



## Item No. 17 Town of Atherton

### **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**DATE: MAY 17, 2017**

**SUBJECT: REVIEW, DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE FOR A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT TO DISCUSS AND ANALYZE REGIONAL GROWTH AND TRAFFIC ISSUES AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review, discuss and provide direction regarding a recommendation by the Transportation Committee for a regional transportation summit to discuss and analyze regional growth and traffic issues and develop a strategy to address those issues.

### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The issue of regional growth and traffic impacts was a topic of discussion at the March 21, 2017 Transportation Committee meeting. The Committee discussed the possibility of hosting a regional transportation summit whereby subject-matter experts are invited to discuss regional growth and traffic issues and help the Town develop a strategy to address those issues.

Regional growth continues to have an impact on local traffic. Over the years, the Town has engaged the services of professional consultants to assist with the development of traffic analysis and solutions. For example, in 2015, the Town via then Mayor Lewis engaged Jeff Tumlin, Principal at Nelson\Nygaard Associates, as part of a community forum on regional traffic issues. Mr. Tumlin provided a forum for local input as well as expertise looking forward. Input from transportation professionals such as Mr. Tumlin, have been fed into numerous iterations of Master Plans and Initiatives in the region to include specific development planning for Atherton. Such a forum could be done again if the Council desires.

However, as was articulated by the City Council at the April 25, 2017 Goals Meeting, specific impact from newly approved local projects in adjacent communities is a different issue requiring a more deliberate approach than larger, regional planning and design.

The Transportation Committee's specific recommendation is to host a regional transportation summit with subject-matter experts who can discuss and analyze regional growth/traffic issues and help the Town develop a strategy to address them. While a summit or forum could certainly be held, the second part of the recommendation is to help the Town develop a strategy moving forward.

The City Attorney is prepared to provide the Council with feedback regarding process and expectations with respect to newly approved local projects in adjacent jurisdictions during the environmental review process. Town staff already receive and comment on adjacent jurisdiction requests for environmental review on specific projects when we receive notice of those projects. The comments and feedback are handled at the planning and traffic engineering staff level and do not rise to the level of Council or Committee involvement unless specifically requested by the City Council. In general terms, adjacent jurisdictions, like Atherton, are required to identify and analyze potential impacts during the environmental review process but are not required to mitigate them to move the project forward. If an issue is not mitigated, there is a legal framework for response. The City Attorney is prepared to provide the Council with feedback on this topic.

Lastly, the Town may develop a strategy to mitigate the impact of regional (and local) traffic through the installation of traffic calming measures on nearby or adjacent streets. For example, to mitigate existing or the potential for cut-through traffic on one street, the Town might consider the installation of a series of traffic calming or control devices (stop signs, reduced speeds, speed humps, etc.). Implementation of these devices would affect the local neighborhood (positively and negatively), but, implementation may also move the traffic flow or pattern to another street. Careful consideration of these issues would be important so as not to be negatively impacted by unintended consequences of the action.