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To: [-- City Council](#); [-- City Clerk](#); [Peggy Flynn](#)
Subject: Active Transportation 10/16/23 Workshop
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Good evening,

Petaluma needs more and better bike lanes and multi-use pathways. Much in the way that the City set the standard with the first Urban Growth Boundary that eventually spread throughout the North Bay, the City can set the standard for bike and pedestrian access.

I would love few things more than to be able to think about a place in Petaluma and say "Time to hop on the bike". I bike around as much as I can, but there are sections that I am afraid to go, or that are difficult to navigate. My family loves to bike. My children bike to school, I occasionally bike to the SMART station downtown, my wife and I bike to dinner, and my family frequently bikes to church.

It can be fun, and it can be scary.

The age of the automobile should end. I can think of few, if any, cities in America better suited for aggressive bike and pedestrian infrastructure than Petaluma. There is no reason that Petaluma cannot be among the likes of cities in the Netherlands, but there is only one way to get there.

And that way requires the political will to take action towards the goal.

It will take years. And funding mechanisms.

And it will work, if it is allowed to. If the residents have the opportunity to use active transportation and the ones that are only used to cars see the potential of a city where bike and pedestrian infrastructure is prioritized.

The easy part? It's already been done. The model is in the Netherlands. Now it's time to bring it to Petaluma, and make Petaluma the standard in the North Bay, and even further.

Thank you for your leadership.

Chris Bearden