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MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

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THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH ISSUE

Getting around is king

Residents mull transportation issues in updating LUCE plan

BY MELODY HANATANI I Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER AREA Frustrated with the ongoing transportation issues — from a lack of parking spaces to minimal transportation options — Santa Monicans appear ready to go the extra mile to remove that seemingly permanent thorn in their side.

About 100 residents and local business owners participated in a city-sponsored workshop focused on alleviating transportation woes in Santa Monica. The workshop, which was held on Thursday at the Civic Center, was part of City Hall's efforts to update the Land Use and Circulation Element general plan.

The workshop was a follow-up to the first LUCE meeting that focused specifically on transportation issues in October, an all-day event in which residents brainstormed ideas for the different purposes transportation needs to serve in order to meet the city's larger goals.

City staff and consultants took the results of that original workshop and formulated so-called transportation principles, which included beliefs that the transportation system in Santa Monica should be less frustrating and more enjoyable, and that transportation and parking "must be managed carefully as a limited renewable resource." Each principle was accompanied by a set of potential programs and policies, ranging from creating a car-share program to creating residential parking benefit districts.

"We want to make sure if there is change in Santa

Monica, it makes Santa Monica better," said Jeffrey Tumlin, the city's transportation consultant for the LUCE project.

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