical fitness, better air quality, a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in neighborhoods, and more sustainable communities and local economies.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm
Project Manager