



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 24, 2017

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Public Works Transportation Division Reorganization And Position Changes

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Resolution No. 16-045, the Position and Salary Control Resolution for Fiscal Year 2017, Affecting the Public Works Department Beginning February 4, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Background:

The Public Works Transportation Division is responsible for the maintenance of the City's streets, sidewalks, storm drains, street lights, traffic signals, street trees, graffiti abatement, streets signs, street markings, transportation planning, downtown parking needs and management of assets, and other related infrastructure and programs.

In 2015, LA Consulting, Incorporated (LAC), was hired to review our Streets operations and organization. A final report with fifty-three key recommendations to improve Streets Section operations was submitted and previously reviewed with City Council. Some of these recommendations provide options designed to improve Streets Section workload efficiencies and reduce future operating costs.

An overarching recommendation to streamline processes and increase efficiencies in the Transportation Division includes more focus on the operations and maintenance side of the Streets functions, and a separate focus on the transportation planning and parking functions.

Along with the LAC recommendations, staff has been looking at different ways in which to improve management and operations; therefore, staff is proposing to separate the Transportation Division into two divisions: 1) Streets Operations and Infrastructure Management Division and 2) Transportation Planning and Parking Division.

The objectives of the reorganization are to sharpen the focus of the Division Managers on the key functions of their teams, and to improve overall operations.

Streets Operations and Infrastructure Management Division

Key changes include:

- Eliminate Transportation Manager position
- Eliminate Streets Manager position
- Create new Streets Operations and Infrastructure Manager
- Transfer the Traffic Engineering Section, currently in Engineering, to the new Streets Operations and Infrastructure Management Division
 - The functions of this section work closely with the Streets crews in the safety of our streets and the transfer will improve alignment of work efforts.
- Create new Principal Transportation Engineer (management position)
 - Will oversee the Traffic Engineering Section at a management level
 - Will direct the work of the sign and painting crews

Transportation Planning and Parking Division

Key changes include:

- Eliminate Principal Transportation Planner (management position)
- Create new Transportation Planning and Parking Manager
 - Position will oversee Transportation Planning, Downtown Parking, and Alternative Transportation Programs
- Eliminate Project Engineer II position
- Create new Project Planner position at half-time

This change will reallocate existing management resources toward traffic operations and street maintenance at a time when safety and infrastructure maintenance is critical to the success of the transportation system. By creating the Principal Transportation Engineer position, more attention will go to safety, traffic operations, and management of the street right-of-way infrastructure. Conversely, eliminating the Principal Transportation Planner position will reduce staff resources in Transportation Planning. This change represents an overall 1 FTE increase in staff resources for the Traffic Engineering Section and a 1.5 FTE reduction in staff resources for the Transportation Planning Section.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Based on all of the position changes, it is estimated the yearly net savings for this reorganization will be approximately \$36,505, affecting the Streets Fund, Downtown Parking Fund, Streets Sweeping Fund, and the General Fund. For the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017, we will continue to see salary and benefit savings, as some positions are being held vacant, and it will take time to recruit for the new positions.

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APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office