



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/07/2017

ITEM NO: 7

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2017
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: LAUREL PREVETTI, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: ADOPT THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Town of Los Gatos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

BACKGROUND:

On April 5, 2016, the Town Council approved a consultant services agreement with Placeworks, a planning and mobility consulting firm, to prepare the first Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) for the Town of Los Gatos. At that time the Town Council also established a Capital Improvement Project in the amount of \$120,000 for the BPMP, with funding from a County Health Department Grant (\$40,000), the City of Monte Sereno (\$7,500), and the Town's Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Fund (\$72,500) to fund consultant services and staff project management costs for preparation of the BPMP.

The Town of Los Gatos does not currently have an adopted Bicycle or Pedestrian Master Plan, although both the Town General Plan and Town Sustainability Plan have a number of policies and action items that have provided a foundation for developing a BPMP. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) identified the development of a BPMP as a top strategic goal shortly after it was established, and has been a major work item for the BPAC for nearly a year.

Beyond providing a roadmap for investments that will enhance bicycle and pedestrian mobility throughout the Town, adoption of a BPMP will allow the Town to participate more

PREPARED BY: MATT MORLEY
Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

BACKGROUND (cont'd):

competitively in a range of local, regional, and State funds for bicycle and pedestrian related improvement projects. This is particularly timely considering the recent approval of the Santa Clara County Measure B Transportation Funding Measure, which will allocate \$250 million over the next 30 years for bicycle and pedestrian projects Countywide.

DISCUSSION:

The scope of work for the BPMP included the following key components:

- Review of existing Town bicycle and pedestrian related documents and initiatives, including General Plan, Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.
- Review of other agency bicycle and pedestrian policies and plans for coordination opportunities (VTA, Caltrans, Santa Clara County, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Vision Zero, and neighboring cities).
- Inventory of key features of the bicycle and pedestrian network, including mapping of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Identification of gaps in existing bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Identification of opportunities to enhance the safety and accessibility of the bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Bicycle and pedestrian collision analysis.
- Bicycle and pedestrian counts at key locations.
- Coordination with Safe Routes to Schools.
- Development of recommended policies and programs.
- Identification of proposed capital projects.
- Development of preliminary cost estimates.
- Prioritization of projects and programs.
- Identification of funding sources.

The BPAC was extensively involved in supporting and providing direction on the development of the BPMP as the above items were refined for nearly a year. The BPAC held community meetings in July and September to obtain input from the public on key issues, and staff and Placeworks provided numerous presentations and reports to the BPAC at both regular and special meetings. An online survey generated nearly 900 responses and provided additional community input on bicycle and pedestrian issues. BPAC and community members also participated in the Town's first bicycle and pedestrian counts which were conducted in September of last year, shortly after Los Gatos students returned to school following summer recess.

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

Most recently, the BPAC identified priority bicycle and pedestrian projects (including Safe Routes to Schools Projects) through a facilitated exercise at a December, 2016 Special BPAC Meeting. This was followed by a similar exercise to prioritize priority goals, policies and actions at a Special Meeting in January 2017. The BPAC's specific priority recommendations from these exercises are included in the BPMP and identified in the highlights section below. Community input on the project recommendations within the final plan has also been collected through an online mapping tool that was advertised extensively using the BPMP interest group email list and the Town's various social media outlets. This input is summarized in Attachment 5.

The table below highlights the opportunities for public input at community meetings:

Public Meetings
Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Community Meeting—Existing Conditions	July 7, 2016
Volunteer Bike/Ped Count Training	September 7, 2016
Community Meeting—Network and Policies	September 8, 2016
BPAC Special Meeting—Initial Project Recommendations	November 3, 2016
Safe Routes To Schools Education Subcommittee Presentation	December 7, 2016
BPAC Special Meeting—Project Prioritization	December 15, 2016
BPAC Special Meeting—Goals, Actions and Policies	January 17, 2017
BPAC Special Meeting—Final Plan Review	February 2, 2017
Parks Commission Review	February 6, 2017
Planning Commission Review	February 8, 2017
Transportation & Parking Commission Review	February 9, 2017
Town Council	March 7, 2017

Comments from Town Commissions are contained in Attachment 3. Attachment 4 contains other public comments received during the process.

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

Final Draft Plan

The Final Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is organized into six chapters (Attachment 1) including comprehensive appendices (Attachment 2) as follows:

1. Introduction and Master Plan Summary
2. Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment
3. Goals, Policies and Actions
4. Network Recommendations and Project Prioritization
5. Implementation and Funding
6. Appendices

A summary of the major highlights and recommendations in the BPMP, which reflect significant deliberation by the BPAC, include the following:

Key Goals, Policies and Actions

- Improve safety for bikes and pedestrians.
- Eliminate serious injuries and fatalities (concepts embodied in Vision Zero).
- Encourage walking and biking to reduce vehicle trips and provide congestion relief.
- Develop a cohesive, connected, low stress bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Provide high quality bicycle facilities.
- Position the Town to compete for bike and pedestrian grants.
- Provide a roadmap for future investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure and programs.
- Provide guidance for conditioning new development where bicycle and pedestrian improvements are indicated.
- Support Safe Routes to Schools study recommendations.

High Priority Bike Recommendations

- Construct a direct connection to the Los Gatos Creek trail from Highway 9.
- Install “sharrow” pavement markings (shared bike/vehicular lanes) on University Avenue.
- Develop a protected bicycle lane (cycle track) network encompassing portions of Los Gatos Boulevard, Blossom Hill Road, Roberts Road, and Winchester Boulevard.
- Construct a new Bike/Ped bridge across Highway 17 to connect East and West Los Gatos.

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

- Improve existing east/west connections across Highway 17 at Highway 9, Blossom Hill Road, and Lark Avenue, particularly where on/off ramps create conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.

High Priority Pedestrian Recommendations

- Enhance existing Main Street crosswalks with high visibility striping and/or flashing beacons, especially in the vicinity of Los Gatos High School.
- Enhance mid-block and uncontrolled crosswalks on Santa Cruz and University Avenues with high visibility striping, flashing beacons, improved lighting, and better site distance visibility.
- Improve pedestrian movements at the existing Highway 9 intersections of Santa Cruz Avenue, University Avenue and Massol Avenue.
- Install infill sidewalks along collectors and arterials, targeting designated school walking routes.

The Final Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and Appendices are available for review or download at the following links:

- Final Draft Plan: <http://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18818>
- Appendices: <http://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18817>

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council adopt the Town of Los Gatos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives to the recommendation provided above include:

1. Do not adopt the BPMP. This is not recommended as adoption of a BPMP by the Town Council will provide a roadmap for future bike and pedestrian investments and will enhance the Town's competitiveness in pursuing grant funding for a range of bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects and programs.
2. Adopt the Plan with changes. The Town Council may request changes to the Plan prior to formal adoption.

ALTERNATIVES (cont'd):

3. Return the BPMP to the BPAC for additional work. This is not recommended as the Plan reflects substantial Commission and community input and was strongly endorsed by the BPAC, Planning, Parks, and Transportation and Parking Commissions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of the Town of Los Gatos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, a notice of exemption will be filed. Any bicycle and pedestrian projects implemented following the adoption of the BPMP would be subject to project level environmental review and assessment consistent with CEQA requirements.

Attachments:

1. Final Draft Plan: <http://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18924>
2. Appendices: <http://ca-losgatos.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/18925>
3. Comments from Town Commissions
4. Public comments
5. Summary of Online Mapping Tool comments