



Weekly Management Report

July 24, 2026

- 1. Synopsis** Transportation Commission Meeting
on June 24, 2026
Community Development Department

- 2. Memo** Plant Based Treaty
Public Works Department

MEMORANDUM



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: July 1, 2026

TO: Justin Hess, City Manager

FROM: Patrick Prescott, Community Development Director 

VIA: David Kriske, Assistant Community Development Director –
Transportation

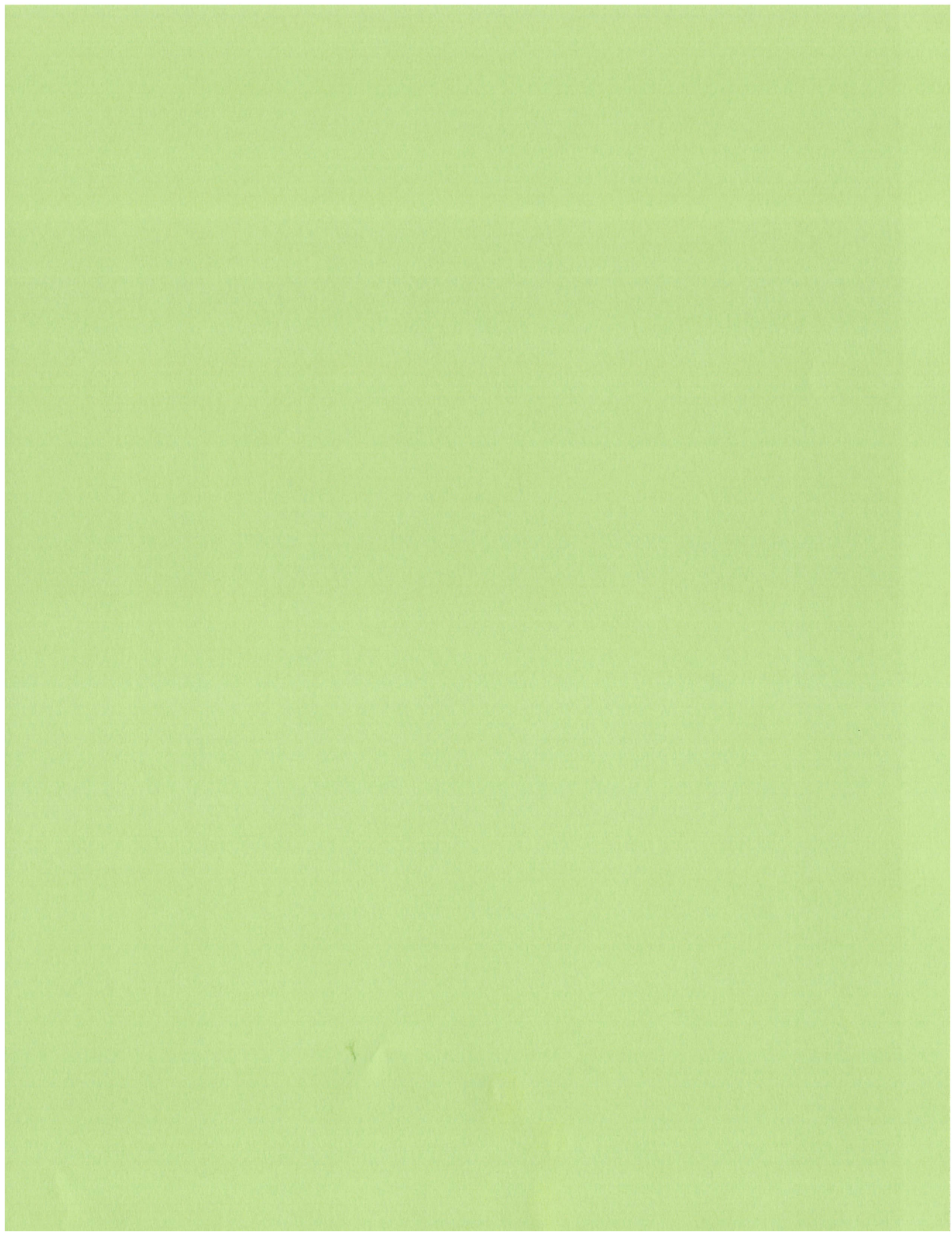
BY: Karla Aguilar, Administrative Analyst II

SUBJECT: Transportation Commission Meeting Synopsis – June 24, 2026

- The Commission reviewed the Measure M MSP-5 Subregional Fund Programming for Fiscal Years 2028-29, and 2029-30 staff report presented by Karla Aguilar.
 - Staff presented an overview of the Measure M Multi-Year Subregional Program (MSP), which distributes funding to subregions for eligible transportation projects. As a member of the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority (AVCJPA), the City of Burbank is expected to receive approximately \$7.63 million in MSP-5 funding for Fiscal Years 2028-29 and 2029-30, including approximately \$4.27 million for transit projects and \$3.36 million for modal connectivity and complete streets improvements. Staff recommended allocating the available funding to two priority projects: (1) the Olive Avenue Bridge Pedestrian Safety Improvements, which will replace the existing bridge railing with a higher safety barrier to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and transit access, and (2) the BurbankBus Transit and Maintenance Facility Improvements, which will support the adaptive reuse of City-owned property to develop a transit operations and maintenance facility capable of accommodating a future zero-emission bus fleet.
 - The Commission asked questions related to the cost of the Olive Avenue Bridge railing improvements, the long-term plans for the

bridge and future rehabilitation efforts, pedestrian safety considerations, and ownership responsibilities for the bridge. Additional discussion focused on the Boorman Steel facility, including project funding and collaborative investment by multiple City departments to support redevelopment of the facility for current and future City operational needs.

- The Commission approved a motion (7-0) accepting staff's recommendation.
- The Commission reviewed the Informational Report on the City's Previous Student Circulator Service presented by Karen Pan.
 - Staff presented an overview of the former BurbankBus Got Wheels student circulator service, which operated for approximately 10 years as a youth-only transit program serving Burbank residents ages 10 to 18. Funded through Proposition A Local Return Funds, the service-connected schools, parks, libraries, shopping centers, and other youth-oriented destinations using 21-passenger BurbankBus vehicles and provided nearly 40,000 passenger trips during its final full year of operation. Staff explained that the service was discontinued in phases in 2011 and 2013 due to transportation funding constraints, high operating costs relative to ridership, limited use primarily for school-to-home trips rather than broader community travel, and regulatory concerns regarding youth-only service eligibility under Metro Proposition A funding guidelines. Historical City Council staff reports were also provided for the Commission's reference.
 - The Commission discussed opportunities to increase awareness of existing BurbankBus youth services at local schools, particularly for City-sponsored after-school programs. Additional discussion included improving transit access for residents in the hillside area and exploring the feasibility of providing a school-area pickup and drop-off circulator service to better connect students with City programs and transit.
 - The Commission received and filed the informational report.



MEMORANDUM



**PUBLIC
WORKS**

DATE: July 21, 2026

TO: Justin Hess, City Manager

FROM: Damian Skinner, Public Works Director 

SUBJECT: Plant Based Treaty

On June 25, 2026, the Sustainable Burbank Commission submitted a letter to the City Council recommending support of the Plant Based Treaty. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City Council with an overview of the Plant Based Treaty and to outline practical strategies the City of Burbank (City) has already implemented that support plant-based food systems. These strategies reflect the City's commitment to promoting community health, advancing sustainability goals, and improving food access while maintaining individual consumer choice.

BACKGROUND

The Plant Based Treaty (Treaty) is a global grassroots initiative that places food systems at the center of efforts to address the climate crisis. A food system encompasses all the activities, infrastructure and people involved in the production of food. The intent of the Treaty is to halt the degradation of critical ecosystems associated with animal agriculture, promote a transition toward healthier and more sustainable plant-based diets, and restore ecological systems already damaged by current food production practices. The Treaty is organized around three core principles: 1) transitioning from animal-based to plant-based food systems; 2) preventing ecosystem degradation and deforestation linked to animal agriculture; and 3) restoring forests and rewilding landscapes.

According to the Plant Based Treaty organization, 77 municipalities nationally and internationally have endorsed plant-based food strategies without mandating dietary changes. Several major cities, including Los Angeles, New York City, Amsterdam, and Copenhagen, have implemented policies that increase plant-based offerings in public procurement, improve community food access, and support local food businesses.

DISCUSSION

The City of Burbank has several existing programs and initiatives available that align with the principles of the Treaty and encourage and model plant-based food system strategies. These strategies include efforts that support community access to fresh foods, opportunities for residents to grow produce, land use planning and residential composting.

Food Waste Reduction and Recovery

Food waste reduction supports broader plant-based food system strategies by reducing the amount of edible food and organic material sent to waste streams. The City has robust residential composting and organics recycling programs, and continues to work with local businesses to strengthen partnerships focused on food rescue and donation. At large-scale events such as the Starlight Bowl, the City further demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship through its Zero Waste Program that promotes waste reduction, outreach, on-site recycling and composting.

Community Access to Plant-Based Foods

Improving community access to plant-based foods is a practical strategy toward encouraging plant-based diets. The City has already strengthened access to fresh foods by supporting farmers' markets, and hosting community gardens that provide opportunities for residents to grow and access fresh produce. Improving access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy food options expands consumer choice and supports public health objectives while allowing residents to make their own dietary decisions.

Land Use Planning

Existing zoning regulations allow many food-related uses, including grocery stores, farmers markets, restaurants, and community gardens. As future planning efforts are undertaken, the City will continue to evaluate opportunities to improve access to healthy food options through neighborhood-serving commercial development.

Potential areas for further consideration include City leadership and procurement practices, community events, and voluntary recognition for local businesses.

City Leadership and Procurement and Community Events

The City can continue to evaluate opportunities to support healthy and sustainable food practices through its own operations, including expanding plant-based meal options at City meetings and events while preserving participant choice. The City may also consider the feasibility of incorporating plant-based food options into catering contracts and event-related procurement practices where appropriate and consistent with operational needs.

Any consideration of establishing plant-based food requirements for City-sponsored or community events would require further analysis to determine the appropriate scope, applicability, and implementation approach. This evaluation would include identifying the

types of events that may be impacted, developing guidelines for staff and event organizers, assessing procurement and vendor considerations, and evaluating potential fiscal, logistical, and community impacts. Any future efforts would need to balance sustainability objectives with considerations such as individual choice, event operations, vendor capacity, and alignment with broader City priorities.

Local Business Recognition

The City can consider opportunities to encourage voluntary recognition programs that encourage local businesses to participate in plant-based food system initiatives. Healthy restaurant certification programs and sustainability or green business awards could provide positive reinforcement and public visibility for businesses that adopt these practices.

Endorsement or Implementation

Endorsing the Treaty would constitute a formal expression of the City's support for the Treaty's overarching goals. Such an endorsement would not, by itself, create legally binding obligations or require specific policy changes. Implementation, however, would involve evaluating and potentially adopting individual programs, policies, or operational practices that advance objectives consistent with the Treaty's principles. Any new implementation efforts would require additional analysis, evaluation of potential costs and operational impacts, consideration of community needs and City priorities, and the allocation of appropriate staff resources.

The Treaty does not offer differing levels of participation. Jurisdictions have participated either through endorsement or by implementing programs or policies that advance the Treaty's principles based on local priorities, available resources, and policy objectives.

Although the Treaty offers many benefits for personal health and the environment, opponents argue that reducing animal agriculture would negatively affect rural economies and the livelihoods of livestock producers. They also contend that the treaty limits personal freedom by discouraging or restricting consumption of animal-based foods. Additional concerns include potential food security risks associated with reliance on plant-only systems and the erosion of cultural food traditions. Opposition further increases when plant-based catering is mandated for public events or institutions, which many view as excessive government overreach.

The City has already implemented a number of initiatives that support healthy, sustainable, and resilient food systems independent of any formal endorsement of the Treaty and will continue to evaluate opportunities that are appropriate and feasible.

CONCLUSION

The City is committed to supporting community health, environmental sustainability, and equitable food access and supports an existing suite of impactful programs and activities that facilitate plant-based dietary choices. Residents who choose to reduce or eliminate

animal products have access to multiple local options for procuring or producing food, and the City will continue to evaluate opportunities to enhance and expand these efforts where appropriate in alignment with City priorities. Given these existing efforts, staff recommends that the City Council continue supporting the City's current programs aligned with the principles of the Treaty and consider additional opportunities as they arise.