



CITY OF PETALUMA

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Kevin McDonnell
Mayor

October 7, 2024

Brian Barnacle
Janice Cader-Thompson,
Dist. 1
Mike Healy
Karen Nau, *Dist. 3*
Dennis Pocekay
John Shribbs, *Dist. 2*
Councilmembers

Re: City of Petaluma's Application to the Regional Measure 3 Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Program for the Petaluma River Trail – US-101 and Rail Undercrossings Project

To Whom It May Concern:

On October 7, 2024, City Council approved the attached Resolution authorizing staff to submit a grant application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Program (SR2TBT) for the Petaluma River Trail – US-101 and Rail Undercrossings Project and confirming the availability of matching funds.

This project would connect people travelling by foot and bike with Petaluma's waterfront while also overcoming several major barriers to active transportation—US-101, Lakeville Highway, and an active railroad—that impede travel between downtown, the City's transit hub (including regional rail and buses), commercial and employment centers, residential neighborhoods, and 500 acres of wetland parks. Currently, the only way through the area is on Lakeville Highway, a heavily-trafficked state highway with four lanes of fast-moving traffic, no bike lanes, and a narrow sidewalk. Lakeville Highway is part of the Sonoma County High-Injury Network due to a high rate of traffic collisions resulting in severe injuries or deaths, including an 89-year old man who was tragically killed while bicycling on Lakeville Highway toward the US-101 undercrossing in 2019.

In addition to providing a much-needed connection through this challenging area, the project would fulfill a crucial linkage in the Petaluma River Trail, a long-held vision to connect people with and along a six-mile stretch of the river that runs through and defines the City's natural landscape. The River Trail is part of a larger regional vision for active transportation, connecting to and sharing alignments with the Great Redwood Trail/SMART Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Bay Trail, and proposed Petaluma-Sebastopol Trail. Planned improvements include a paved multi-use trail with natural surface shoulders, viewing and seating areas, lighting, wayfinding, educational signage, and other trail amenities.

As you will see in the letters attached to this application, this project has strong backing from a broad coalition of stakeholders, including environmental and park organizations, local and regional agencies, local schools and educational institutions, and active transportation organizations.

Through this letter and the attached Resolution, I am confirming the availability of a 20 percent match in the amount of \$1,323,000 consisting of \$50,000 in Developer Contributions earmarked to this project and \$1,273,000 in Traffic Mitigation Impact Fees. Our team is aggressively pursuing other funding opportunities to leverage in lieu of Traffic Mitigation Impact Fees.

Thank you for your strong consideration of the proposed project. Our City leadership enthusiastically supports this project as we strive toward our adopted goals to complete the River Trail, eliminate severe injuries and deaths resulting from traffic collisions, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Sincerely,

Peggy Flynn, City Manager
City of Petaluma