



CITY OF PETALUMA

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Kevin McDonnell
Mayor

September 4, 2024

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

RE: Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee Letter of Support for the Petaluma River Trail – US-101 and SMART Undercrossings Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Public Works & Utilities

Administration and Engineering

1318 Redwood Way, Ste. 120
Petaluma, CA 94954

City Engineer

11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
Phone (707) 778-4303

Environmental Services

Ellis Creek Water
Recycling Facility
3890 Cypress Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954
Phone (707) 776-3777
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Petaluma Airport and Marina

601 Sky Ranch Dr.
Petaluma, CA 94954
Phone (707) 778-4404

Streets Maintenance

840 Hopper St.
Petaluma, CA 94952
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Transit Division

555 N. McDowell Blvd.
Petaluma, CA 94954
Phone (707) 778-4421

Utilities & Field Operations

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On September 4, 2024 the City of Petaluma's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) authorized this letter of support for the City's upcoming grant funding applications for the Petaluma River Trail – US-101 and SMART Undercrossings Project.

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 Valerio Estrada, an 80-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.

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

Sincerely,

Marja Tarr, Chair
Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee