REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent
July 24, 2007

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan (PN: TF96)

Location/Council District: The neighborhoods bounded by Norwood Avenue, Western Avenue, Morrison Avenue, and Ford Road, in north Sacramento. Council District 2.

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** accepting the Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan

Contact: Tara Goddard, Assistant Planner, 808-8332; Fedolia "Sparky" Harris, Senior Planner, 808-2996

Presenters: Not applicable

Department: Planning

Division: Long Range

Organization No: 4912

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Norwood area has underdeveloped residentially zoned sections with deep lots and few existing street connections. The automobile, pedestrian and bicycle access is poor, localized flooding is common during storms, and the new homes are not well-connected to the existing neighborhoods. In July 2006, City Council approved a professional services agreement with Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan, Inc. (PBS&J) to develop the Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan ("Norwood Area Plan") for this area. The completed plan is ready for Council action.

Policy Considerations: While the City's General Plan is being updated, the City Council has adopted a vision for the future of the City, as well as several guiding principles to help guide the update and achieve this vision. The Norwood Area Plan contains many of those guiding principles, as well as specific policies in the Pedestrian Master Plan, the Bikeway Master Plan, and the Pedestrian Friendly Street Standards.

Committee/Commission Action: Staff presented the Norwood Area Plan to City Planning Commission on May 31, 2007, as an informational item. Commission forwarded the Norwood Area Plan to Council for acceptance. A summary of comments is included in Attachment 1.

Environmental Considerations: The Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan is statutorily exempt from CEQA per Section 15262 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The project involves the preparation of planning studies for possible future actions by the City Council. The City has not yet approved, adopted, or funded these future actions and, therefore, approval of the Plan will not result in the approval, adoption, or funding of these actions. Furthermore, as it contains only guidelines for development, approval of the Plan does not have a legally binding effect on future actions.

Rationale for Recommendation: The Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan provides recommendations for circulation and infrastructure improvements based on community input, plan review, staff direction and site analysis. When implemented, these improvements will support pedestrian and bicycle movement in the area, improve automobile, pedestrian, and bicycle safety, and address infrastructure needs including sewer, water and drainage to promote safety, livability and economic vitality.

Financial Considerations: Adoption of this resolution to accept the Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan does not have direct financial impacts. However, the plan will guide future financial decisions.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): City Council acceptance of this plan is not affected by City policy related to the ESBD Program.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Fedolia "Sparky" Harris, Senior Planner

Approved by: _____
Carol Shearly, Planning Director

Recommendation Approved:

_____
Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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ATTACHMENT 1
BACKGROUND

The Norwood area has underdeveloped residentially zoned sections with deep lots and few existing street connections. As the large parcels have been subdivided for single-family homes in a piecemeal fashion, the street system internal to the area has developed in a disconnected and inefficient manner. The resulting automobile, pedestrian and bicycle access is poor and the new homes are not well-connected to the existing neighborhoods. In addition, there are few sidewalks, lighting is poor, and drainage does not function properly in many areas, resulting in localized flooding during storms.

City Council demonstrated support for planning in these neighborhoods by adopting a 1996 study of infrastructure in the area. However, that study includes only cursory circulation recommendations. In addition, in the ten years since the adoption of that plan, development has rapidly increased in that area. The neighborhood association and residents in the area were also supportive of the need to address accessibility in the area.

Funded by a Caltrans Environmental Justice grant, the City began work on the Norwood Area Plan in May 2006. The completed plan:

1. Recommends a circulation plan that will guide future transportation and development and redevelopment patterns within the area to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile circulation, increase neighborhood mobility and accessibility, support transit ridership, and support needed housing, employment opportunities, and neighborhood-supportive retail uses.

2. Includes a discussion of parks and other civic facilities, which conforms to the City's overall goals and policies.

3. Creates a policy document that integrates the circulation plan, infrastructure analysis, and preliminary implementation recommendations.

4. Provides information for future financing districts.

Public/Neighborhood Outreach and Comments: Community input at each stage of the process provided valuable insight into the needs and goals of the residents in and near the Norwood Area. Staff introduced the project, garnered input, and shared changes during three community workshops, held at the Robertson Community Center between October 2006 and February 2007.

1. October 14, 2006: During the first workshop, staff introduced the general purpose of the project, and invited community members to ask questions and describe the needs of their neighborhoods. Approximately 30 people attended.

2. December 9, 2006: Staff and the consultant team distilled community input, site analysis, and document review into preliminary recommendations. These concepts were translated into graphics and presented to the community at the second workshop, enabling the participants to visualize future improvements. Staff recorded input on these preliminary recommendations. Approximately 20 people attended.

3. February 3, 2007: At the final workshop, staff reviewed with the community the draft plan, its policies, design recommendations, and infrastructure issues. The workshop concluded with a consensus of support for the plan. Approximately 20 people attended.

City Planning Commission Comments (May 31, 2007)

1. The Commission asked for clarification on whether this plan includes any construction, and also how future development will be funded. Staff responded that this is a Long Range plan to help guide development, and that as developers subdivide parcels in the Norwood Area, they will provide monies for future financing districts that will fund improvements near their developments. Commissioner Baines asked specifically about Morey Avenue School, and staff discussed the school type and the community gardens. City Planning Commission was supportive of the project and passed it to Council for acceptance.

Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan:

This document is available on the City of Sacramento website at: http://www.cityofsacramento.org/webtech/streaming_video/live_council_meetings.htm under Future and Archived Meetings (click on View Agenda for the July 24, 2007 meeting date) and is on file in Hard Copy in the Office of the City Clerk at 915 I Street, Historic Building, First Floor.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

July 24, 2007

NORWOOD AREA INFILL CIRCULATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (M05-062)

BACKGROUND

The Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan:

A. Provides a circulation plan to guide future transportation and development and redevelopment within the area that will improve neighborhood mobility and accessibility, support transit ridership, and support needed housing, employment opportunities, and neighborhood support retail uses.

B. Provides recommendations that, when implemented, will improve the pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile circulation and access of the Norwood Area Neighborhood and vicinity.

C. Creates a policy document that integrates the circulation plan, infrastructure analysis, and preliminary implementation recommendations, and that conforms to the City's overall goals and policies.

D. Promoted broad public participation and incorporated meaningful community input at every stage of the process.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan is accepted as a guideline for future circulation and infrastructure improvements.

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Exhibit A – Location map of Norwood Area Infill Circulation and Infrastructure Plan.
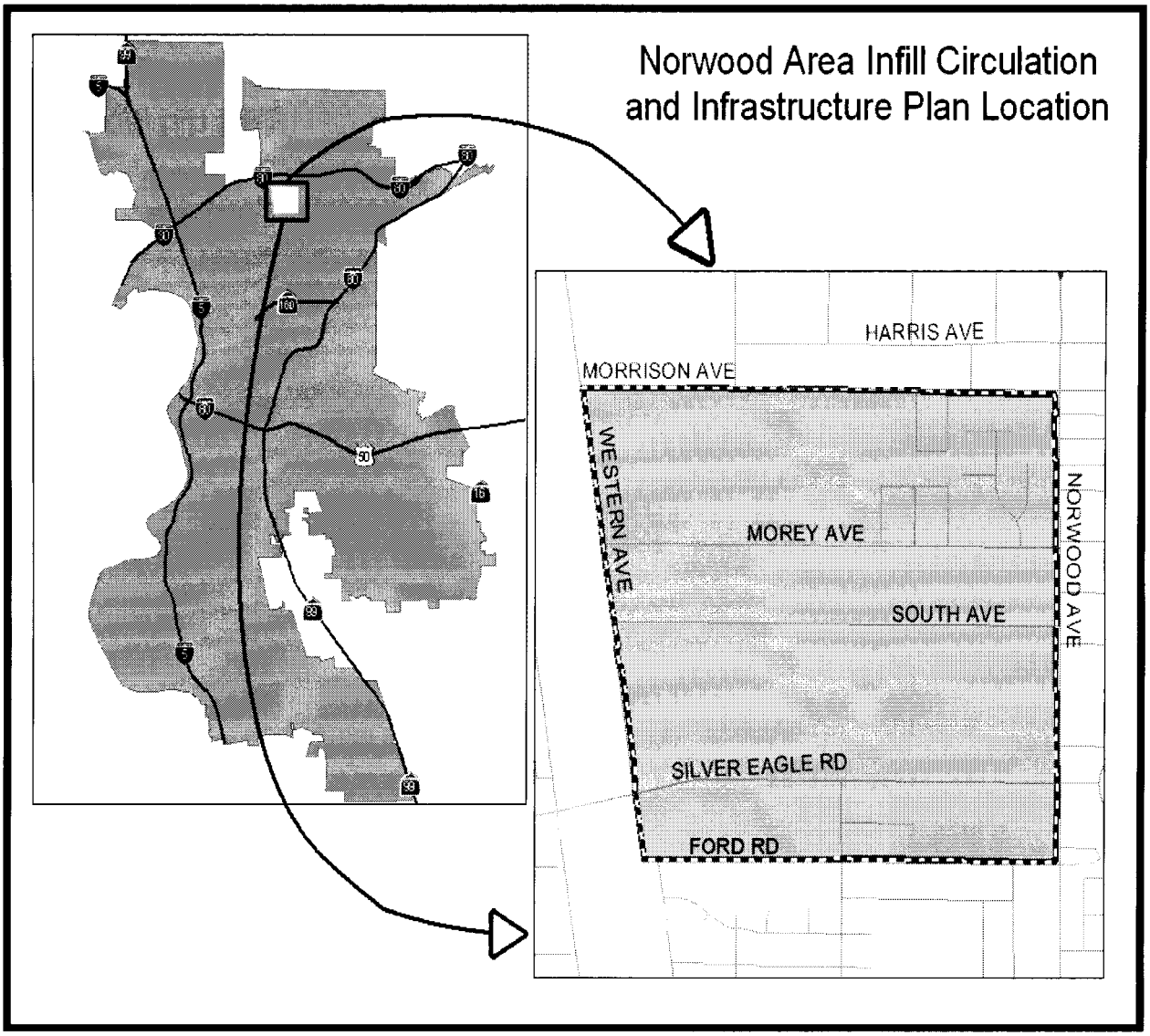
Exhibit A – Location Map