

Memorandum

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To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 15-16, 2017

Reference No.: 4.19
Action

From: SUSAN BRANSEN
Executive Director

Subject: **DRAFT “TOWARD AN ACTIVE CALIFORNIA: STATE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN”**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve staff comments to the California Department of Transportation’s (Caltrans) draft *Toward an Active California: State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*?

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission staff recommends that the Commission approve the attached comment letter in response to the draft State Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The following summarizes the recommended comments:

1. The plan should provide background information to help facilitate integration of state, regional and local active transportation plans. The role of regional and local agencies to provide for the planning and development of active transportation facilities should also be provided.
2. An estimate of the costs to implement the 53 actions that have been identified in the plan should be provided. There should also be a discussion of the existing programs that provide funding to promote active transportation.
3. Information obtained from the extensive public outreach should be summarized in the plan.
4. Regarding social equity issues, the plan should ensure that factors relating to age, gender, race and ability are also considered.
5. The plan should also provide an explanation of active transportation, bicycle route classifications, and other applicable terms.

BACKGROUND:

This is the first statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan prepared by Caltrans. While Caltrans has prepared similar planning documents before, they were prepared by individual Caltrans districts and primarily focused at the Caltrans district level.

Although there is no federal or state requirement to prepare a bicycle plan, this is a good opportunity to conduct a high-level statewide assessment of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, provide a statewide context for Caltrans on active transportation needs, and serve as a tool for regional and

local government during their respective efforts to promote active transportation. The purpose of this statewide plan is to continue progress toward a sustainable multimodal transportation system.

Attachment:

- Draft comment letter on Caltrans' statewide bike and pedestrian plan

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FRAN INMAN, Vice Chair
YVONNE B. BURKE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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March 15, 2017

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street, MS 49
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Dear Director Dougherty,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) considered the Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) draft plan titled "*Toward an Active California State Bicycle + Pedestrian Plan*" (Plan) at its March 2017 meeting. The Commission commends Caltrans for preparing a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan to further achievement of state, regional, and local mobility, safety, environmental and public health goals. Once finalized, the Plan will serve as a useful framework for informing development of the California Transportation Plan, Regional Transportation Plans, and local active transportation plans. Given the importance of this Plan, the Commission offers the following comments for your consideration:

Integration with State, Regional, and Local Plans - To ensure a comprehensive statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the actions planned to achieve consistency and integration with the California Transportation Plan should be described. It is also important that the role regional and local agencies provide in planning and developing facilities to promote active transportation is recognized. Existing state statute requires Regional Transportation Plans to include a discussion of bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts within the region; and many cities and counties have addressed active transportation in their general plans and other planning documents. Therefore, it is important that a list, or at a minimum, an overview of regional and local active transportation policies, plans and projects that were consulted in development of the statewide Plan is included.

Plan Objectives, Strategies, Actions, and Funding – To promote a common understanding and increased transparency of implementation requirements, it is important for the Plan to specify the timing, feasibility and cost of implementation as compared to the anticipated benefits including secured or anticipated funding sources for each recommended action. The Plan includes four objectives (safety, mobility, preservation and social equity), 15 strategies, and 53 actions. The Plan did not include an estimated cost to implement these actions. Therefore, the methodology for developing estimates as well as the current level of federal, state and local funding already dedicated to implementation should be provided. The Plan should also provide an overview of the funding and benefits from existing programs such as the state’s Active Transportation Program that assist in meeting the Plan objectives, strategies and actions.

Public and Stakeholder Input Considerations - Information obtained from public outreach should be summarized to ensure a common understanding of how stakeholder input was considered and addressed. The Plan describes extensive outreach conducted: a survey of 3,200 respondents; 11 statewide focus groups with over 120 participants; 11 regional forums with more than 300 participants; two public workshops with more than 200 participants; three tribal listening sessions; and a questionnaire with more than 1,000 respondents. This was a significant undertaking, and the information obtained from the extensive public outreach is not summarized in the Plan. In addition, to increase assurance that the Plan reflects reasonable expectations for Caltrans as well as identified state and local partner agencies, the consultation process undertaken with the state, regional, local or other entities responsible for action implementation should be described.

Social Equity – The Plan states that Caltrans will work to provide equity in mobility and accessibility to meet the needs of all community members regardless of age, race, ability, or income. However, with respect to social equity considerations, it appears the Plan focuses primarily on actions to address impacts to disadvantaged communities. It is important that the Plan also clearly articulate the actions necessary to address social equity impacts based on age, gender, race, and ability.

Educational Information - To ensure that the Plan is easily understood and serves as a useful tool for regional and local agencies to consult when preparing active transportation plans, explanations and definitions of active transportation, classification of bicycle routes, complete streets, and other applicable terms should be included.

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty
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Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact Garth Hopkins, the Commission's Deputy Director for Transportation Planning, at (916) 654-4245 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB ALVARADO
Chair

c: Commissioners, California Transportation Commission
Susan Bransen, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Brian Kelly, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency