

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John Ristow

**SUBJECT: BETTER BIKE PLAN 2025
STATUS REPORT**

DATE: June 25, 2020

Approved

Date

/s/ Jim Ortbal

6/30/2020

INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update on development of a new city bike plan known as *Better Bike Plan 2025*. This status report had been scheduled for inclusion in the annual Bike Plan update at the June 1, 2020 Transportation & Environment (T&E) Committee meeting. Since City Committee meetings have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this report is being provided as an informational memorandum to the City Council.

BACKGROUND

The City's current bike plan, *Bike Plan 2020*, was approved by Council in 2009. In 2017, the Department of Transportation (DOT) obtained grant and city funding to create a new city bike plan. In June 2018, a consultant agreement was awarded to assist the City with development of *Better Bike Plan 2025*. Work began in July 2018. In June 2020, a draft plan was released for public review, and the final phase of outreach began to obtain public input.

The draft plan is available at www.bikesanjose.com, alongside online workshops and interactive maps. Public comments on the draft are requested by July 19, 2020.

Following this outreach, final amendments will be made to the plan, which is scheduled to be considered at the August 31, 2020 T&E Committee meeting and by City Council shortly thereafter.

ANALYSIS

With mild weather and flat climate, San Jose would seem to be an ideal community to support high rates of bicycling. However, due to past land use policies and transportation priorities, over the last 75 years San Jose grew largely around the automobile. This resulted in larger, high-speed roads and lower-density, single-use zoning that discourage shorter trips by bike.

More recently, San Jose has updated plans and policies to prioritize denser, mixed-use, transit-oriented development; roadway safety for everyone; and investment in public transit. These efforts include Envision 2040 General Plan, Urban Villages plans, Climate Smart San Jose, Vision Zero San José, and BART to San José. To align the City's bike vision with these efforts, in 2017 the Department of Transportation identified funding to develop a new city bike plan. This plan will replace the existing *Bike Plan 2020*.

Vision

People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds feel safe and comfortable biking anywhere in San José.

Goals

Better Bike Plan 2025 was developed by focusing on the following three goals to achieve the plan's vision:

- **Mode Shift**: Increase the portion of trips in San José made by bike. This goal aligns with the *Envision San José 2040* general plan mode shift goal (15% trips by bike by 2040) and *Climate Smart San José* mode shift goals (20% trips by bike by 2050).
- **Safety**: Improve safety for all people biking in San José. This goal aligns with the *Vision Zero San José* plan.
- **Equity**: Develop and implement *Better Bike Plan 2025* in a manner that ensures people in traditionally underserved communities are engaged, empowered, and represented.

This two-year project creates a new city bike plan that:

- Defines a citywide, low-stress bike network serving all ages, abilities, and neighborhoods;
- Focuses on what can be delivered rapidly and cost-effectively to improve and expand our bike network;
- Partners with Community Based Organizations to better engage local communities;
- Formalizes bikes priority on busy public rights-of-way;
- Integrates current City planning and policies (*Envision San José 2040* General Plan, Urban Village Plans, Vision Zero San José, Access & Mobility Plan, Climate Smart San José); and
- Addresses changes in our transportation system (Diridon Station Area Planning, BART, VTA bus and light rail, High Speed Rail, Shared and/or Autonomous Vehicles, etc.).

Community Engagement

To ensure input was received from a wide diversity of people in San José, community engagement and outreach included partnerships with local non-profits immersed in city neighborhoods. *Better Bike Plan 2025* partnered with three Community Based Organizations (CBOs): LUNA, VIVO and Veggielution – all of which are based in San José and have strong relationships with local groups throughout the City. These partnerships allowed DOT and consultants to reach people where they live and work.

The Community Engagement plan included three phases. The first two engagement phases occurred before COVID-19 and shelter-in-place requirements. These phases focused on meeting people in their communities. This included providing project information and seeking input at existing community group meetings (for example, at neighborhood and local business district meetings). During these outreach effort DOT and consultants presented to and consulted with local community groups in all council districts at more than 21 distinct sessions.

Table 4 – Bike Plan 2025 Project Timeline



The third phase of Community Engagement is occurring during shelter-in-place requirements. Outreach strategies were modified and included a web-based presentation available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The presentation summarized the draft plan, and provided information on where to view the entire draft plan and how to provide input. The presentation recording is being made available to the public as well as all community groups who received project presentations in the first and second rounds of outreach.

In addition, the consulting team provided five progress reports to, and received input from, the City’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. *Better Bike Plan 2025* also includes a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of representatives from City departments and related transportation organizations including VTA, County of Santa Clara, and Caltrans. The TAC has completed its fourth and final meeting in June 2020, receiving valuable input that will inform the final plan alongside community feedback.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Staff will present the final draft *Better Bike Plan 2025* to the T&E Committee in August 2020, and City Council in fall 2020. On an annual basis, staff will provide a progress report to the T&E Committee.

/s/
JOHN RISTOW
Director of Transportation

For questions, please contact Ramses Madou, (408) 975-3283 or ramses.madou@sanjoseca.gov.