



**#16-02 – TOWN OF LOOMIS 2016 CIRCULATION ELEMENT UPDATE
STAFF REPORT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF May 24, 2016**

RECOMMENDATION: The Planning Commission should consider the staff report, the presentation by the Town of Loomis Public Works Department, and public comment. The Planning Commission should then approve Resolution 16-02 recommending that the Town Council approve the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and amend the General Plan by adopting the 2016 Circulation Element Update

BACKGROUND: The Circulation Element is one of seven mandated elements in a General Plan. This Circulation Element Update has been prepared to meet the requirements of State law.

The Town of Loomis adopted the General Plan Circulation Element in July 2001. The preferred circulation system was developed in three major steps:

- *Analysis of Existing Conditions and Future Baseline Conditions* – extensive data was collected, and calculations prepared, to summarize the condition of the existing transportation system and evaluate future conditions under this General Plan (i.e., future baseline conditions) without physical improvements.
- *Formulation of Transportation Goals and Policies* – the General Plan committee selected service level policies and improvement standards to address existing and future transportation needs.
- *Preferred Transportation System* – using a transportation travel demand mode, projected travel for the Town's preferred land use plan was evaluated in combination with the goals and policies to identify a preferred transportation system (including costs and phasing).

The Circulation Element of the Town of Loomis General Plan has been the backbone for developing a working circulation system as the Town's population has grown since 2001. The Town of Loomis determined that the Circulation Element required an update in 2015 to meet the demands of the growing population in the Town and also to accommodate traffic entering the Town for neighboring jurisdictions.

The Town of Loomis retained a traffic engineering firm and with the assistance of the Town Engineer began the process of developing the 2016 Circulation Element Update. The 2016 Circulation Element Update was developed under the three major steps described above taking into account the expected population increase within the Town due to new developments. The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the 2016 Circulation Element Update and was circulated per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements from March 14 through April 13, 2016

(30-day review period). During this time public agencies and the general public had the opportunity to provide comments in support or opposition of the proposed Project. Comments were received from four public agencies. Additionally, the Town of Loomis held a Workshop on the 2016 Circulation Element Update where the general public, Town Council, and Town Planning Commission also provided comments in support or opposition of the proposed Project. All the comments received were recorded in a Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and were responded to per requirements under CEQA. Based on the comments received the 2016 Circulation Element Update was revised and finalized.

Revisions that were made in the 2016 Circulation Element Update are presented below.

DISCUSSION: The following provides updates that have occurred in 2016 Circulation Element Update that were not included in the existing Circulation Element of the Town of Loomis General Plan:

New Goals, Policy, and Implementation Measures

- Page C-27 Section D. Issues, Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures; Subsection Level of Service Implementation Measure

Complement Land Use Element. Provide and maintain a Town circulation system that is correlated with planned land uses in the Town and surrounding areas in the region consistent with Government Code 65302. Also, work to ensure compatibility and complimentary relationships between the circulation system and existing and planned land uses that helps to promote environmental objectives such as safe and uncongested neighborhoods, energy conservation, reduction of air and noise pollution, and provision of and access to, bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities.

- Page C-27 Section D. Issues, Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures; Subsection: Roadway Improvement Standards Policy

Exception to Standards Policy: In infill areas, where existing rights of way may not conform to the roadway standards set forth in the General Plan, but where improvements are necessary, reasonable deviations from roadway standards may be allowed by the Town Engineer.

- Page C-27 and C-28 Section D. Issues, Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures; Subsection Transportation System Management (TSM)

Issue: The South Placer region has experienced significant development over the past two decades, increasing population and employment in the surrounding communities. This growth in traffic volume, as well as from future development will cause increased congestion and need for roadway improvements. TSM is a recognized strategy to promote more efficient use of streets, highways, parking facilities, public transit and bikeways. TSM promotes public transit, carpools, vanpools,

biking and walking as alternatives to single-occupancy vehicular trips.

Goal: To increase the efficiency of the transportation system network, reduce travel demand on the Town's roadway system, reduce the amount of emissions of pollutants from automobiles, and contribute to achieving the Level of Service (LOS) goals identified in the Loomis General Plan.

Safe and Efficient Roadways Guiding Policy: Promote a safe and efficient roadway system for the movement of both people and goods, motorized and non-motorized.

Circulation System Enhancements Guiding Policy: Maintain projected level of service where possible, and ensure that future development and the circulation system are in balance. Improve the circulation system as necessary, in accordance with spacing/access standards, to support multi-modal means of transportation of all users and goods.

Policy on Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled: Through layout of land uses, improved alternate modes, and provision of more direct routes, strive to reduce the total vehicle miles traveled.

Complete Streets Policy: Maintain and update street standards that provide for the design, construction, and maintenance of "Complete Streets". Complete Streets enable safe, comfortable, and attractive access for all users: motorists, transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, in a form that is compatible with and complementary to adjacent land uses, and promotes connectivity between uses and areas.

Roundabouts Policy: Roundabouts may be used in place of signalized intersections on any roadway facility or intersection type. Roundabouts are particularly encouraged at the intersection of two collector streets.

- Page C-28 and C-29 Section D. Issues, Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures; Subsection Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Issue: Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are limited in Loomis. Provisions to increase bicycle use, pedestrian safety and convenience will provide recreational and mobility benefits to residents and reduce vehicular traffic.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Policies

2. Bicycle facilities shall be provided in compliance with the *2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan* and the *2010 Trails Master Plan* or subsequent amended versions of such documents, as well as on other appropriate routes at the discretion of the Town Council.

3. Bicycle and pedestrian connections shall be continuous and convenient to the nearest neighborhood center, school, or park.
4. Orient development to encourage pedestrian and transit accessibility. Strategies include locating buildings and primary entrances adjacent to public streets, and providing clear and direct pedestrian paths across parking areas and intersections.
5. Provide pedestrian facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities, compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 2010 standards for Accessible Design, and ensure roadway improvement projects address accessibility and use universal design concepts.
6. Ensure that planting plans for street trees take into consideration shade and comfort for pedestrians and bicyclists.
7. Use the Town of Loomis 2010 Trails Master Plan and the 2010 Bikeway Master Plan to identify, schedule, and implement pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements.

PUBLIC PARTICAPATION: A 2016 Circulation Element Update Workshop was held on April 21, 2016 at the Loomis Depot 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road where public provided comments in support and opposition of the 2016 Circulation Element Update. Comments from the public are included in the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Draft IS/MND has been prepared and circulated for public/agency review. Based on comments received during the circulation and workshop a Final IS/MND has been prepared.

RECOMMENDATION: The Planning Commission should consider the staff report, the presentation by the Town of Loomis Public Works Department, and public comment. The Planning Commission should then approve Resolution 16-02 recommending that the Town Council approve the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and amend the General Plan by adopting the 2016 Circulation Element Update.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 16-02
2. Exhibit A: Findings
3. Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the 2016 Circulation Element Update.
4. 2016 Circulation Element Update

RESOLUTION NO. 16-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LOOMIS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND 2016 CIRCULATION ELEMENT UPDATE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town of Loomis, the applicant, has proposed to adopt a 2016 Circulation Element Update; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Loomis has prepared a document to determine whether the Town can accommodate updated circulation elements in the anticipation of future growth within the Town; and,

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2016, a public hearing was held to review the Final 2016 Circulation Element Update and to discuss changes in the goals, policies, and programs from the previous element, at which time any person interested in the matter was given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and considered the staff report relating to the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and said Update, the written and oral evidence presented to the Planning Commission in support of and in opposition to the Update; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the Town of Loomis hereby makes the findings attached herein as Exhibit A in connection with the 2016 Circulation Element Update.

NOW THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the Town of Loomis, at its meeting of May 24, 2016, did resolve as follows:

1. An Initial Study has been conducted by the Town to evaluate the potential for adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project. Considering the record as a whole, there is no evidence before the Commission that the proposed project will have significant environmental impacts. A Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the Town. The Final IS/MND is recommended to the Town Council for approval.
2. The proposed Project is consistent with the goals and policies of the Town of Loomis.
3. The 2016 Circulation Element Update for the Town of Loomis General Plan is hereby recommended for approval to the Town Council.

ADOPTED this 24 day of May, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Chris Graham, Staff Planner

Michael Hogan, Chairman

**EXHIBIT A
RESOLUTION NO. 16-02
PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING MAY 24, 2016**

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Initial Study identified environmental impacts that could be mitigated to a less than significant level. Therefore a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the Project.

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

1. The General Plan Amendment to update the Circulation Element is compatible with the objectives, policies, and existing land use of the Town of Loomis and is consistent with the General Plan of the Town of Loomis.
2. The General Plan Amendment to update the Circulation Element complies with State laws.