

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item



City Council Meeting Date: May 14, 2013

TO: Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator

FROM: Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation/Transportation *Administrator*
r_fernbaugh@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Transit Transfer Center Recommendations

Recommendation: Staff recommends City Council:

- 1) Receive presentation for location and design options of the Transit Transfer Center; and
- 2) Direct staff to proceed with final design for the Old Town Transit Transfer Center utilizing the saw-tooth design option; or
- 3) Provide alternate direction.

Background/Discussion:

At the City Council meeting of February 5, 2013, staff presented a recommendation to the City Council to abandon the Laurel Avenue site and reconsider the Old Town site for construction of the Transit Transfer Center. City Council directed staff to return to Council with additional information after consulting with the Economic Development Committee Old Town Ad-hoc subcommittee (EDC) on a preferred design for the Old Town site.

On April 9, 2013, staff met with the EDC to secure its recommendation, as directed by Council, for either the original transfer center design located in the south east parking lot (Attachment A) or the preliminary saw-tooth design, located along Cypress Avenue (Attachment B). The EDC unanimously recommended the saw-tooth design, to allow the retention of current parking availability and also made recommendations as to placement of the restroom facilities to provide for multiple uses. The saw-tooth design provides for COLTs current operations, which include four (4) local fixed routes, the Wine Country Express, the Santa Barbara Shuttle, and the Clean Air Express. The preliminary design has capacity for eight (8) buses at one time, with five (5) 40-foot spaces and three (3) 45-foot spaces. This layout allows space for all of our current operations, as well as space for future expansion.

Much of the EDC discussion centered around the availability of parking in the Old Town area. If the transfer center were built in the south east parking lot, as originally proposed, then there would be a total of 275 parking spaces available between the north and south lots on I Street. If the saw-tooth design is chosen, all 368 current parking spaces remain available.

The EDC also discussed the addition of more transit patrons to the Old Town area would likely result in more customers for local businesses and more activity downtown. This provides an additional incentive for businesses to locate in Old Town, where a known number of patrons are available. This prompted additional consideration of the restroom location to provide for expanded use of the restrooms for other events and activities in the Old Town area. The EDC further recommended additional landscaping and amenities, such as benches or tables, be placed in a landscaped setting near the restroom location.

The development cost for the saw-tooth design is estimated to be approximately \$600,000 to \$800,000, which is substantially lower than the original design cost of \$1,300,000 utilizing the south east parking lot. Project savings could allow the use of remaining Prop 1B funds for other transit capital projects.

If the saw-tooth design is the preferred option, then staff anticipates the additional environmental review and approval by the Planning Commission to take approximately five months.

Fiscal Impact:

Previously, the City has designated the new transit transfer facility as its top priority for the public transportation element of Proposition 1B, the major statewide transportation bond approved by California voters in November 2008.

Over the life of the PTMISEA program, the City of Lompoc is expected to receive approximately \$3,100,000.00. To date, the City has received approximately \$2,331,000.00. The current date to spend Prop 1B funds by is March 2016. We have been informed by the State that this deadline is likely to be extended to March 2017, due to the sale of bonds not being completed at this time.

There is no General Fund fiscal impact associated with the project.

Disclosure:

Due to the location of the Old Town Transit Center site and real property in which Councilmember Starbuck has a financial interest, and because this report's discussion about the potential location for the Transit Transfer Center is integrally related to the Old Town Center site, Councilmember Starbuck should recuse himself from participating in, or trying to influence, the decision on this matter. Notwithstanding that, he may provide input on this matter, as a member of the public, during the public comment period.

Conclusion:

It is requested the City Council direct staff to proceed with final design for the Old Town site utilizing the saw-tooth design concept.

Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation/Transportation Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin P. McCune, P.E., Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator

Attachments: A) [Original Site Layout](#)
B) [Saw-Tooth Design](#)