

**DATE:** March 3, 2015

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

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**TITLE:** **Bicycle Transportation Plan Update**

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Study Session is to provide an overview of the work completed to date, including a preliminary assessment of existing bicycling conditions in Mountain View and development of an initial list of proposed infrastructure improvements, in support of the 2015 Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) Update.

## **BACKGROUND**

Improving bicycle and pedestrian mobility is one of the three major City goals the City Council adopted for Fiscal Years 2013-14 and 2014-15. In support of this goal, more than \$3.5 million has been programmed into the City's capital improvement planning process since June 2013 to improve the bicycle and pedestrian environment in Mountain View, including an update to the BTP.

The 2015 BTP Update process builds upon the City's 2008 Bicycle Transportation Plan and expands on the City's 2030 General Plan mobility goals by developing a plan to more specifically address the bicycle-related needs of the community. The completed 2015 BTP Update will provide a vision, strategies, and actions for improving and encouraging bicycle travel in and through the City of Mountain View. More specifically, final BTP Update deliverables will include:

- The 2015 BTP Update document, including recommended projects, programs, and policies, to promote bicycling in Mountain View.
- An implementation and funding strategy.
- Updated City bike map (print and interactive online versions).
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance.

- Development of grant application packages for three priority projects identified by the City – this includes completion of the grant application paperwork, providing required supplemental materials, and the submission of the package to the funding agency.

### BTP Update Process and Schedule

The BTP Update process to date has included a robust outreach strategy to engage the community and offer input opportunities at key points of the process through multiple methods, including community workshops, public meetings, an interactive project website ([bikemountainview.com](http://bikemountainview.com)), and user/business surveys.

The BTP Update is being developed in coordination with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (B/PAC). The B/PAC received an overview of the BTP Update project at its June 2014 meeting, provided input on the City's existing environment for bicycling and opportunities for improvements at its August 2014 meeting, and provided input on the project prioritization criteria to be used in the development of the recommended bicycle-related improvements at its November 2014 meeting.

Community outreach activities in support of the BTP Update have included input solicited at a community workshop in September 2014, meetings with various City advisory bodies and stakeholder groups between August 2014 and February 2015, and through the project website.

A draft of the BTP Update document is scheduled to be released in summer 2015, followed by the completion of the environmental process in fall 2015, and adoption of the final BTP Update document by early 2016. There will be additional community outreach and opportunities to comment on the draft document after it is released.

### DISCUSSION

BTP Update activities/analyses conducted to date include:

1. Documenting existing bicycling conditions in Mountain View.

This included documenting existing bicycle infrastructure (e.g., on-street facilities, shared-use trails, bicycle parking facilities, etc.) and current programs to support and improve the bicycling environment in Mountain View (e.g., current bicycling encouragement and education programs, enforcement efforts, and evaluation activities) (Attachment 1).

2. Reviewing existing plans, policies, programs, and projects that support safe, high-quality bicycle environments and encourage greater bicycle mode shares for all types of trips.

The City's 2030 General Plan, City Code, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Precise Plans, other bicycle-related studies/projects currently under way or recently completed, as well as other County, regional, State, and Federal documents related to bicycling, were reviewed to ensure a clear understanding of the planning and policy context in which the 2015 BTP Update must be created (Attachment 2).

3. Assessing the bicycling-related needs of the community based on an examination of the types of bicyclists in Mountain View, typical bicycle trip purposes, bicycle trip destinations and generators, bicycle count data, bicycle-related collision data (2009 to 2013), identified gaps in the bicycle network, and community input.

The result of the assessment was the identification of approximately 170 candidate projects to improve Mountain View's bicycle network and infrastructure (Attachment 3), focusing on:

- Completing spot and corridor gaps in the on-street network.
- Identifying opportunities for buffered or protected bikeways.
- Enhancing intersection crossings for bicyclists.
- Improving existing on-street bikeways that are narrow or share road space with parked cars.
- Considering alternative, parallel routes to trail facilities.
- Exploring alternative treatments and/or routes for on-street bikeways that cross over or under highways.
- Improving and adding to existing bicycle boulevard network.
- Identifying continuous and complete low-stress (i.e., perceived safe and comfortable) bikeway network opportunities.

## Proposed Bicycle Network and Infrastructure Improvements

The list of proposed improvements (Attachment 4) has been divided into the following categories:

- Network improvements by facility design type (e.g., Class I Multi-Use Paths, Class II On-Street Bike Lanes, Class III Bike Routes, Class III Bike Boulevards, and Class IV Protected On-Street Lanes/Cycle Tracks).
- Spot improvements (e.g., bicycle crossing and turning improvements, bicycle detection facilities, bicycle marking improvements) at specific locations throughout the City.
- Bikeway improvement projects already identified as part of other City plans, studies, and projects (e.g., current capital improvement projects, El Camino Real Precise Plan, North Bayshore Precise Plan, Parks and Open Space Plan, San Antonio Precise Plan, private development projects, and Shoreline Boulevard Corridor Study).

Maps of the proposed improvements, by category, are also provided in Attachment 4.

Staff is not requesting the Council review and comment on each of the proposed improvements detailed in Attachment 4, but rather staff is seeking Council input regarding the adequacy/completeness of the preliminary list of bicycle network and infrastructure improvement projects in addressing the community's bicycling needs. The list of proposed projects, including any additions or deletions by the Council, will be reviewed and prioritized by staff and the project consultant team according to the project prioritization criteria reviewed by the B/PAC at its November 19, 2014 meeting (Attachment 5). Projects may be grouped together, as appropriate, during this process to increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and viability for funding and implementation. Projects receiving the highest scores will undergo more in-depth review and development as the BTP Update process continues. Proposed projects with lower scores/ratings will also be identified in the BTP Update document, but will not be developed/refined in any greater detail at this time.

Based on the results of the project prioritization process, as many as 10 priority improvement projects will be identified and will undergo more detailed engineering review resulting in the development of Project Description Sheets. The Project Description Sheets developed for each project will describe key characteristics for each improvement, including name, location, proposed facility/improvement, surrounding land use, safety issues, cost estimates, and required actions. The Project Description

Sheets will serve as the basis for future City capital improvement project requests and/or grant funding applications.

The Project Description Sheets will be included in the Draft BTP Update document scheduled for release this summer along with recommendations for bicycle-related program and policy improvements. There will be additional community outreach and opportunities for Council and community input regarding the draft document after it is released.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff seeks input from the Council regarding the draft existing conditions, needs assessment, and proposed bicycle network and infrastructure improvements identified in this report and attachments. Council feedback on these topics, as well as any Council direction on issues and opportunities that have not been identified, will guide the development of the BTP Update in the next phase of work.

Specifically, staff requests Council feedback regarding:

1. Confirmation of/adjustments to the draft existing conditions analysis, needs assessment, and/or project prioritization criteria.
2. Additions/adjustments to the list of proposed improvements described in Attachment 4.
3. Additional direction regarding the prioritization of the proposed improvement projects. More specifically, are there certain groupings/categories of proposed improvement projects (e.g., improvements identified in one of the Precise Plans, network connectivity or spot improvements, improvements identified in the Shoreline Corridor Study, etc.) that should be prioritized ahead of other project categories?
4. Any other Council feedback regarding the work to date or next steps.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Based on the input and direction received from the Council at the Study Session, staff and the project consultant team will begin preparing an administrative draft of the BTP Update document. The draft document will include refinements to the existing conditions, needs assessment, and proposed project information provided to the

Council at this Study Session, as well as additional materials/discussion regarding other portions of the BTP Update still under development, including:

- Proposed policy and program improvements.
- Performance measures.
- Project implementation and funding strategy.

A complete draft document is scheduled to be presented to the B/PAC for review and comment later this spring and then to the Council in June 2015, followed by the completion of the environmental process in fall 2015. Final adoption of the BTP Update document is anticipated by early 2016. There will be additional community outreach and opportunities to comment on the draft document after it is released.

### **PUBLIC NOTICING**

In addition to the City's standard agenda posting requirement, courtesy notices were sent to the project's interested parties list; individuals requesting notification through the project website; attendees at previous workshops/meetings regarding the BTP Update; City neighborhood associations; B/PAC; and other interested parties.

Notice of the meeting was also published in the *Mountain View Voice* and posted on the project website and City website.

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- Attachments:
1. Existing Conditions and Needs (Draft)
  2. Policy and Plan Review (Draft)
  3. Needs Assessment (Draft)
  4. Proposed Bicycle Network and Infrastructure Improvements (Draft)
  5. Project Prioritization Criteria (Draft)