



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 11/2/2016

Agenda Placement: 10A

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission

FROM: David Morrison - Director
Planning, Building and Environmental Services

REPORT BY: Rick Marshall, Deputy Director of Public Works - Engr - (707) 259-8381

SUBJECT: Presentation of NVTA Countywide Pedestrian Plan

RECOMMENDATION

COUNTYWIDE PEDESTRIAN PLAN PRESENTATION - NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Request: Presentation and discussion on the NVTA Countywide Pedestrian Plan.

Staff Recommendation: Information and discussion item. No action proposed.

Staff Contact: Rick Marshall, Deputy Public Works Director, 259-8381, rick.marshall@countyofnapa.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) has worked together with representatives of the County of Napa, as well as other local agencies and stakeholder groups, in preparation of the first Countywide Pedestrian Plan. The plan presents a vision for providing a pedestrian network for Napa County and all its local jurisdictions that is well-connected, safe and enjoyable for residents and visitors. The development of the network is supported by a series of recommended policies and programs such as public outreach and education. The Pedestrian Plan will be combined with the previously-adopted Countywide Bicycle Plan to form a comprehensive Active Transportation Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The presentation and discussion is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable. NVTA has prepared a mitigated negative declaration for the project, and as lead agency, NVTA is responsible for certifying the environmental document.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa Countywide Pedestrian Plan is the county's first pedestrian master plan. Its development has offered a unique opportunity to have a countywide conversation regarding pedestrian needs and opportunities, and to establish a policy framework and implementation plan that will enhance pedestrian mobility and safety. To achieve consistency throughout county jurisdictions, to better assist local agencies with improvements to their pedestrian facilities, and to take advantage of new funding sources, NVTA identified the need to create this plan, beginning work in October 2014.

The plan was developed over an 18-month period, during which a consultant (Fehr & Peers of San Francisco) worked with staff from NVTA, the County, as well as representatives of other local and regional agencies and other interested stakeholders. Public workshops were held throughout the County in Winter 2015. Participants were invited to provide input on vision and goals for the plan, needed pedestrian improvements, as well as barriers to pedestrian activity. They were also provided information regarding best practices and pedestrian collision histories in the area. In addition to these workshops, an online comment site was made available, in which residents could make comments about specific locations in an interactive mapping tool.

The plan provides the background, direction and tools needed to improve the active transportation network to encourage walking in Napa County and to improve safety for all users. It identifies and prioritizes pedestrian projects, programs and planning efforts of countywide significance. It will be an important tool for the coordination and programming of projects among all local jurisdictions. The Pedestrian Plan will be combined with the previously-adopted Countywide Bicycle Plan to form a comprehensive Active Transportation Plan. Both the Pedestrian Plan and the Bicycle Plan contain all elements required to be eligible to seek funding from the State's Active Transportation Program.

The Pedestrian Plan has three major components. The first is a countywide overview, which describes elements that are common to all six Napa County jurisdictions. The Introduction includes vision/goals/policies, countywide walking trends such as mode split and travel patterns and forecasted pedestrian demand, and collision trends. This section also includes a review of the community input process which was used in developing the plan.

The plan proposes the following vision statement: "To provide a pedestrian network that is well connected, safe, and enjoyable for Napa County residents and visitors of all levels of mobility. This plan aims to increase the number of pedestrian trips and to set the groundwork for a shift in travel mode choice such that non-motorized options are widely available, accessible, and convenient. Through implementation of this plan and future updates, all Napa County residents, regardless of age or income level, should have easy walking access to their community and the services and amenities that it offers."

The following goals are proposed, along with supportive policies for implementation:

1. Provide a connected network of pedestrian sidewalks, trails, and pathways in the County and its jurisdictions that are safe and accessible to a variety of users and that foster community interactions.
2. Encourage a multimodal transportation system.
3. Obtain funding for pedestrian projects.

4. Encourage and educate residents about walking and enforce safe interactions between pedestrians and motorists.

The second major component of the plan is a set of six community plans, one each for the four cities, one town and the County unincorporated area. The County's plan includes an evaluation of existing plans, policies and programs, with recommendations for moving toward best practices in the field. The consultant performed an inventory of approximately 56 miles of County roads in areas identified by staff as having the highest potential for pedestrian activity, noting that most unincorporated areas do not have sidewalks. The plan includes a summary of existing activity levels and a review of pedestrian-related collision history.

A key component of the County plan was a "walk audit" performed by the consultant in coordination with staff from the County, NVRTA and local stakeholder groups. Based on input received during the public outreach phase, the community of Angwin was selected for the walk audit to be included in the Pedestrian Plan. Stakeholders for the walk audit of Angwin included representatives of the County Office of Education (Safe Routes to School Program), Howell Mountain Elementary School and Pacific Union College. The plan identifies a group of specific recommended pedestrian improvements for Angwin, and recommends relative priority among them. The audit was conducted in a manner which can serve as a template for other unincorporated areas going forward, including identifying priorities among recommended improvements. Most beneficial will be the extensive listing of best practices for pedestrian facilities which will serve as a toolbox for County staff in addressing pedestrian needs not only in Angwin but throughout the unincorporated area, which is included in the appendix to the countywide plan. County staff was careful to guide the consultant to include measures which are appropriate for rural settings typical of the majority of the unincorporated area.

The third major component of the plan, the Implementation section, discusses Support Programs, such as Safe Routes to School, monitoring and safety programs, and performance goals.

A group of appendices specific to the County plan provide the details of some elements which are summarized in the body of the plan, such as benchmarking existing County programs, policies and practices, and details and cost estimates for the recommended pedestrian improvements in the Angwin community. Appendices to the countywide plan include details of the community outreach performed in development of the plan, the planning methodology used, potential grant funding sources, and the "Best Practices Toolkit" mentioned above. The latter is included in the attachments to this report.

Staff from Planning, Building & Environmental Services, and from Public Works, have participated throughout the development of the updated plan, and are pleased to present these documents to the Commission for review. The plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption following the Commission's review. This will then make the County eligible for funding bikeway improvements through grants from the State Active Transportation Program.

Attached for information are the following plan components. The complete set of plan documents is available at: <http://www.nvta.ca.gov/countywide-pedestrian-master-plan>

1. Chapter 1. Countywide Introduction
2. Chapter 7. Unincorporated County Plan
3. Chapter 8. Countywide Implementation
4. Appendices specific to the unincorporated area
5. Countywide Appendix D. Best Practices Toolkit

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Chapter 1. Countywide Introduction
- B . Chapter 7. Unincorporated County Plan
- C . Chapter 8. Countywide Implementation
- D . Appendices specific to unincorporated area
- E . Countywide Appendix D. Best Practices Toolkit

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell