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NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: John McDowell, Program Planning Manager, 299-1354
SUBJECT: Request Board of Supervisors accept Airport Area Bicycle Route Study

RECOMMENDATION

Directors of Public Works and Conservation, Development and Planning request the Board of Supervisors review and accept as complete the Airport Area Bicycle Route Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October, 2004, the Board of Supervisors accepted a grant in the amount of \$68,635 from the Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a Feasibility Study of potential bicycle and pedestrian routes in the Highway 29 corridor between the Cities of Napa and American Canyon which would be eligible for designation as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail project. The consulting firm of LandPeople was awarded the contract and prepared the study under the oversight of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of staff members from: Public Works, Conservation, Development and Planning, City of Napa, City of American Canyon, Napa County Transportation Planning Agency and the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Bay Trail. The report identifies preferred routes consisting of a commuter route primarily located on/adjacent to existing and future surface streets in the Airport Industrial Area, and a secondary recreational route following a more circuitous alignment near the marshlands adjacent to the Napa river. With the study completed, the County will be eligible for future grant funding from San Francisco Bay Trail sources. The study does not commit the County to any specified alignment, and merely identifies preferred/possible routes for future trail/route alignments.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is **not a project** as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15262 (State CEQA Guidelines) consisting of a feasibility study.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

This Feasibility Study was funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Impact Assistance Program. The program provides grant assistance to local governments for trail planning and construction. In the greater Bay Area, this program has been used for projects related to the San Francisco Bay Trail. The goal of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project is to complete a continuous trail for pedestrians and cyclists around the bay. Large gaps exist in the Bay Trail throughout the North Bay, including through Napa County's Airport Industrial Area.

The study's primary objective was to identify the most cost effective route between the Cities of Napa and American Canyon with an emphasis on facilitating commuters in response to the predominately industrial land use setting within the study area. It was felt that commuters and business park employees would be the most likely regular users of pedestrian and cyclist facilities in the industrial area. As a secondary objective, the study looked at recreation-oriented routing.

Attached is the study's executive summary. The Study identifies two preferred routes. The first route, oriented to commuters, and identified as the most cost effective route, would run primarily along existing and future streets within the industrial park. Pedestrians would use sidewalks and cyclists would use on-street, Class 2, bike lanes consistent with the roadway improvement plans established in the 1986 Airport Industrial Area Specific Plan. This route is the most cost effective, because the majority of improvements would ultimately be installed by property owners as industrial development occurs (as required by the 1986 Specific Plan). Most constraints to completing a continuous trail are located in the vicinity on the Napa Pipe, Syar and Kennedy Park properties where conflicts with existing industrial uses are compounded by limited public rights-of-way, water features and railroad tracks.

The secondary, recreation-oriented route connects American Canyons Wetlands Edge Road Path with Napa's Kennedy Park, along with a trail located in the transitional area between the Napa River Marshlands/Estuary and the Airport Industrial Area. The trail would be possible on existing dikes and roadways located on a variety of primarily publicly-owned lands west of the Napa County Airport. The report concludes that this pure recreation-oriented trail would have substantial costs associated with crossing water features and avoiding significant impacts to environmentally sensitive areas.

County staff is greatly appreciative of the efforts from other governmental entities that participated in the study's preparation, most notably staff from the City of Napa, City of American Canyon, Napa County Transportation Planning Agency, and the Association of Bay Area Governments. The study will improve the County's ability to obtain future grants funds for implementing Bay Trail projects within the study area. In addition, the study will be a valuable, up-to-date resource document for our current efforts updating the County General Plan, specifically in relation to Recreation/Open Space Element and Circulation Element. The study does not commit the County to any particular alignment, and merely is intended as guidance and/or a tool for future land use decisions.

The executive summary is attached. Copies of the entire study are available on request from Conservation, Development and Planning Department or the Public Works Department.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Airport Area Bicycle Route Study

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey