

Resolution No. 2024-XXX N.C.S. of the City of Petaluma, California

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S REGIONAL MEASURE 3 SAFE ROUTES TO TRANSIT AND BAY TRAIL PROGRAM FOR THE PETALUMA RIVER TRAIL – US-101 AND RAIL UNDERCROSSINGS PROJECT AND CONFIRMING THE AVAILABILITY OF MATCHING FUNDS

WHEREAS, on May 20, 1996, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 96-138 N.C.S., adopting the Petaluma River Access and Enhancement Plan, which provides a comprehensive plan for the Petaluma River, including for public access and riverfront trails; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2008, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2008-084 N.C.S., adopting General Plan 2025, a comprehensive and integrated statement of development policies and principles that guide future growth within Petaluma; and

WHEREAS, General Plan 2025 and the appended Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan call for the development of riverfront trails originally outlined in the River Access and Enhancement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to implement a section of the River Trail, referred to as the US-101 and Rail Undercrossings Project (Project), that runs along the north bank of the Petaluma River between the Riverfront neighborhood and Petaluma Marina, a key gap for which the only available alternative is Lakeville Highway; and

WHEREAS, the Project would connect people walking, bicycling, and rolling with the City's waterfront while also overcoming several major barriers to active transportation—US-101, Lakeville Highway, and an active railroad—that impede travel between downtown, local and regional transit connections, commercial and employment centers, residential neighborhoods, and 500 acres of wetland parks; and

WHEREAS, staff has closely reviewed the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Measure 3 Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Program criteria and finds the Project to be closely aligned with the Program's stated goals to improve safety and mobility options, implement the Bay Trail and other regional plans and policies, connect people with transit; and

WHEREAS, the Project is included in the City's Capital Improvement Program budget (Project C16101519); and

WHEREAS, matching funds are available for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Petaluma as follows:

1. Declares the above recitals are hereby declared to be true and correct and are incorporated into this resolution as findings of the City Council.
2. This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as submitting a grant application does not meet CEQA's definition of a

“project” because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The proposed Project will be subject to environmental review and approvals before any construction activities occur. The environmental document(s) will be determined when the City receives funding for and initiates the planning, environmental review, and design phase.

3. Authorizes staff to submit a grant application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Regional Measure 3 Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Program for the Petaluma River Trail – US-101 and Rail Undercrossings Project and confirms the availability of matching funds.

Under the power and authority conferred upon this Council by the Charter of said City.

REFERENCE:

I hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Council of the City of Petaluma at a Regular meeting on the 7th day of October 2024 by the following vote:

Approved as to
form:

City Attorney

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor