



February 2007

Big Policy Discussions Kick Off New Year

2007's first days saw major policy discussions underway, signalling that the new year was off to a strong start. The Land Use and Circulation Element update will seek to build upon this momentum in the coming months as staff kicks off a series of community workshops on placemaking slated to commence in Spring.

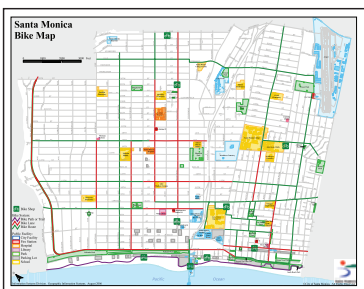
City Council Adopts Exemptions For Affordable Housing

After hearing from over 40 community members, the City Council recently acted on the Planning Commission's recommendation, and approved an ordinance exempting 100% affordable rental housing projects from the Development Review and Conditional Use permit requirements in most zoning districts citywide. The provisions of the new ordinance (which have operated on a temporary basis for the past 5 years) will allow developers to bring more affordable units online expeditiously, and will increase the City's stock of housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. A copy of the **staff report** and additional detail can be downloaded on the City's website.

Artist Studio Discussion with the Planning Commission

The protection and preservation of artist space in affluent urban areas is a subject that has grabbed national attention, and the issue as it applies here in Santa Monica was recently flagged for study by the

Planning Commission. While the Municipal Code promotes "artist studios" in certain districts, the Commission was concerned over the City's ability to ensure that working artists occupied these spaces. Staff has conducted outreach to local artist and arts organizations to better understand their needs and challenges, and has consulted with several municipalities. A copy of the **staff report** is available online.



Bicycle Map Update

The **Transportation Management Division** is preparing a new bike map with the help of **Community and Cultural Services** for visitors, residents and employees. The new larger color double sided map will include more detail of the city and surrounding area, and will incorporate a range of useful information, such as: bike safety information, photos and signage examples, local bike shop addresses and phone numbers, and links to bicycle

resources and groups. The new map will also feature bus routes and stops, information on how to load a bicycle on to a bus, and where one can find bicycle parking. TMD is currently asking for feedback on how to make the map more useful. Please send e-mail to: michelle.glickert@smgov.net or call her at: 310/458-2204 Comments received before 2/26/07 will be considered and incorporated into the new map expected to hit the shelves by mid May; those received after will be considered in the next map update.

LUCE Next Steps

The **LUCE** project is entering a new public outreach phase that will seek to develop and build community support for guiding principles. These principles will emerge from several neighborhood- and community-focused workshops and meetings. A series of workshops will begin in March on Placemaking followed by a community-wide symposium on Economics and Affordability. Before summer, a workshop will be held that focuses on the City's Industrial lands to develop principles on a future vision for this specific part of the City. Following a short break, the outreach effort will resume with two



Placemaking: Community results from collective spaces that invite shared participation

community-wide workshops that focus on the City's commercial boulevards, such as Wilshire and Lincoln, and a transportation workshop. A summary of key principles will be prepared and shared with the public in Winter 2008. The Planning Commission and City Council will receive frequent updates and have opportunities to review the progress throughout the year. Please check-in with us at www.shapethefuture2025.com

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