



DATE: September 4, 2024

TO: Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee

FROM: Bjorn Gripenburg, MCRP, Project Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Authorize the Chair to Provide Updated Letters of Support for the Petaluma River Trail - US-101 and SMART Undercrossings Project

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) authorize the Chair to provide updated letters of support for the Petaluma River Trail - US-101 and SMART Undercrossings Project.

BACKGROUND

The Petaluma River Trail - US-101 and SMART Undercrossings Project is a planned 0.5-mile multi-use trail between the Petaluma Marina and an existing section of River Trail that terminates at Bautista and Soto Way in the Riverfront neighborhood. The project would connect people travelling by foot and bike with the 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.

The project is included in several planning documents, including the River Access and Enhancement Plan, which was adopted in 1996, and has been in the City’s Capital Improvement Program since FY2015-16.



Project Map

DISCUSSION

Staff has identified two upcoming grant opportunities to fund work needed to bring the project to shovel-ready status, including environmental review/permitting and design. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee last authorized the Chair to sign a letter of support for the project on June 1, 2022.

CITYWIDE GOALS & PRIORITIES

The Capital Improvement Program serves as a comprehensive catalog of community needs. Each year, the Council adopts a budget for the fiscal year that allocates funds and resources to priority projects. This project is included in the FY2024-2025 Adopted Budget under CIP-81. The full FY2024-2025 Adopted Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget can be found here: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/documents/fiscal-year-2025-adopted-budget/>

The project also supports City Council's Active Transportation Plan Goal, a top priority for 2024, as well as the following Council Workplan Items:

- #18: Establish and improve paths, as useful transportation options, and make walking and biking easy, fun and safe.

- #19: Establish bicycle and walking paths and other river access amenities along the Petaluma River as identified in the River Access and Enhancement Plan.
- #79: Improve traffic safety through proactive education, engineering, and enforcement strategies.
- #85: Implement City Vision Zero plan with a focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety with improvements to uncontrolled crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalk, and bicycle infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A. Letter of Support