

Hi Michael,

It is my understanding that this draft Circulation Element replaces the Moving Goods and People Discussion Paper which was being discussed back in 2002 and 2003. This draft Circulation Element is a significant improvement over that earlier Discussion Paper but, as evidenced by the comments presented at the Planning Commission public hearing on 12/20/07, there are areas which can be further improved.

One of the major weaknesses of the Circulation Element is that it is not offering any new approaches to addressing projected increases in transportation needs. The focus is still on these increased needs being met by the automobile, with resultant increased congestion, rather than by alternative modes of transportation and by changes in community design. In this regard, the comments offered by the consulting firm Nelson Nygaard, on contract to the County Department of Public Health, need to be given serious consideration. I will go so far as to suggest that the County Planning Division engage Nelson Nygaard to address their comments in the Circulation Element.

I also want to strongly endorse the suggestion made at the public hearing that the Circulation Element address related environmental issues in this draft rather than wait for General Plan EIR findings. Let's address SB32, and GHG and CO2 emissions now. Let's build into this Element some real forward looking technologies related to the movement of goods and people, including the area of communications.

Finally, I would like to suggest that the Circulation Element mimic the Water Resources Element by consolidating all circulation related issues noted in all the other elements, and most particularly the Land Use Element, in this Element. This approach gives a much more complete presentation, within one Element, of all the issues related to the movement of goods and people.

I hope you find these comments helpful and I look forward to seeing the next draft of the Circulation Element.

Happy New Year and have fun working on this Element. I don't envy you.  
Rudy