

## **Morgan Hill Transportation Master Plan**

### **Stakeholders Meeting #1**

**Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**City Hall West Conference Room**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Meeting Attendees:**

##### **Stakeholders in Attendance**

| Name                  | Organization                           |
|-----------------------|--|
| Krista Rupp           | Visit Morgan Hill                      |
| Doug Hall             |  |
| Doug Muirhead         |  |
| Jake Thompson         |  |
| Elizabeth Schaus      |  |
| Catherine Ferris      |  |
| Joe Baranowski        | Responsible Growth Coalition           |
| Nick Gaich            | Chamber of Commerce                    |
| John Moniz            | Parks and Rec Commission               |
| Dana Haberland        | Senior Center Transportation Committee |
| Joe Mueller           | Planning Commission                    |
| Wayne Tanda           | Planning Commission                    |
| Claire Francis        |  |
| Adam Bradford         |  |
| Matthew Lundy         |  |
| Larissa Sanderfer     |  |
| Armando Benevidas     |  |
| Sofia Ruiz-McGinty    | Youth Action Council                   |
| Maureen Tobin         |  |
| Elizabeth Munoz-Rosas | MHUSD Parent                           |
| John McKay            |  |
| Arjun Narayanan       | Youth Action Council                   |

##### **Stakeholders not in Attendance:**

| Name             | Organization |
|------------------|--------------|
| Catherine Ferris |              |
| Adam Bradford    |              |

**Agency Staff Attendees:** City of Morgan Hill: Chris Ghione, Jennifer Carman, Maria Angeles, Adam Paszkowski, Nicole Martin, VTA: Larissa Sandafer

**Consultant Project Team Staff Attendees:** Robert Del Rio Hexagon Project Manager, Ellie Fiore, Toole Design; and Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies

**Meeting Summary:**

Chris Ghione convened the meeting on behalf of the city, he thanked and welcomed the members of the Community Stakeholders group for the Transportation Master Plan effort (TMP).

Eileen Goodwin, meeting facilitator, reviewed the agenda and the group introduced themselves to each other and the project team. Refreshments were provided at the meeting. There were a small number of public attendees who attended the first hour of the meeting: a member of the community who is also a staff person at the city and high school students getting civics credit.

The meeting followed the following agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Why does Morgan Hill Need a TMP?
- Public Outreach and Stakeholder Committee
- TMP issues and Components
- Project Timeline
- Community Outreach Framework
- Roundtable Discussion
- Next Steps and Reminder of Community Input Opportunities and Next Stakeholder Meeting

Eileen reviewed the agenda.

Chris made the following points about the city's need for a TMP which would help address:

- Changes in City's Population
- Travel Options for all Residents and Modes of Travel
- The City's First Comprehensive Review of Transportation
- Funding Mechanisms for Improvements

Eileen reviewed the goals for the outreach program. She also stated the purpose of the Stakeholder Committee by utilizing the following points:

- Build community knowledge about the project and project process.
- Hear perspectives from a range of community members.
- Incorporate community ideas, needs and preferences into the Transportation Master Plan (where appropriate and feasible)
- Develop community support for proposed TMP.

Eileen also highlighted the role of the members as ambassadors for the effort. She mentioned the team's hope that members will help the city get the word out about future community input opportunities. She also stresses the desire to learn from each member's expertise and experience and that the Committee is a forum for collaboration. She highlighted the Committee would function by stressing the following points:

- The Committee is advisory to the city's staff and does not make final decisions on the project.
- The Committee will run by consensus with the assistance of a facilitator.
- Committee members shall not speak on behalf of the Committee or the City
- The City Council is the ultimate policy maker relating to any policies or prioritization of the projects for the City.

A committee member asked for clarification on the third bullet above.

Robert gave an overview of the TMP issues and components using the following speaking points:

- The team will identify transportation challenges.
- Identify Necessary Inter-City Transportation Improvements
  - i. Focus on multi-modal, travel gaps & safety
  - ii. Roadway/Intersection congestion relief
- The team is currently conducting a citywide Speed Survey
- The effort will identify any necessary updates to Citywide Transportation Policies
- The effort may result in updates to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Transportation Impact Fees (TIF)
- Review for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) Policy Adjustments
- The TMP will be used as an input to an eventual General Plan Update/Circulation Element Update

Robert reviewed the project timeline.

Committee members had the following questions:

- What output will the stakeholder group have, will we create a separate document (No separate document, input to all components of the TMP and opportunity to influence recommendations)
- Circulation element connection (The city does not have the funds to begin a Circulation Element update at this time, nor the full General plan update—the TMP will be an input into that effort once the City does undertake and update).

Eileen then reviewed the schedule and tasks for community input into the TMP process.

The community members asked the following questions and made the following observations on the outreach activities and the TMP more broadly:

- The community meetings should be hybrid or offered in person and on-line? Why are we not doing that? (The Community Center is not set up for on-line meetings)

currently, the survey will be a way to get on-line input and will mirror input received at the meeting)

- How can we simplify communications of a complex process by identifying milestones? (That is our intent)
- We would like access to raw data as soon as it is available (We can make traffic count data available)
- Will the TMP consider “in-flight” activities and projects in the pipeline not just the current conditions? (Yes) Then that should be a message the community hears.
- This effort seems re-active. Are we also going to be pro-active and imagine future conditions related to housing? (We will use short- and long-term projections, housing and industrial growth, the General plan is a starting point, but it will be augmented by assumptions about what can be foreseen).
- Will there be a website for this project? (Yes, there will be a webpage on the city website with posted materials as well as an email address for community members to ask questions and provide input).
- The list of assumptions should be comprehensive (Noted)
- What is an “element” (Consider it similar to a “chapter” of a General Plan, a chapter focused on a single area such as transportation, water etc.)

The Roundtable discussion asked each member to answer the following questions:

- What are your transportation priorities?
- What transportation issues do you believe the public will be most concerned with?

The members spent forty-five minutes giving their input on these topics.

The following themes appeared as a result of the discussion:

- Safety for all transportation users, especially those on bikes and on foot.
- Emergency response times.
- Speeding is a common concern. Many examples were given including speeding in the downtown area and in residential neighborhoods.
- Walkability, bikeability, safety, vehicle congestion.
- Focus on quality of life.
- Commute patterns, Morgan Hill is still primarily a bedroom community.
- Growth and high-density development impacts on transportation infrastructure
- Construction impacts of development.
- Condition of the roads, potholes and maintenance.
- Over-reliance on cars.
- Cut through traffic in the neighborhoods.
- Efficient access around the city.
- Limited bus system. More marketing should be done to increase transit ridership of buses and MoGo.
- Efficient access to the north to San Jose and south to Gilroy (with more members focused to access to the north/San Jose).

- Trust in government. People will be skeptical that anything will make a difference.
- TMP outreach effort should explain how this Plan will impact people directly and could make their lives better. How will these suggestions and policy changes make people's lives better or worse.
- Measure B 75% vote result for cars to flow on Monterey Road. In November 2022, a "yes" vote supported amending the city's General Plan to require voter approval of any Monterey Road lane reduction.
- Traffic around schools. School drop-off safety. School drop of speeding and unsafe behavior.
- Morgan Hill's roads should be to serve the local community first, not regional commutes.
- City connectivity in all directions could be better north/south and east/west.
- The city needs to take advantage of its flat geography to promote the use of bikes and walking.
- The overpasses, including Butterfield, are tricky for bicyclists.
- Street maintenance is an issue for bicyclists.
- There are gaps in the sidewalk network in many places, especially north-south routes.
- More crosswalks are needed along Monterey Road.
- Eastside can use more attention in general on the transportation network.
- Highway 101 carpool lanes will impact the Morgan Hill transportation network assumptions.
- The community will want to see the value of any proposed improvements. Need to benchmark against similar improvements.
- Can companies be encouraged to organize when employees come back to work to minimize commute congestion?
- Looking at VMT fees is a good idea. Developers should be paying for the VMT the projects cause.
- Enforcement is an issue related to driver behavior; public education campaigns can produce results related to driver behavior.
- We need an EV charging network.
- Photo radar is a good idea for enforcement of speeding.
- Downtown parklet issue; traffic in the downtown creates tradeoffs when discussing solutions.
- We need to look at other communities such as Manhattan and O'ahu for how they provide excellent bus service.
- Senior mobility must be considered.
- Need for bike parking in public places such as grocery stores to incentivize people to ride bikes, or at least remove current barriers. We also need to make developers provide safe ground floor parking for bikes; people should not be expected to carry bikes upstairs for storage in their unit.
- North/south bike access through Coyote Valley cannot rely solely on Coyote Creek trail as we know it floods for a portion of the year.

#### **Action Items/future agenda items:**

- Confirm November 8<sup>th</sup> Community meeting details and provide the stakeholders with information about the meeting they can share with their networks.
- Provide information to the group regarding VMT in Santa Clara County pre-covid, during covid and now.
- Have the Stakeholder Committee test any on-line surveys.
- Provide information regarding the Highway 101 express lanes project status.
- What are ridership statistics for MoGo?
- What have been the results for TDM projects in Morgan Hill? Are they working?

The stakeholders were reminded that the community meeting will be November 8<sup>th</sup> and the next stakeholder committee will be December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting summary prepared by Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies.