

AGENDA
CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA
CITY COUNCIL

Monday, January 31, 2005

5:30 p.m. – Special Meeting

Council Chambers
3121 Gold Canal Drive, Rancho Cordova, California



Ken Cooley, Mayor
Robert J. McGarvey, Vice Mayor
Linda Budge, Council Member
David M. Sander, Council Member
Dan Skoglund, Council Member

MAKING YOUR POINT – MAKING IT COUNT

Government decision-making takes time—time for public input, time for analysis, and time for weighing both sides of the issue before making an informed decision.

People sometimes complain that the process takes too long, delay progress, costs extra money and is frustrating for discussion participants. Others say that the process doesn't give people enough time to comment and that decisions are made too quickly without enough consideration for all sides of the issue.

The foundation for democracy in America is our constitutional right to tell our elected leaders what we think about issues that affect us. This right is enjoyed by all citizens, regardless of education, background, or experience. Rancho Cordova leaders welcome you to public meetings and encourage you to participate in discussions that affect you.

The way you present your message at the podium can help or hurt your ability to persuade your audience. It can either facilitate or obstruct the public participation process. Whether you are an experienced public speaker or speaking at the podium for the first time, it may be helpful to remember these public meeting tips:

- Identify your main points. Writing them down will help you organize your thoughts and remember them when you're at the podium.
- Check your facts. Accuracy improves your credibility and helps you make a positive impression.
- Handouts summarizing your position may be distributed to policy makers and staff before or after your presentation. Busy leaders appreciate clear, concise information (one or two pages) that helps them identify your key points and remember your presentation.
- Don't be nervous. If you are, don't apologize for it. Public Officials see many citizens who are nervous when speaking in front of an audience. It may help to take a deep breath and exhale slowly just before you approach the podium.
- As you begin to speak, state your name and address clearly for the record. If you represent a group or organization, please state that information as well.

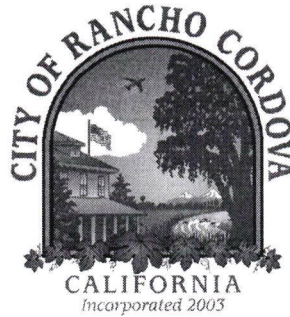


- Make your position known at the beginning, then present supporting information. You will sound organized, which helps people to understand your position.
- Keep your presentation short and simple. Attention spans are brief and people will remember a short presentation better than they will one that rambles and includes too much information.
- Don't repeat yourself. It uses valuable time and people tune out when they hear the same thing over and over. If a previous speaker has already made the point you planned to make, simply refer to that speaker and emphasize your support for that position.
- Be cautious about using humor which is very subjective. While some may laugh, others may be offended.
- Persuade, don't badger your audience. Compelling presentations can be very persuasive to both policy makers and public meeting audiences; however, insulting or degrading language can make you appear belligerent, reducing your credibility as well as the power of your message.
- Close your comments with an action statement such as, "Adopt this resolution" or "I urge you to vote 'no' on this ordinance."

Rancho Cordova City leaders appreciate your interest in issues that affect the community. We hope these tips will help you prepare and present your remarks so they will be clear, concise, accurate and credible. If you follow these guidelines, your audience is likely to listen, pay attention, and maybe even agree with you!

Rancho Cordova City government is not the City Council, City staff or Rancho Cordova citizens – it's all of us working together to understand each others' opinions so we can make the best decisions for our community.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!



**CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
Special Meeting
City Council Chambers
3121 Gold Canal Drive, Rancho Cordova
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

**Monday, January 31, 2005
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Councilmembers: Budge, McGarvey, Sander, Skoglund and Mayor Cooley

Oral Communications

1. Public Comment

At a Special Meeting, citizens may address the Council on any matter listed on the agenda. **Please keep your comments to three minutes or less.** Please state your name and community of residence. Under the provisions of the California Government Code, the City Council is prohibited by law from discussing or taking action on any unagendized item unless it can be demonstrated to be of an emergency nature and the need to take action arose after the posting of the agenda.

Consent Item

- 2. Subject:** Support City of Sacramento in Pocket Protectors v. City of Sacramento
Recommendation: Authorize two letters: (a) supporting the depublishing of this case, and (b) supporting the petition to the California Supreme Court to review this matter.

Study Session Item

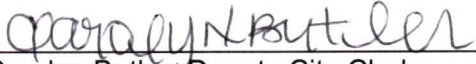
- 3. Subject:** Discussion Items for Special Meeting on Circulation Issues
Recommendation: Provide direction to staff regarding the Traffic Circulation Map and related policies for the Draft General Plan. Staff is also seeking Council's direction for updated road standards for new developments in the City

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (916) 942-0255 or www.cityofranchocordova.org. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

I, Carolyn Butler, the Deputy City Clerk, for the City of Rancho Cordova, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing agenda for the January 31, 2005 special meeting of the Rancho Cordova City Council was posted on January 27, 2005 at the office of the City of Rancho Cordova, 3121 Gold Canal Drive, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670 and was available for public review at that location. The agenda is also available on the city web site at www.cityofranchocordova.org.

Signed this 27th day of January, 2005 at Rancho Cordova, California.



Carolyn Butler, Deputy City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 31, 2005
TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Lillian E. Hare, HR Director/City Clerk *LH*
SUBJECT: Support for City of Sacramento in Pocket Protectors v. City of Sacramento



RECOMMENDATION

Authorize staff to prepare two letters: (1) supporting the depublication of this case, and (2) supporting the petition to the California Supreme Court to review this matter.

BACKGROUND

In the case, Pocket Protectors v. City of Sacramento, the homeowners association objected to an infill housing project in the "Pocket" area of Sacramento (Islands at Riverlake), and filed a CEQA suit against the developers, and the City of Sacramento, which had approved the project. The project was to be 139 single-family homes on small lots fronting both sides of a 22-foot wide private street that parallels Pocket Road. The primary complaint in the case was that the project was not aesthetically pleasing.

Previous appellate decisions have made it clear that CEQA was never intended to require an EIR where the sole environmental impact was aesthetic. In this case, the court states that the opinions of residents regarding general aesthetics may be sufficient to require an EIR.

Mayor Fargo has asked SACOG for its support in the above referenced case as the additional requirements of an EIR in such cases would place additional time and money pressures on developers, making infill projects unattractive.

Council Member Budge, with the concurrence of the City Manager, has requested that the Council consider authorizing staff to draft two letters (1) supporting the depublication (elimination of the opinion as an opinion that can be cited in future court cases), and (2) supporting the petition to the California Supreme Court to review this matter.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 31, 2005

TO: Mayor and Council Members, Planning Commission and General Plan Advisory

FROM: Cyrus Abhar, Public Works Director
Paul Junker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR SPECIAL MEETING ON CIRCULATION ISSUES



RECOMMENDATION

Council and the GPAC are requested to consider and discuss staff's presentations regarding circulation related issues. No specific action is requested or anticipated during this study session. Specific topics will be presented to the City Council for formal action at a subsequent regular meeting.

BACKGROUND

Traffic is and will remain an important issue facing the City, and staff appreciates your time and attention to this very important topic. We look forward to your insights as we continue working on the Circulation component of the City's first General Plan.

The primarily purpose of this meeting is the sharing of information and ideas. The City Council, residents, the General Plan Advisory Committee, and others have spent a great deal of time over the past year discussing the future of Rancho Cordova. The consistent message that has been received during these workshops (which included the Urban Design Workshops, the General Plan Visioning Workshops, and the General Plan Advisory Committee's meetings), has been that Rancho Cordova seeks to become a premiere city in the region. Rancho Cordova's goal is to become a world-class city of some 300,000 persons with a range of amenities commensurate with that population, including employment, housing, shopping, community facilities, transportation, and parks. The City Council has already taken many steps to ensure that this future vision is achieved; the adoption of the City's new General Plan later this year will be another extremely important step in this process.

A key component of the City's future vision will be the issue of Transportation—specifically, ensuring that people and goods can move within and through the community. Transportation—including public transit, light rail, walking, and bicycling—will also play a key role in creating livable neighborhoods that accommodate and encourage the desire of existing and future residents to have active lifestyles and to foster community pride and identity.

At this workshop, staff will facilitate a discussion that focuses on the linkage between circulation issues and the achievement of the City's vision. We will identify the problems that we are attempting to solve, along with proposed solutions that produce the type of community we are trying to create. The success of our collective efforts on the General Plan will be judged on whether Rancho Cordova becomes the vibrant, livable, walkable, destination place in the region that we are envisioning/planning. The desired result of the meeting is a better understanding of the City's circulation issues and consensus that we are moving in the right direction to build our desired City.

As shown below, many of the circulation issues which we are facing are beyond the control of the current City leadership—regional growth, past decisions, and environmental factors all have an influence on the range of options available. While acknowledging these factors, staff's presentation will focus on solutions, including a number that may be viewed as "visionary" and potentially requiring new ways of thinking about current problems.

An outline of the workshop agenda is as follows:

INTRODUCTION/VISION (Approx. 30 minutes)

What Have We Heard So Far?
What Else Do We Know?
Circulation Element Overview
Relationship to Other Elements

GENERAL ROADWAY SYSTEM OVERVIEW (Approx. 90 minutes)

The Vision: 300,000+ persons and future transportation needs
Existing Conditions (internal and external traffic)
What Problems Are We Trying to Solve?
Circulation Network (key assumptions are relationship to vision)
Implications of the Proposed Circulation Plan

CITY BUILDING BLOCKS AND STREET DESIGN: (Approx. 60 minutes)

The Vision: Neighborhoods, Villages, Districts (street hierarchy and network)
Desired Streetscape (walkable, livable, vibrant, connected)
Roadway Types and Corresponding Street Standards

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS: (Approx. 20 minutes)

Mobility Goals

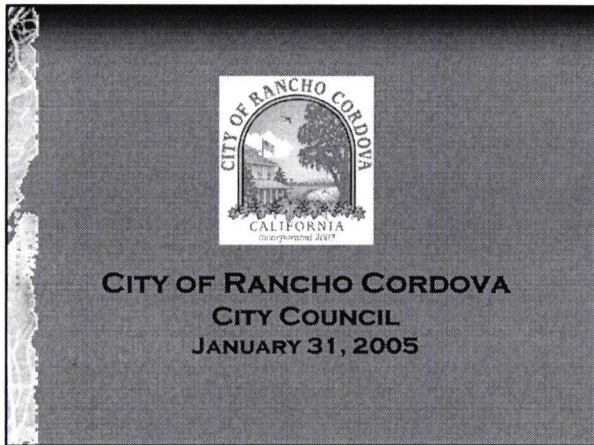
Public Transit – System of Solutions

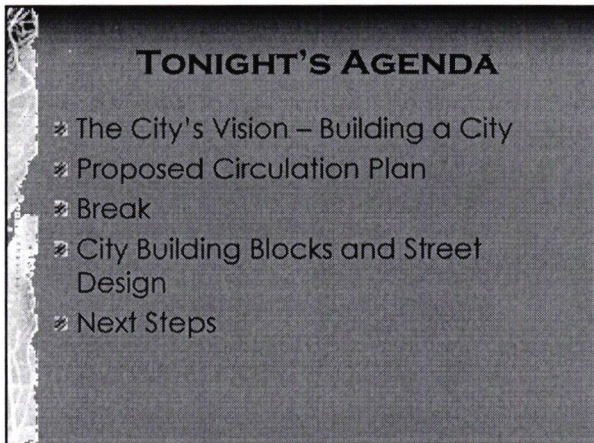
NEXT STEPS (Approx. 10 minutes)

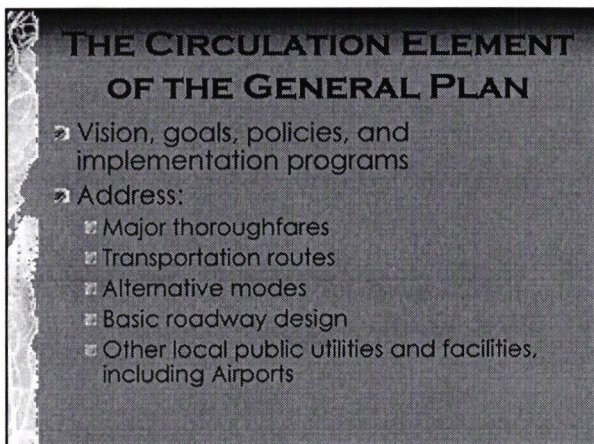
Continue Preparation of Circulation Map and Element with GPAC

Work with Stakeholders on Road Standards

Council Adoption of New Roadway Sections

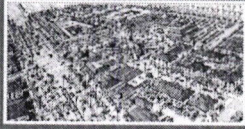






THE CITY VISION

- ✦ "Build a City" – City not Suburb
- ✦ Vibrant destination in the Region
- ✦ Control destiny, create identity
- ✦ Rancho Cordova - a desirable place to Live, Work, and Play



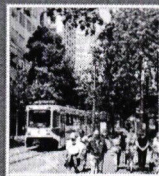
THE CITY VISION

- ✦ Building Blocks = Neighborhoods, Villages, and Districts throughout the City
- ✦ Broad range of housing opportunities and densities
- ✦ Maintaining a strong jobs base



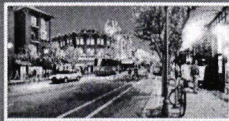
THE CITY VISION

- ✦ Activity nodes – Village Centers, Town Centers, and vibrant Downtown with civic core
- ✦ Place making – exceptional design
- ✦ Clear City edge with a transition in density and intensity



VISION FOR THE CIRCULATION SYSTEM

- Allow people and goods to move within the community
- Supports economic development
- Links all areas of the community
- Supports alternative modes of transportation



GOALS OF THE CIRCULATION PLAN

- Develop a system that has the capacity to support the City's Vision
- Meets the quality of life goals (mobility, efficiency, accessibility, livability, walkability)
- Safety and emergency access
- Reducing vehicle emissions

OBJECTIVES OF THE CIRCULATION PLAN

- Reduce congestion and mitigate future congestion associated with new developments
- Connect all parts of the City with an integrated transportation framework that connects to the Region
- Expand and improve the City's bicycle and pedestrian routes
- Protect and preserve neighborhood streets as community-oriented places
- Visually enhance the streetscapes

REGIONAL ISSUES

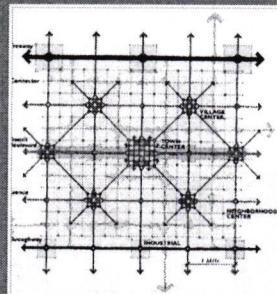
- Regional growth (1 million+ new people)
- Congestion along Sunrise, Hazel, and Watt (limited river crossings)
- Commuter traffic through and around the City (esp. Highway 50 & Jackson Highway, Grant Line Road, Bradshaw)
- Limited funding

PROPOSED ROADWAY NETWORK

- Hybrid grid/curvilinear system
 - ▣ Spacing of major roads
- Sensitive to environmental, geographical, and physical constraints
- Incorporates approved specific plans in the City
- Connects to the regional system

CIRCULATION COMPONENTS

- Roadways
 - ▣ Freeways
 - ▣ Major
 - ▣ Secondary
 - ▣ Local
- Trails & Bikeways
- Transit



ANALYTICAL ASSUMPTIONS

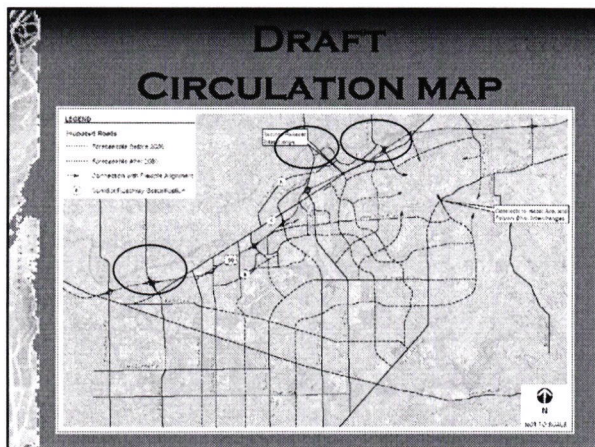
- ✦ Travel model includes build-out of Rancho Cordova planning area
- ✦ Assumes 2030 growth in the balance of the region per existing General Plans
- ✦ Assumes regional transportation per MTP

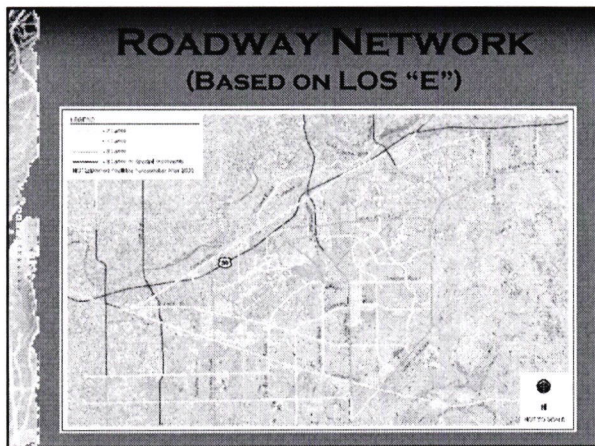
PRELIMINARY TRAFFIC MODEL RESULTS

- ✦ Significant traffic on river crossings
- ✦ Significant traffic on US-50
- ✦ Six or more lanes needed along major corridors in key areas

IMPLICATIONS OF THE LAND USE PLAN ON CIRCULATION

- ✦ Increased internal traffic
- ✦ Increased transit usage
- ✦ Decreased regional traffic





TESTING THE CIRCULATION PLAN

- Model analyzes existing and potential (buildout) circulation routes and impacts on the system based on:
 - The Draft Land Use Map
 - Population and employment projections
 - Regional traffic scenarios (existing and potential patterns)
- Staff reviews/interprets results and adjusts the network to meet the goals

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS?

BREAK

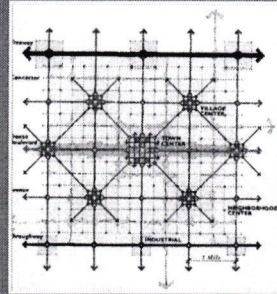
**CITY BUILDING BLOCKS AND
STREET DESIGN**

AGENDA

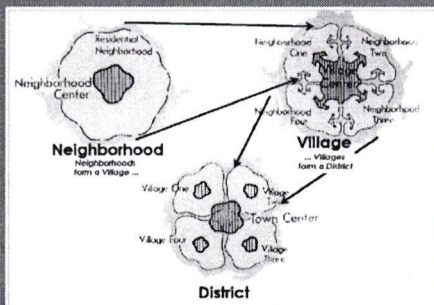
- Vision of Neighborhoods and Villages
- How do streets contribute
- Issues associated with streets
- Design features
- Action plan

CIRCULATION COMPONENTS

- Roadways
 - ▣ Freeways
 - ▣ Major
 - ▣ Secondary
 - ▣ Local
- Trails & Bikeways
- Transit

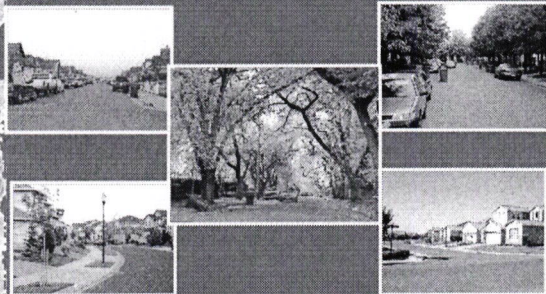


VISION OF NEIGHBORHOODS, VILLAGES, AND DISTRICTS



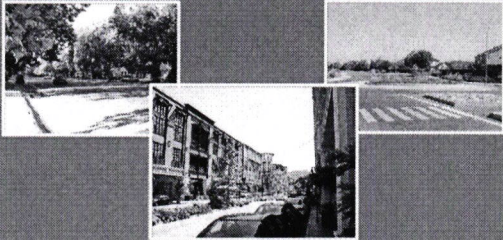
NEIGHBORHOODS

- Served by local and secondary streets



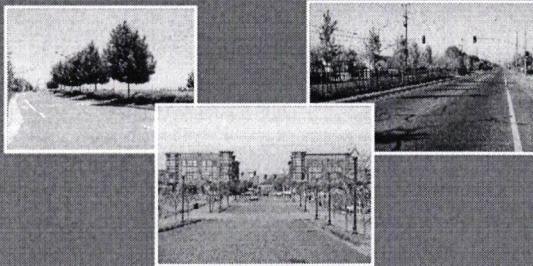
VILLAGE

- Served by local, secondary, and major streets



DISTRICTS

- Served by local, secondary, and major streets



HOW DO STREETS CONTRIBUTE

- Safety
- Mobility
- Livability

SAFE STREETS

- ✦ Based on scale of street – local, secondary, and major
- ✦ Safe pedestrian/bicycle circulation including major road crossings
- ✦ Safety for vehicles
- ✦ Emergency response issues

MOBILITY

- ✦ Distribution of trips through multiple route options
- ✦ Ease of circulation availability
- ✦ Connectivity within neighborhood
- ✦ Network of off-street trails

LIVABILITY

- ✦ Inviting streetscape
- ✦ Encouraging interaction between neighbors
- ✦ Convenient access to gathering places (schools, parks, and shopping)
- ✦ Inviting public realm (public right-of-way and adjacent "private" space)
- ✦ Enhanced quality of life

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Curb design
- ✦ Sidewalk location
- ✦ Intersection improvements
- ✦ Road and sidewalk width
- ✦ Landscape
- ✦ Construction standards
- ✦ Design flexibility

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Curb treatments – vertical vs. rolled curbs
 - ✦ Pedestrian safety
 - ✦ Construction costs
 - ✦ Developer convenience
 - ✦ Edge – define public/private space
 - ✦ Separated sidewalks require vertical curbs

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Sidewalk location - Attached vs. detached
 - ✦ Appropriateness to street type
 - ✦ Trade-offs to fronting lots
 - ✦ Safety
 - ✦ Dimensions and improvements
 - ✦ Location of street trees – street tree canopy
 - ✦ Ownership and maintenance
 - ✦ Cost and convenience for developers

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Intersection improvements
 - ▣ Promote comfortable pedestrian crossings
 - ▣ ADA accessibility
 - ▣ Corner radius
 - ▣ Alternative configurations
 - ▣ Landscaping and impacts on sight lines

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Road and sidewalk width
 - ▣ Designed for capacity - not over engineered
 - ▣ Comfortable sidewalk widths
 - ▣ Promotes appropriate speed in neighborhoods
 - ▣ Integrated traffic calming vs. retrofitting improvements
 - ▣ Defines hierarchy of neighborhoods
 - ▣ Implement **Pedestrian Design Guidelines**

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Landscape
 - ▣ What streets receive medians?
 - ▣ Median design
 - ▣ Street trees and shade canopy
 - ▣ Landscape to control pedestrian crossings
 - ▣ Opportunity for project/area identity and character

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Construction standards
 - ▣ Pavement sections
 - ▣ Structural sections
 - ▣ Quality and durability of materials

DESIGN FEATURES

- ✦ Design flexibility
 - ▣ Respond to unique conditions
 - ▣ Allow exceptional design
 - ▣ Encourage alternative solutions that meet the City's objectives

ACTION PLAN

- ✦ Pedestrian Master Plan/ADA Transition Plan (under way)
- ✦ Development community consultation/stakeholder meeting(s)
- ✦ Street Design Guidelines
- ✦ Modified Street Standards
- ✦ Planning Commission/City Council presentation/adoption

NEXT STEPS

- ✦ Transit discussion
- ✦ Stakeholder meeting(s) on pedestrian and bicycle circulation
- ✦ GPAC work on Circulation Element
- ✦ Initiate formal review of Street Design Guidelines/Road Standards
