

**CITY OF ALBANY
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: February 23, 2011

Subject: Active Transportation Plan Draft Project List-request for comments

Report By: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner/Traffic & Safety
Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Traffic and Safety Commission requests your comments on the Active Transportation Draft Project list proposal.

DISCUSSION

The Alameda County Transportation Authority (ACTIA) requires that starting 2011, every jurisdiction should have an officially adopted pedestrian plan in order to be eligible for project funding. This is also a requirement for local, state and federal grants for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The City of Albany adopted its Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2010, which aims at reducing emissions to 25% below 2004 levels. The CAP estimates that by implementing the strategies and projects included in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans, the City would be able to reduce 15% of the CAP targets from the Transportation and Land Use sector. The Transportation and Land Use sector strategies are estimated to reduce 30% of the total CAP target for the City.

In 2009 the City received a grant from ACTIA in the amount of \$130,000 for the development of its first Pedestrian Master Plan and the update to the Bicycle Master Plan, later renamed Active Transportation Plans. Work on these plans commenced in 2010 through a competitive selection process in which Fehr and Peers was awarded the contract.

Staff assembled a technical advisory committee (TAC) formed by one representative from the Traffic and Safety Commission, one from the Albany Strollers & Rollers, one representative from Friends of Five Creeks, one resident who uses a wheelchair, one staff member from the East Bay Center for the Blind, and two City staff members. The main goal of the TAC was to guide the process of the plans in terms of contents and project prioritization process.

A project website was created to post developments and milestones for the plans. This website can be accessed through the City of Albany web page or by going to:
<http://albanypedbikeplan.fehrandpeers.net/>.

The data gathering process that took place throughout the last quarter of 2010 included a public workshop, a study session (charette), walking and bicycling audits, and three

walks throughout Albany urban trails and the City's business district. Pedestrian and bicycle surveys were taken on line and at public events as well.

The result of this process led to a draft list of projects prioritized under the criteria developed by the TAC. The criteria included.

- o proximity to activity centers
- o safety
- o connectivity
- o regional access, and
- o Ease of implementation.

On January 27, the T&S Commission held a public meeting to discuss the Draft Project List for the plans. While no formal action was taken on the project list at that meeting, the Commission directed consultants to prioritize those projects that require only striping and signage because they are easier to implement. The T&S Commission deferred making a decision about the Draft Project List at its March meeting in order to have the opportunity to do more outreach and garner more comments from the different City organizations and advisory bodies. To date, the Draft Project List has been presented to:

- o the Sustainability Committee,
- o the Parks and Recreation Commission,
- o the Rotary Club,
- o the Chamber of Commerce,
- o the neighbor agencies (Cities of Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond, ABAG, and the East Bay Park District),
- o the East Bay Center for the Blind, and
- o UC Village.

In addition to the Planning and Zoning Commission, presentations are scheduled with the School District (3/15), and the University of California (week of February, 21). The Draft Project List has also been reviewed by the Fire Department.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Issue Draft Report	February 28, 2011
Approve Project List	March 24, 2011 (T&S Commission meeting)
Begin Environmental work	March 25, 2011
Draft Environmental Document release for 30-day comment period	June, 2011
Approval of Environmental Document	July, 2011
Recommend Final Plans/environmental to CC	September, 2011
Adoption of Plans and Environmental by CC	October 3, 2011
Grant cycle expires	October 31, 2011

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposals presented in the Draft List of Projects do not have funding identified. The City would have to seek funding sources for project implementation through local, state or federal grants. However, the challenge with grant funding is that in almost all cases, the City has to contribute a local match that ranges between 11 and 20 percent of the total project cost. Currently, the City uses Measure F and other local sources of funding such as Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds, Air District funds, and Measure B to provide the match for funding grants. The estimated cost of the proposals presented in the Draft List of Projects has not been calculated yet, but the amount of the match represents a challenge for the City as Measure F funds decrease in the near future. Therefore it is an issue for staff to identify additional sources of local funding to close this gap.

Attachments

Draft Project List Power Point presentation