

From: [Brian](#) [REDACTED]
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: feedback for Oct 16, 2023 meeting on transportation plan projects
Date: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:44:52 AM

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Hi,

I wanted to offer general feedback relating to bicycle and pedestrian transportation. In addition to helping reduce traffic on the roads, offering people a good way to get exercise for physical and mental well being and meeting climate goals, having safe, attractive, away-from-vehicle bike pathways makes Petaluma a more beautiful and enjoyable place to live.

A few of the things I would like to see prioritized on the “within 5 year plan” are:

- Can we please create, make safe and aesthetically enhance a bike route from downtown/west side of town to the Petaluma/Aman Marsh/Schollenberger Park/Ellis Creek (to the marina/Sheraton Hotel area)? This wetland area is such a unique, beautiful and amazing place in Sonoma County - really one of a kind - nowhere else like it in the entire Sonoma County! Why should we make people drive here? There are good bike paths accessing the area from the east side of town, thankfully to those who planned for this (and hats off to those folks!). Now it's time to create a good bike route away from vehicles from the west side or downtown.
 - one way is via Hopper St. near the train tracks
 - another would be the future Caulfield Lane bridge
 - or else adding pedestrian access at or adjacent to the Haystack Rail Bridge
 - why not make two of these 3 options?
 - Hopper St/Caulfield Ln would involve having to make it safe at the Lakeville underpass of Hwy 101. This is a very very gritty and concrete space, with many large trucks passing who are not considering pedestrians and bikes. It seems a fully separated bike path with vegetation buffer would be appropriate.
- there's a great bike path from Washington Square (Safeway mall on east side) to the Petaluma Airport - again, thanks planners! And one running parallel with the Airport down to Casa Grande Rd. And down on Lakeville at Pub Republic heading east there's a great bike path going up Adobe Creek. But it stops at Ely Blvd South. Please please please continue this path to connect with the Hidden Valley Dr./Wiseman Park path! And why not make it run all the way to Adobe Creek State Park? This would support the massive gap in the Bay Area Ridge trail between the top of Sonoma Mountain and town. Completing the segment would make the already completed work exponentially more useful, and enjoyable.
- the east side of Petaluma has many good bike paths along Corona Creek (as well as along Sunrise Pkwy to Leghorn Park). I've noticed when riding my bike along these routes there are several missing many curb cuts where the bike path intersects a road, such as at Ely Rd N, and at Maria Pocket Park on Sonoma Mountain Pkwy (at the bridge going over Corona Creek). The lack of curb cuts and presence of curbs does 2 things - first it greatly discourages use of these paths because they don't fully seem like paths if one needs to get off the bike to cross the road, and secondly it makes them very unsafe. Many of the folks who use bike paths are kids, getting to school, for weekend transportation or for recreation etc. Same thing with elderly who wish to get some fresh

air and exercise. Hitting a curb with a bike could cause someone to fall off their bike right into on in a very busy roadway, which poses a significant threat of fatality. Curb cuts could be simple projects making these paths safer, more usable and much more enjoyable.

- How do we make the Trader Joes mall area more bicycle accessible? The area around McDowell Blvd is so riddled with cars it's unsafe for bikes and very unappealing. Is there a way we can connect the back of the mall with the wonderful Lynch Creek Trail?
- I like Denman Reach park area (along Petaluma River behind the office park near the car dealerships) because this is near my house and is away from the very busy N Petaluma Blvd - a nice road to drive, but not a nice place to bike). And my house on the north of town lacks access to town via a good bike route. But this park seems isolated, fragmented and lacks connectivity at both the north and south ends of it. Please think about creating a good bike route using this area to connect to the outlet mall and the Smart Pathway, ideally involving the Petaluma River. The town needs more cohesion from a bicycle and pedestrian perspective.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Brian Lamoreaux

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