

CIRCULATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
WHITE PAPER SERIES

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Prepared for:

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

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The Circulation Element is one of the key components of the General Plan update currently underway for the City of Beverly Hills. The recently completed Technical Background Report (TBR) serves as a comprehensive database that describes existing conditions for the City's physical, social, and economic resources. This information includes a discussion of the existing characteristics, trends and forecasts, and the issues associated with each of these resource areas. Relative to the Circulation Element, Chapter 3 – Infrastructure and Utilities includes an entire section that provides an assessment of existing operating conditions and constraints of the City's transportation system. It also includes the identification of a series of key transportation and circulation issues that face the City of Beverly Hills and must be addressed in the development of the updated Circulation Element of the General Plan.

As part of the update process, the City requested that a series of "white papers" be prepared that summarize and discuss each of these issues in the context of the proposed circulation plan. In addition to identifying the problems associated with each of the issues identified, the white papers will also discuss the implications and trade-offs of alternatives to address each issue. To the degree possible, these issues will be quantified and evaluated in terms of potential options available to address them. The white papers serve as the starting point for discussion of these options that will eventually result in the identification of the recommended strategies and programs to be included in the Circulation Element. Ultimately, the purpose of the white papers is to provide a tool for decision-makers to strategically respond to the circulation issues confronting the City so that the Circulation Element can reflect the issues and the City's response.

These papers explore the circulation issues identified in greater depth than the TBR and provide feedback that allows the City's decision-makers to develop policies to be included in the General Plan Update. In terms of the regional setting, however, it cannot be stressed too much that Beverly Hills must seek regional and subregional (Westside Cities) solutions for its circulation problems. Since it is regional rather than local growth that is the driving force resulting in further traffic and congestion, the City must continue its efforts to engage its neighbors and arrive at regional solutions.

A key corollary issue to mobility is the need to address air quality related to mobile sources. Through the Circulation Element of the General Plan Update, the City will make improvements to overall mobility of motorists and public transit users. Such mobility gains will lead to improved air quality.

The white papers included in this series address the following:

- White Paper No. 1: Regional Transportation Setting
- White Paper No. 2: Wilshire Corridor Congestion
- White Paper No. 3: Santa Monica Boulevard Corridor
- White Paper No. 4: Impact of North-South Traffic
- White Paper No. 5: Impact of Through Traffic on Residential Streets
- White Paper No. 6: Relationship of Parking Supply and Traffic Circulation and the Potential for Alternatives to Auto Use in Business Triangle