

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Public Comment

From: E [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 11:01 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public comment

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Dear Committee Members,

It is great to have this draft of the Active Transportation Plan. The improvements are much needed and valuable to improve safe, convenient, accessible, and affordable mobility throughout town.

Please advocate for a rapid start and completion of the E. Washington Corridor Study.

Page 8 of the draft ATP indicates the serious safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists on E. Washington. Travel to/from McKinley School is served by E Washington, which is noted as a High Injury Network in Sonoma County. The safety of active transportation along this route is critical, which is deeply integrated with safe and reliable public transportation, particularly for schools.

It is great to see the portion from Petaluma Blvd N - Lakeville St slated for a protected bikeway (page 33 of the draft ATP). However, active transportation improvements like these must rapidly be completed from the portion between Lakeville and McDowell as this serves a huge number of businesses, major events at the Fairgrounds, the train station, schools, and more.

The data is clear. The February 2025 literature review from the Journal of Transport and Land Use entitled "The benefits of active transportation interventions: A review of the evidence." (source: <https://jtlu.org/index.php/jtlu/article/view/2468>) cites 238 studies and provides comprehensive support for the conclusion of the significant benefits of investing in active transportation. It is unusual to get a review of such a magnitude in the active transportation space, and it lends significant credibility to the efforts we are all part of to strengthen Petaluma's mobility options.

The Bikeway Network map indicates that a large portion of E. Washington (& Washington) is indicated for a Corridor Study. We cannot delay safety improvements to E. Washington. E Washington needs to be a top priority, not only for the critical safety concerns but also to facilitate economic vitality along this commerce corridor and as an inviting gateway into our historic downtown.