



# Ventura-Cahuenga Specific Plan Amendment

Virtual Information Session Presentation  
Thursday, September 14, 2023



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Senior City Planner



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City Planner



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Planning Associate

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# Background

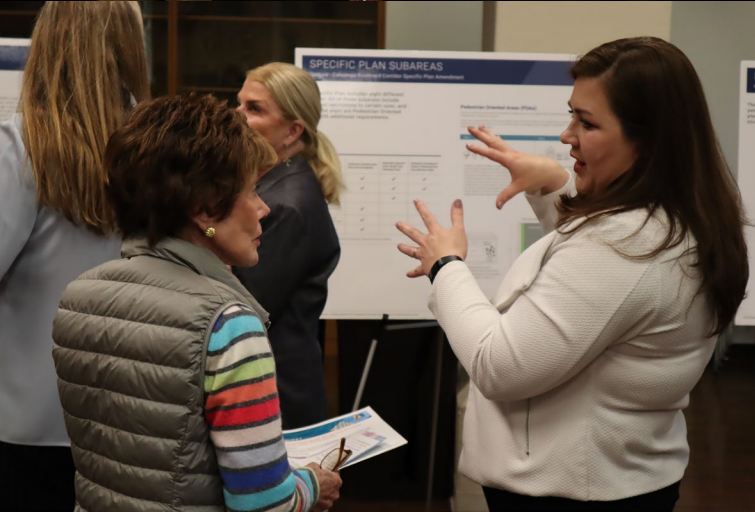
An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a dense residential area with multi-story apartment buildings and houses. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a gradient that transitions from a warm orange on the left to a cool blue on the right. The word "Background" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.



# Background

## Project Initiation:

- **September 2017** - City Council introduced motion for the Planning Department to prepare a report regarding options to amend the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan
- **June 2019** - City Council adopts motion to initiate work on the amendment
- **February 2020** – Planning Department hosts Open House
- **June 2020** - Contracts with consultants begin
- **August 2021** - Rezoning of Corridor is delegated to community plan update teams



# Current Update

## Council Motion 17-1071-S1

- Council instructed the Planning Department to expedite portions of the Ventura-Cahuenga amendment program
- The motion directed Planning to make changes to:
  - Streamline signage approvals
  - Update the Ventura-Cahuenga Plan Review Board appointments
  - Reflect recently adopted ordinances





## Summary of Issues

- Time-consuming and costly sign approval process for businesses
- Current Plan Review Board appointment process causes unequal community representation
- Department roles for working with the Plan Review Board are unclear



# Summary of Issues

- Cahuenga Pass is not identified as a separate community
- Other newer ordinances have passed that are not referenced in the Plan
- Outdated language and incorrect code citations
- Current maps associated with the Specific Plan are outdated and have errors



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# Proposed Amendments

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a dense residential area with various apartment buildings and houses. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a gradient that transitions from orange on the left to blue on the right. The text 'Proposed Amendments' is centered in white, with a horizontal line above it.

# Sign Review Administrative Process



## Current Process

- Discretionary
- 6+ months from filing to issuance of letter of determination
- Expensive
- Requires extensive research for tenants of multi-business shopping centers
- Strain on staff resources and time

## Proposed Process

- Administrative
- < 6 months from application to permit clearance sign-off
- Less costly
- Retains adherence to sign regulations of the plan
- Less onerous application requirements
- More efficient use of staff resources and time



# Plan Review Board Appointments



## Current Process

- Two appointees **per Council district**
- Total number of members expands or contracts during redistricting
- Unpredictable community representation on the Board.

## Proposed Process

- One appointee **per community**
  - Total number of members **stays the same** regardless of Council redistricting
  - Equitable community representation on the Board.
- One member appointed by Mayor
  - Rest of board appointed by Council

# Changes Proposed

## Membership Composition

- Council Motion directed for more diverse membership of the Board
- Guidance added to achieve this goal, while allowing for flexibility
- The board ought to include individuals within the Specific Plan area who:
  - Live in the area
  - Work in the area
  - Own property in the area
  - Serve the community in the area
  - Have experience with right-of-way accesibility issues
  - Have experience with alternative transportaton method



# Changes Proposed

## Administration of Board Meetings

- To better run meetings and ensure public transparency the proposal is the following:
  - Meetings shall be documented
  - Meeting records shall be stored by the Planning Department
  - Roles between Planning Department and Department of Transportation clarified







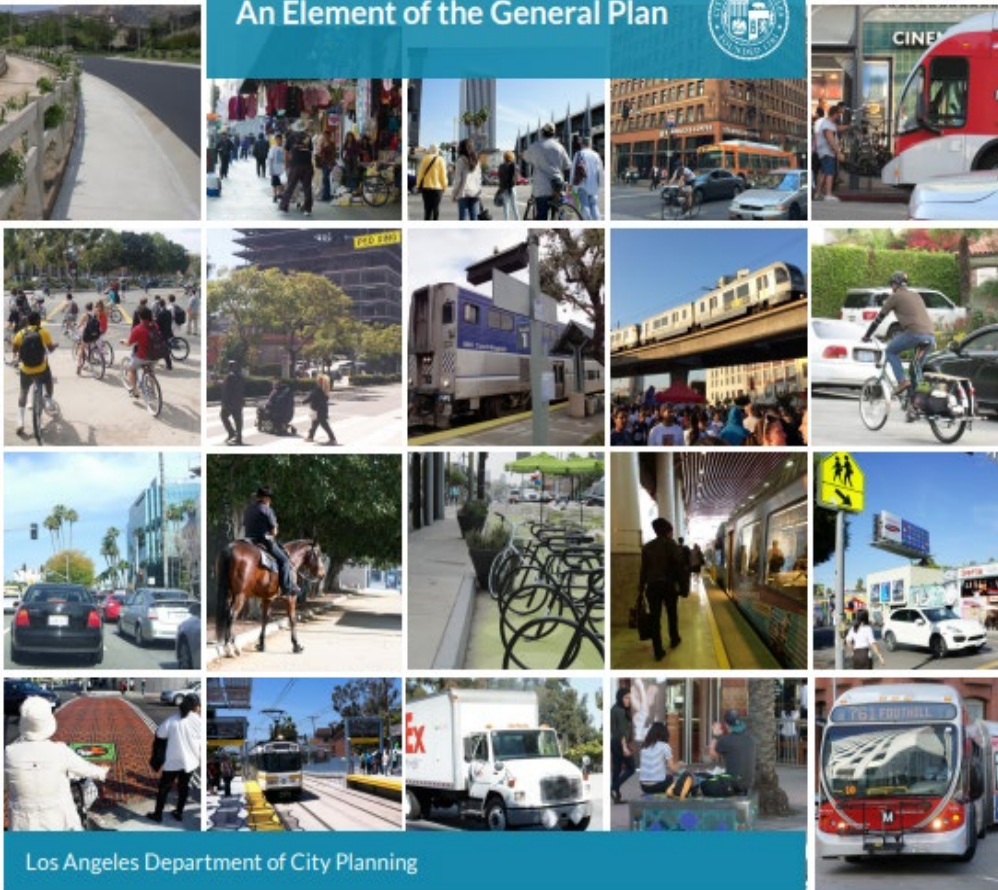
# Changes Proposed

## Board Member Terms

- Board member term limit of eight years includes non-consecutive terms of service
- Planning Staff to maintain records of board membership terms
- Planning Staff to notify members and Council offices of upcoming board term expirations

# Mobility Plan 2035

An Element of the General Plan



# Aligning with Current Ordinances

- **Processes and Procedures**
  - Updated naming conventions for discretionary projects
  - New code section added (Chapter 1A)
  
- **Mobility Plan 2035**
  - Updated naming conventions



# Language Clean Up

## Highlights of the changes include:

- Cahuenga Pass is recognized as a community as distinct from Studio City
- Code references have been updated so they refer to the proper sections
- Typos have been corrected throughout the plan, e.g. AM peak hour definition changes from “7 AM to 10 PM” to “7 AM to 10 AM”

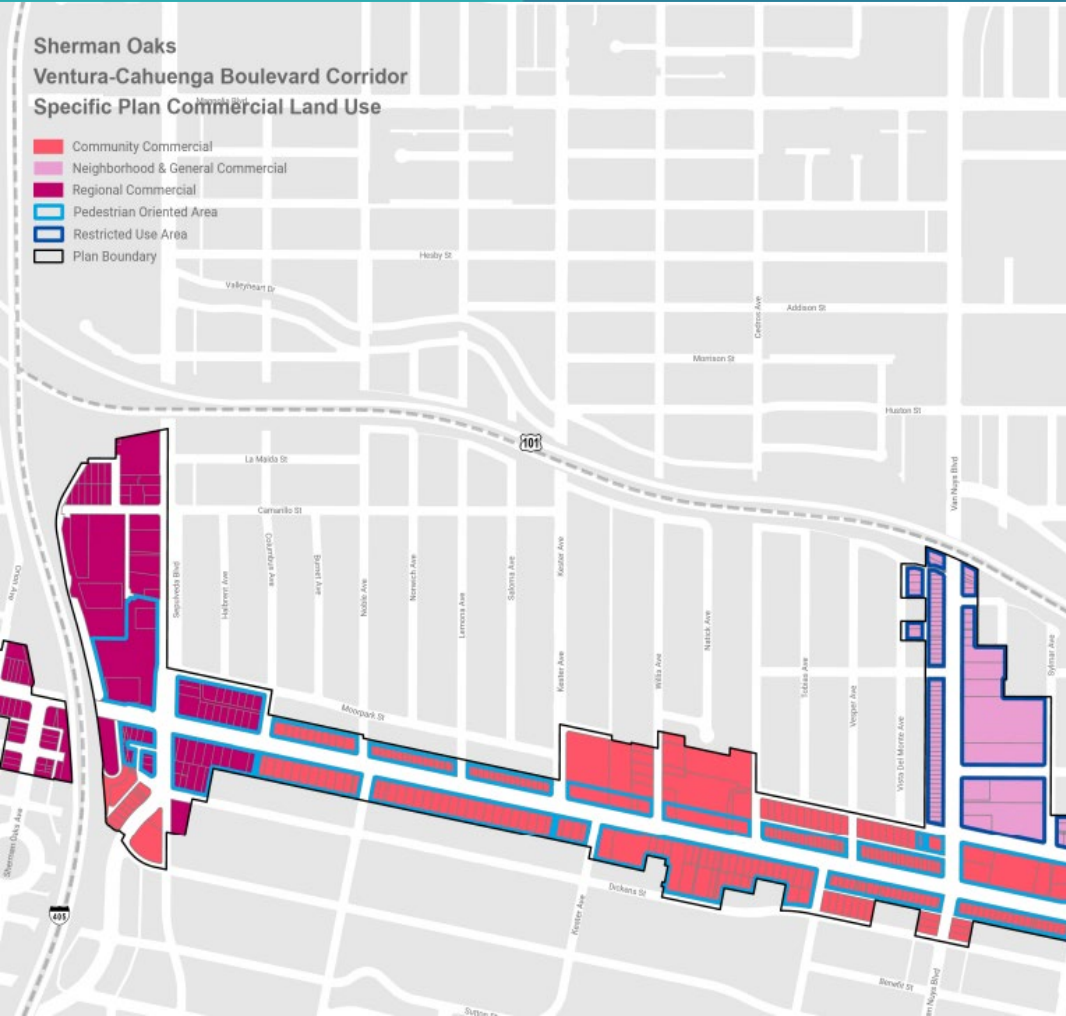






**Sherman Oaks  
Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor  
Specific Plan Commercial Land Use**

- Community Commercial
- Neighborhood & General Commercial
- Regional Commercial
- Pedestrian Oriented Area
- Restricted Use Area
- Plan Boundary



# Map Updates

## Improvements to Design

- Map design has been updated to improve legibility
- Map pages consolidated to reflect overlapping overlays together

## Map References in Plan

- Map references in the Plan updated page references for corrected set of maps

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# Next Steps

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# Follow Up & Provide Feedback

Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted by email or hardcopy through **October 5, 2023 at 5 p.m.**

To submit comments, questions, or to be placed on the interested parties list please contact City Planning staff at:

Lauren Padick, Department of City Planning  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Room 351  
Van Nuys, CA 91401  
[Lauren.Padick@lacity.org](mailto:Lauren.Padick@lacity.org)

Online at:

<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/ventura-specific-plan#contact>



Please include case number **CPC-2023-1637-SP** in any submitted correspondence

# Next Steps

## City Planning Commission

- October 26, 2023 after 8:30 AM
- Van Nuys City Hall, Council Chambers  
14410 Sylvan Street, 2nd Floor  
Van Nuys, CA 91401
- The agenda and hybrid Zoom call information will be provided no later than 72 hours before the meeting at:

[Planning4LA.org/about/commissions-boards-hearings](https://planning4la.org/about/commissions-boards-hearings)

## Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee and City Council

- TBD





# Thank you

Additional information can be found on the City Planning website:  
[planning4LA.org//plans-policies/ventura-specific-plan](http://planning4LA.org//plans-policies/ventura-specific-plan)

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# Ventura-Cahuenga Specific Plan Amendment Public Hearing


At 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
9.14.23

# Public Hearing for the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan Amendment CPC-2023-1637-SP

- This hearing is scheduled to take place from 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- No decision will be made today.
- The comments received will be incorporated into the staff report to the City Planning Commission

# How to Provide a Verbal Comment

## Instruction to provide comment and/or ask a question

- If you are joining us by Zoom, click the raise hand button  located at the bottom of your screen. If you calling in, dial \*9
- Staff will place you into the speaker queue
- Staff will call on speakers one at a time to provide a comment (by name or last 4 digits of phone number)
- You will be asked to unmute yourself during your comment period.
- You will have one opportunity to speak for the allotted time.
- Following your comment you will be removed from the queue and muted.



# How to Provide a Written Comment

- Include Case No: CPC-2023-1637-SP
- You can provide a written comment by e-mail to:
  - o Lauren Padick at [lauren.padick@lacity.org](mailto:lauren.padick@lacity.org)
- Written comments can be mailed to:
  - o Lauren Padick, Community Planning, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Room 351 Van Nuys, CA, 91401
- Comments can also be entered on our website at:
  - o <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/ventura-specific-plan#contact>
- All comments must be received by October 5, 2023 at 5:00 PM



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