



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/1/2012
Agenda Placement: 10A

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission
FROM: John McDowell for Gitelman, Hillary - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: Rick Marshall, Deputy Director of Public Works - Engr - (707) 259-8381
SUBJECT: Presentation of NCTPA Countywide Bicycle Plan

RECOMMENDATION

COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE PLAN PRESENTATION - NAPA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING AGENCY

Request: Presentation and discussion on the updated NCTPA Countywide Bicycle 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 County Transportation & Planning Agency (NCTPA) has worked together with representatives of the County of Napa, as well as other local agencies and stakeholder groups, in preparation of an update of the Countywide Bicycle Plan. The updated plan presents a 25-year vision for developing a comprehensive "Bicycle System" for Napa County and all its local jurisdictions. The Bicycle System is comprised of the "Bicycle Network," which is the series of interconnected bikeways throughout the County, cities and town; along with enhancement of bicycle safety, provision of support facilities such as parking, and programs to increase education and awareness of bicycling for the public.

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. NCTPA has prepared a mitigated negative declaration for the project, and as lead agency, NCTPA is responsible for certifying the environmental document.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa Countywide Bicycle Plan was last updated in 2003. This update has been developed at a time when there has been a strong surge of interest in bicycling in Napa County, as well as in the Bay Area region, the nation and the world. The update is a cooperatively-developed 25-year vision for building a complete Bicycle System for the communities within Napa County. It presents a carefully chosen set of specific goals, objectives and policies to guide the ongoing evolution of the system. In the plan, "Bicycle System" is defined as "the whole of all the components, including both physical and programmatic." One major component of the Bicycle System is the "Bicycle Network" which is defined as the "interconnected set of physical bikeways."

The updated plan has two major components. The first is a countywide overview, which describes elements that are common to all six Napa County jurisdictions, including vision/goals/objectives/policies, background, existing conditions, recommended Bicycle System. The second is a set of six community plans, one each for the four cities, one town and the County unincorporated area.

The plan was developed over an 18-month period, during which a consultant (W Trans of Santa Rosa) worked with staff from NCTPA, the County, as well as representatives of other local and regional agencies and other interested stakeholders. Public participation was coordinated through the agencies' various Bicycle Advisory Committees, as well as two well-publicized and well-attended public workshops.

The plan proposes the following vision for bicycling in Napa County: "There will be a comprehensive, interconnected bicycle system throughout Napa County, including connections to the rest of the Bay Area region. There will also be development patterns and programs that will support access to this system and provide people with safe, convenient and enjoyable bicycling experiences. Bicycling is common for everyday trips and recreation, contributing to the quality of life in Napa and the health, safety and welfare of its residents, workers and visitors. Napa is known as a bicycle-friendly community, achieving the highest level of certification from the League of American Bicyclists, with a 'world class' bicycling system."

The principal goal of the plan is to develop a safe and comprehensive bicycle transportation and recreation system, that provides access, opportunities for healthy physical activity, and reduced traffic congestion and energy use. To achieve this vision and goal, the following objectives are proposed, along with supportive policies for implementation:

1. Establish a comprehensive, safe, connected countywide bicycle transportation and recreation system to support increases in bicycle trips made throughout the County to 10 percent of all trips by 2035.
2. Utilize accepted design standards and "best practices" to facilitate completion of a connected bicycle system that is safe, convenient and enjoyable to use.
3. Develop and enhance opportunities for bicyclists to easily access public transit and other transportation resources.
4. Ensure development of comprehensive support facilities for bicycling such as short- and long-term bicycle parking, end of trip amenities, bicycle staging areas, repair stations and other resources such as bicycle maps, guide information and on-line tools.
5. Create a countywide bicycle system that is perceived to be safe for bicyclists of all types and age groups, and work to reduce collisions involving bicyclists by 50 percent by the year 2035.

6. Support and strengthen local land use policies for compact, mixed use development in appropriate areas, and for designing and constructing bicycle facilities as part of new development projects.
7. Develop programs and public outreach materials to promote safety and the positive benefits of bicycling.
8. Continue to update and integrate bicycle-related transportation projects into land use and recreation plans and roadway improvement projects.
9. Maintain and/or improve the quality, operation and integrity of bicycle infrastructure.
10. Work to maximize the amount of funding to implement bicycle projects and programs throughout the county.

Staff from Conservation, Development & Planning, 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 in March. This will then make the County eligible for funding bikeway improvements through grants from the State Bicycle Transportation Account.

The *Executive Summary* from the Countywide Plan is attached, along with a series of figures from the County plan which depict the recommended Bicycle Network. The complete set of plan documents is available at:

<http://www.nctpa.net/bikeplans.html>

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Executive Summary
- B . Bicycle Network - North Valley
- C . Bicycle Network - Mid Valley
- D . Bicycle Network - Napa area
- E . Bicycle Network - South Valley

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell