



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Council Meeting Date: February 24, 2009

Staff Report #: 09-031

Agenda Item #: F4

REGULAR BUSINESS: Approval of the Mission Statement for the City Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Mission Statement for the City Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee included as Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

The California High Speed Rail Authority is charged with planning, designing, constructing, and operating a state-of-the-art high speed train system from San Diego to Sacramento with a branch to San Francisco. The Authority is moving forward to create the required environmental documents for the project. The first step in this process is to scope the items to include in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The process allows the public to provide comments on the scope of the EIR/EIS.

At the January 13, 2009 Council meeting, the Council approved the formation of a High Speed Rail subcommittee consisting of Council members Fergusson and Cline. The intent of the subcommittee was to evaluate issues related to High Speed Rail and discuss potential strategies to coordinate the City's efforts in responding to High Speed Rail issues.

ANALYSIS

The subcommittee has conducted several meetings with staff to evaluate the latest information related to the High Speed Rail. The subcommittee has proved valuable in providing guidance as staff has prepared a draft comment letter for Council consideration on the scope of the EIR/EIS.

The subcommittee has also provided input to staff on a Mission Statement that will better define the role of the subcommittee. The draft Mission Statement clearly states that the subcommittee will advocate ways to reduce the impacts of the High Speed Rail, ensure all voices are heard, collaborate with other jurisdictions, and provide valuable information to Council for decisions. It is clear that significant decisions about the City's position or the High Speed Rail Project would come before the full City Council. The ongoing efforts of the subcommittee will provide continued support in organizing the City's efforts related to High Speed Rail.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

Staff resources are required to support the subcommittee. Depending on the strategies selected to advocate for Menlo Park's interests additional resources may be needed in the future. In addition, other transportation related projects or work initiatives may be impacted if the workload capacity of the transportation staff is exceeded.

POLICY ISSUES

There are no policy issues as a result of this action.



Chip Taylor
Transportation Manager



Kent Steffens
Director of Public Works

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS: A. Draft Menlo Park Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee Mission Statement

****DRAFT****

Menlo Park Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee
Mission Statement

The Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee will advocate ways to reduce the impacts of HSR in Menlo Park. The Subcommittee will ensure all voices are heard and that thoughtful ideas are generated and alternatives vetted. It will collaborate with other jurisdictions in support of regional consensus of matters of common interest related to High Speed Rail. Additionally, the subcommittee will support Council decision making on High Speed Rail with information, research and other expertise.