

MOTION PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

EP

The Exposition Corridor Transit Neighborhood Plan (Expo TNP) (Ordinance No. 186402) effective December 26, 2019 is a Specific Plan for areas located near certain Metro E Line transit stations. The purpose of the Expo TNP is to direct growth and accommodate new residential, mixed-use, commercial, and industrial development near transit stations, expand the economic base, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by facilitating alternative modes of transit and decrease automobile dependence, encourage walking and biking as a means to circulate within and between neighborhoods and to access transit, promote ridership on the Metro E Line, and provide active street frontages which facilitate socializing and community building.

The Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP) (Ordinance No. 187402) effective March 31, 2022 supports local economic growth through a streamlined approval process for the sale of alcoholic beverages at bona-fide restaurants which comply with more than 50 standards similar to, and in some cases stricter than, typical conditions of approval applied under the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process for alcohol sales. Rather than applying for a CUP, which is costly and can take months for the City to process, the RBP Ordinance creates two administrative clearance processes, a "General" version and an "Alcohol Sensitive Use Zone" version, for eligible restaurants. The RBP application process is estimated to take about four weeks and cost about \$6,000—nearly 66 percent less than a CUP, which costs about \$15,000. Nightclubs, bars, and liquor stores are not eligible for the RBP; these businesses are still required to obtain a CUP, which involves community input, if they wish to sell alcohol.

While the Expo TNP allows a mix of uses in former industrial areas and along commercial corridors, including the introduction of ancillary uses like restaurants within industrial areas, the new zones created by the Specific Plan did not contemplate the administrative clearance process that is a part of the RBP. Instead, the Expo TNP codified the alcohol sales review procedures in place in 2019 for the new zones created by the Specific Plan.

In order to ensure that bona-fide restaurants within the new zones of the Expo TNP are allowed to partake in the streamlined review procedures of the RBP, an amendment is needed to the Expo TNP. Addressing this inconsistency of review procedures within the Specific Plan area will ensure that all new restaurants will have the same opportunity to thrive and provide various services to the community. Such an amendment will help to foster the Expo TNP's goal of activating street frontages with vibrant businesses.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Department of City Planning, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to initiate a Specific Plan Amendment and prepare and present an Ordinance regarding the proposed amendments to the Exposition Corridor Transit Neighborhood Plan to allow for the use of the Restaurant Beverage Program within all of the Specific Plan's boundaries for consideration by the Los Angeles City Planning Commission (LACPC), and, after LACPC's consideration of the Ordinance, provide recommendations for Council's consideration.

PRESENTED BY:

Katy Yaroslavsky
Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman
5th District

SECONDED BY:

Travis Park

DEC 08 2023

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