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DATE: April 15, 2025

TO: Transit Advisory Committee

FROM: Bjorn Gripenburg, MCRP - Transportation Planner, Public Works Department (PWD)  
Jeff Stutsman, PE, TE - Deputy Director of Operations, PWD

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Review and Provide Feedback on the Draft Active Transportation Plan

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Transit Advisory Committee review and provide feedback on the Draft Active Transportation Plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Petaluma is nearing completion of its Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The ATP is the City's "action plan" for all things related to active transportation — mobility via walking, biking, and other wheeled and self-powered means. The ATP identifies and prioritizes infrastructure projects, as well as education, encouragement, and enforcement programs or actions aimed at improving active transportation. The ATP is an update to the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which was adopted in 2008 by City Council as an appendix to General Plan 2025.

The ATP was developed concurrently and in close coordination with the City's General Plan Update (GPU), which is a long-range plan guiding Petaluma's physical development, including in transportation. While the GPU provides high-level and long-range policy and planning guidance, the ATP goes into greater detail regarding specific actions to improve active transportation. The ATP was also developed in coordination with the City's Climate Action Plan, the Blueprint for Climate Action.

Additionally, the ATP seeks to build upon several previous planning efforts with active transportation components:

- Petaluma River Access and Enhancement Plan (1996)
- Central Petaluma Specific Plan (2003)
- Petaluma SMART Rail Station Areas: TOD Master Plan (2013)
- City of Petaluma Climate Emergency Framework (2021)
- City of Petaluma Local Road Safety Plan (2022)
- City of Petaluma Blueprint for Climate Action (2024)

Community engagement inputs that informed the development of the draft ATP are noted below under “Public Outreach.”

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff will present key elements of the draft ATP (Attachment 1) to help guide the Transit Advisory Committee and community members through the document. Contents include:

- 1) **Introduction:** A high-level overview of the ATP’s purpose and development, as well as reasons to invest in active transportation.
- 2) **Vision & Goals:** The document’s guiding statements.
- 3) **Baseline Report:** A summary of existing conditions, including opportunities and constraints, travel behavior, and collision data.
- 4) **Action Plan:** Action items not related to specific infrastructure projects that will advance the Plan’s Vision and Goals.
- 5) **Proposed Infrastructure Improvements:** Proposed bikeway, pathway, sidewalk, and crossing improvements, as well as design guidance for each.
- 6) **Implementation:** A summary of implementation strategies and potential funding sources for infrastructure improvements.

Key sections are summarized below.

### **Draft Vision & Goals**

#### *Vision*

Petaluma is a world-class active living city where walking, biking, and rolling are a celebrated part of everyday life; where safe and inviting streets and trails form the fabric of a thriving, connected community; where people of all ages and physical abilities prefer to use active transportation.

#### *Goals:*

- **Vision Zero:** By 2030, reach the City’s Vision Zero goal of eliminating fatalities and severe injuries among vulnerable road users (people traveling outside of motorized vehicles).
- **Build the Network:** By 2030, build a safe, integrated, and seamless active transportation network that encourages people of all ages and abilities to conveniently travel from anywhere in the City to schools, parks, community gathering spaces, transit connections, services, dining, shopping, and jobs.
- **Beautiful, Inviting, and Comfortable Streets, Sidewalks, and Trails:** Maintain and continually enhance streets, sidewalks and multi-use trails with elements and amenities that make them more beautiful, inviting, and comfortable, such as trees, lighting, seating, water fountains, and public art.
- **Promote and Celebrate:** Make active transportation an integrated, celebrated part of everyday life through education and encouragement.

## **Action Plan**

The Action Plan is intended to help define, prioritize, and track progress on discrete efforts not related to a specific infrastructure project that will advance the ATP’s Vision and Goals. Action items are grouped by the following categories:

- Infrastructure Planning & Design
- Infrastructure Buildout
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Education & Encouragement
- Public Safety & Enforcement
- Capacity Building & Professional Development
- Evaluation

## **Proposed Infrastructure Improvements**

This chapter includes maps and project lists that identify proposed bikeway, sidewalk, trail, and intersection/crossing improvements, as well as design guidance. While the maps and project lists will help determine the locations and types of improvements needed, design guidance will describe the recommended design criteria and elements that should be applied to these projects.

## **Next Steps**

Staff will make revisions to the draft ATP in response to feedback received at this meeting, 2) at the April 8, 2025 joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee, 3) at an April 21, 2025 City Council Workshop, and 4) through comments submitted

via the project webpage at [cityofpetaluma.org/atp](http://cityofpetaluma.org/atp). A final draft will return to City Council for consideration of adoption in the coming months, with timing dependent on the breadth of feedback received and revisions required.

Following plan adoption, the actual timing and implementation of action items or infrastructure projects identified in the plan may depend on technical feasibility, additional community engagement, staffing and funding levels, City Council priorities, and City Council approvals through the annual budget. The ATP will be referenced by staff in the Public Works Department as they create workplans, prepare draft operating and capital budgets for City Council consideration, and seek implementation opportunities.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The draft ATP was informed through several community engagement inputs that have included the following:

- Reviews of comments received through the Local Road Safety Plan, Safe Streets Nomination Program, US-101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossings Study, and Safe Routes to School parent surveys, walk audits, and task force meetings
- Partnership with the Petaluma Equitable Climate Action Coalition's (PECAC) 2023 cohort, which conducted its own focus groups and provided recommendations related to active transportation, with a focus on equity
- Partnership with CityThread, a transportation nonprofit which conducted its own focus groups and provided recommendations related to active transportation, with a focus on project delivery
- Tabling at community events related to active transportation, such as Ciclovía, a SMART pathway ribbon cutting, and Bike to Work Day
- A mapping exercise involving local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups
- An online map feedback tool
- A community workshop
- Numerous presentations to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee and input from ad hoc committees

### **COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT**

Completion of the Active Transportation Plan was included in the City's updated Goals and Priorities for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26 under "Policies, Programs, and Plans."

### **CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS**

The ATP identifies projects and programs to promote the ease and convenience of walking, bicycling, and rolling, thereby improving transportation options and reducing vehicle trips and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is Petaluma's leading source of greenhouse

gas emissions, at 66.5 percent. Adoption of the plan will implement Blueprint for Climate Action cornerstone action item AT-1(e): Active transportation and complete street improvements.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This study session item is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2), in that it does not meet CEQA’s definition of a “project,” because the discussion does not have the potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

There are no financial impacts associated with this discussion item.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Active Transportation Plan – April 2025
2. Proposed Bikeway Network – Enlarged Map