

City discusses planning changes at Tuesday meeting

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By Debbie Carson, Staff Writer

Following a public hearing earlier this month at the county level, the Temple Terrace City Council hosted its own Tuesday night during its regular council meeting.

The hearings were held to discuss the future of transportation within the city. The Nov. 5 Planning Commission hearing held at the county level was a chance for the public to speak to plans to create a citywide multi-modal transportation district.

Multi-modal is a term planners use to describe various ways to transport people – whether it be roadways, public transit, railways or something else.

As part of the process, the hearing also dealt with updating Temple Terrace's Comprehensive Plan, which is a document that helps guide future growth and development.

While the changes to the plan were not anticipated until September 2008, the timeline was moved up due to the city's downtown redevelopment plan and other high-density projects in the works in the Temple Terrace area.

Developers bringing in more traffic to the area must account for the increase on the roadways. Under current county transportation rules, developers must either improve roads to accommodate more drivers – typically by widening the impacted roads – or pay into a program to improve the roads at a later date.

That's where the multi-modal transportation district comes in. It is a way for the city to address such future needs using a variety of non-roadway options.

In other Temple Terrace City Council actions Tuesday, the council was expected to vote on which of six site plans it wanted for the downtown redevelopment project.

The council met as the Temple Terrace Redevelopment Agency at 5 p.m. in the council chambers to discuss the status of the project.

News on the Web: Check back here to find out what the council decided, check out The Beacon's

Web site, www.cnewspubs.com/beacon, Tuesday night after the meeting.