



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 22, 2023

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Erik Zandvliet, T.E., City Traffic Engineer

SUBJECT: Consideration of Draft Living Streets Manual

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission should review the staff report, General Plan Mobility Element, and public testimony, and pass a motion recommending that the City Council adopt the Draft Living Streets Manual as a policy document to be used to supplement the implementation of the City's General Plan Mobility Element.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD), through a grant from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), partnered with the cities of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Hermosa Beach, and Stantec, an engineering firm, to develop a comprehensive design manual to guide future street improvements towards the goals of health, safety, livability, sustainability, and more. The Beach Cities Health District and partnering cities have a long history of collaborating on active transportation policies and initiatives that aim to improve the health and wellness of residents while also offering a greater range of safe and convenient transportation choices to the community. The scope of work under this grant included customizing the Los Angeles County Living Streets Manual for the three South Bay cities. In addition, the scope included applying those concepts from the Manual to a conceptual plan along Aviation Boulevard through the South Bay area, which was then presented to the public to solicit feedback on the feasibility of the manual's objectives.

Previous Actions

As part of grant's scope of work, three community workshops were held to solicit ideas and comments to shape the Living Streets Design Manual (Manual) and Aviation Boulevard Multimodal Corridor Plan. Stakeholders unable to attend one of the three workshops were also

invited to provide written comments online. The specific content and focus of each workshop is outlined below:

Workshop 1 – July 17, 2017 - Living Streets Planning Concepts

Workshop 2 – January 31, 2018 - Preliminary Aviation Corridor Concepts & Alternatives

Workshop 3 – April 23, 2018 - Draft Living Streets Design Manual & Corridor Concepts

In January 2018, BCHD hosted a “Streets for All” day of events that included discussions and dialogue with decision-makers, staff, and the community from the beach cities about the community’s values and how the principles of living streets help to achieve those values. During the community-focused event, the top values articulated by attendees included 1) Community, 2) Beach, 3) Safety, 4) Recreation, 5) Weather, and 6) Walkability.

On May 15, 2018, the City Council adopted the Mobility Plan Update, which replaced the Circulation Plan of the City’s General Plan. The Living Streets Manual directly supports and helps implement the Mobility Plan’s goals and policies, as well as the City’s living streets policy (Exhibit A).

On October 29, 2018, the three cities held a joint study session to review and discuss the main elements of the Draft Living Streets Manual, with customized sections for each city. The study session and prior workshop presentation materials are available for review on the City’s website (Exhibit B). At the conclusion of the study session, the cities were asked to bring the Draft Living Streets Manual to their respective commissions and city councils for review and adoption.

DISCUSSION

The grant awarded to the Beach Cities included the adaptation of the Los Angeles County Living Streets Design Manual to fit the context and needs of the beach cities. These concepts are important as a growing number of communities, including the beach cities, are discovering the value of streets as important public spaces for many aspects of daily life. Beach cities residents want streets that are safe to cross or walk along, offer places to meet people, link healthy neighborhoods, and have a vibrant mix of retail and amenities. More people are enjoying the value of farmers’ markets, street festivals, and gathering places and people want to be able to walk and ride bicycles.

Once adopted, the Manual is intended to assist staff, decision-makers, and the community in understanding living streets concepts and consider how those concepts may be appropriately applied to different types of streets and public spaces when planning and designing projects that involve streets and streetscapes. A link to the Draft Living Streets Design Manual is available on the City’s Living Streets Manual webpage (Exhibit B) and the chapter topics are provided below:

1. Introduction
2. Vision, Goals, Policies, and Benchmarks
3. Street Networks and Classifications
4. Traveled Way Design
5. Intersection Design

6. Universal Pedestrian Access
7. Pedestrian Crossings
8. Bikeway Design
9. Transit Accommodations
10. Traffic Calming
11. Streetscape Ecosystem
12. Gathering Places
13. Designing Land Use Along Living Streets
14. Retrofitting Suburbia
15. Community Engagement for Street Design
16. Emerging Technologies
17. Beach Cities Specific Chapters

Aviation Corridor Multimodal Plan

The second work effort of the grant included the development of a series of concepts that apply the Living Street Manual framework to Aviation Boulevard. This corridor in the South Bay region is heavily traveled, auto-oriented and can potentially benefit from safety and livability improvements. Through this process, three conceptual alternatives were developed and collectively are referred to as the Aviation Boulevard Multimodal Corridor Concept Plan. Future implementation of any improvements along the corridor would be at the discretion of the governing agency that has jurisdiction over their segment of roadway.

Next Steps

Once adopted by each city, staff anticipates there will be a number of opportunities to collaborate among the three cities moving forward, including:

- 1) Leveraging funding for specific projects with Living Streets concepts
- 2) Convening three Beach Cities to pursue a regional approach
- 3) Partnering to engage the community in dialogue around living streets
- 4) Identifying feasible best practices that can be consistently implemented across the cities

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION, OUTREACH, AND COMMENT

The public has been informed of this agenda item as part of the City's standard meeting notice practices via public bulletin boards, website calendar, and social media. The City will forward any written or telephonic correspondence received after the posting of the agenda for this item to the Commissioners prior to the meeting.

EXHIBITS:

- A. [Manhattan Beach Mobility Element \(Link to document\)](#)
- B. [Living Streets Manual Webpage \(Link to website\)](#)