

To: Mayor and Ross Town Council
From: Christine O'Rourke, Project Planner
Re: Ross 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
Date: July 8, 2010

I. Project Summary

Town Council to consider adoption of the Town of Ross 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

II. Introduction

Staff presented a draft Ross Bicycle Plan for Council and public review and input at the May 2010 Council meeting. The plan was originally prepared in 2008 by Alta Planning + Design with federal funding from the Marin Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. As directed, staff revised and updated the plan and brought it to the Public Works Committee on June 1, 2010, for additional review. This draft reflects additional Public Works Committee member comments and is presented to the Council for review and adoption.

III. Discussion

Following the June Council meeting, staff made the following changes to the draft Bicycle Plan: updated the section on existing bikeways to include the signed Class III bike routes on Lagunitas Road, Ross Common, Shady Lane and Bolinas Avenue; added Class III bike routes to the proposed bikeway system on Lagunitas Road, Glenwood Avenue, Fernhill Avenue, Norwood Avenue, and Laurel Grove Avenue; verified all existing and proposed bikeway mileage and updated all related charts and tables; identified locations for bicycle racks; included a program to encourage hosts of large events, such as the Marin Art & Garden Center, the Ross School, and The Branson School, to provide bike parking; identified the proper role and responsibility for the Marin County Public Works Department to maintain the Corte Madera Creek pathway; provided additional information on bicycle signal detection improvements at the signalized intersections on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard; and, updated information on Safe Routes to Schools programs and federal, state and local funding sources.

In regard to funding, several bicycle and pedestrian improvements and programs, including the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard pathway project, a bicycle loop detector improvement project at Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and the Street Smarts campaign, have been funded through the \$25 million Marin Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program grant. There are other potential funding sources for the programs and bikeways included in the plan, including bike rack installation, bike route signage, and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard bike lane development.

Following input from the June 1, 2010, Public Works Committee meeting, staff changed the name of the plan to the Town of Ross 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and included

a new program to enforce traffic laws for bicyclists. The Council had previously received three letters from residents concerned about cyclists disregarding stop signs and large groups of recreational riders impeding the orderly flow of traffic on Ross streets. The new program appears on page 29 of the plan and reads as follows:

Enforce Traffic Bicycle Laws

Bicyclists on public roadways have the same rights and responsibilities while sharing the road with automobiles and will be held to the same rules and regulations as any other motorist on the road. The members of the Ross Police Department enforce existing traffic laws in an effort to ensure the safety of drivers and bicyclists. Bicyclists who fail to stop for posted stop signs, ride single file or ride as close to the right edge of the roadway as practical may be cited when necessary to ensure the safe, orderly passage of traffic on Ross streets.

IV. Recommendation

The Town of Ross 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan provides for a town-wide system of bikeways, pedestrian paths and support facilities that are designed to increase the use of bicycling and walking as a means to travel to work, school, parks and the downtown. The plan contains programs to enhance bicyclist, pedestrian and motorist education and safety, and to manage the orderly flow of bicycle traffic throughout Town. As such, the plan helps to achieve the Town of Ross General Plan goal to provide safe, connected and well-maintained streets and bicycle routes. Staff recommends the Council adopt the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan based upon the following findings:

1. The Town of Ross 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will implement the goals and policies of the Town of Ross General Plan 2007-2025.
2. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will implement General Plan program 7.A Prepare Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.
3. The project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance and minor alteration of existing public facilities and will involve negligible or no expansion of the existing use of those facilities. Under CEQA Section 15301, the project is determined not to have a significant effect upon the environment and is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.