

From: [Pete \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Council](#)
Cc: [Peggy Flynn](#); [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: October 16, 2023 City Council meeting Item #8: Workshop on ATP, City Thread, etc.
Date: Monday, October 9, 2023 4:01:31 PM

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Esteemed members of City Council,

I am one of the community members who helped bring the City Thread team to Petaluma to do what they call a Readiness Assessment. Their focus was on how we can accelerate the buildout of our “mobility network,” which they explain as “*...a completely connected, comfortable system of sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, transit stops, and accessible public spaces that allow people to travel safely, comfortably, and reliably without using a car.*” [AMP, p9]

We can refer to our goal as “Complete Streets.”

Their advice to us is summarized in their [Accelerated Mobility Playbook \(or AMP\)](#), the Final Report that they presented to senior Public Works staff and community members on May 30, 2023.

They tell us that our situation is not unique.

The opposition that individual mobility projects so often encounter is due to a lack of clear and consistent messaging. In other words, we know what we’re trying to accomplish with our “mobility network” projects, but many members of our community haven’t yet been informed of our Complete Streets goals.

And projects wither under the opposition.

“Mobility projects that develop in isolation area largely misunderstood by the public and difficult for even supportive elected officials to explain.” [AMP, p. 16]

At the same time, City Thread refers to polling done in eight U.S. metropolitan areas that shows that 69% of voters support investments in better bike infrastructure. This support increases to 81% when bike infrastructure is combined with other transportation improvements. Three quarters believe that a comprehensive approach to transportation infrastructure would make their community more livable.

In short, the near-term solution is clearly and consistently communicating our Complete Streets goals, our vision of what we want our streets to be. Robust community engagement in the development of the Active Transportation Plan is key.

And then we need to accelerate the project delivery process — from design to implementation.

We must move forward with confidence,

With gratitude,

Pete Gang

