



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: March 3, 2015

Subject

2015 Bikeway Improvement Prioritization update to the 2011 Cupertino Bicycle Transportation Plan

Recommended Action

Adopt the 2015 Bikeway Improvement Prioritization update to the 2011 Cupertino Bicycle Transportation Plan

Discussion

In May of 2011, the Cupertino City Council approved a Bicycle Transportation Plan designed to encourage bicycling as a safe, practical and healthy alternative to the use of the car. The four years since the adoption of that Plan has seen a steady increase in bicycling throughout the city, due in large part to growing encouragement and awareness from local companies such as Apple, and due as well to the widespread acceptance of innovative bikeway treatments such as green bike lanes and shared lane markings ("sharrows"). Unfortunately, conflicts between vehicles and bicyclists continue to occur, highlighted by the tragic fatality of Ethan Wong, a Monta Vista High school student, last year. In response to these events, and at the direction of the City Council, staff and the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission embarked on an update of the 2011 Plan in order to provide a framework for the City to take advantage of and prioritize innovative bikeway treatments that enhance safety, and further encourage the growing usage of bicycling throughout the City.

The current update of the Bicycle Transportation Plan focuses on 31 bikeway elements. These bikeways are intended to improve the bicycling environment through one or more of the following: (1) enhancement of existing bike lanes through the use of green pavement treatment or buffer zones; (2) removal of existing barriers to bike travel; (3) eliminating missing links in the bikeway network; and (4) identification of routes to connect existing bikeways or destinations. Many of the bikeways in the current update are focused on routes to and from school, and many are easily implementable given appropriate funding. In fact, this update is a departure from the 2011 Plan, in that while there are a few long-term improvements identified in the current update, most

bikeways are intended to be highly visible, easy-to-implement improvements, such as green pavement treatment, that can provide immediate benefit for the safety and encouragement of bicycling.

The 31 bikeways comprising the Plan update are shown in Attachment A. The bikeways are prioritized, with higher priority generally given to school routes. Staff is recommending, along with approval of the Plan update, a mid-year budget allocation of \$250,000 in order to complete approximately 50% of the highest priority projects within the 2015 calendar year. With this funding, staff would be able to complete the enhancement of bike lanes with green pavement treatments, and/or install sharrows and associated signage, along portions of the routes to Monta Vista, Homestead and Cupertino High Schools, Kennedy and Hyde Middle Schools, and Lincoln and Regnart Elementary Schools.

Fiscal Impact

There is no immediate fiscal impact to adopting the Bicycle Transportation Plan update. However, there will be a cost associated with implementing each of the proposed improvements contained within the Plan. As indicated above, staff is requesting a mid-year budget allocation of \$250,000 to complete a portion of the Plan. Staff will return in June to request further funding for FY 2015/16 to complete the high priority bikeways, as well as to begin work on the other identified bikeways.

Prepared by: David Stillman, Senior Civil Engineer

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Cupertino Bicycle Transportation Plan 2015 Update