



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

August 18, 2011

TO: Pat Modugno, Chair
Esther L. Valadez, Vice Chair
David W. Louie, Commissioner
Harold V. Helsley, Commissioner
Curt Pedersen, Commissioner

FROM: Connie Chung, AICP, Section Head
Housing Section

**SUBJECT: ITEM #8: STATUS OF THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE
R2011-00874-(1-5)**

At your meeting on August 24, 2011, General Plan Section staff and Department of Public Works staff will update you on the status of the Bicycle Master Plan. The update is a component of the Transportation Element of the General Plan, and will replace the 1975 Master Plan of Bikeways.

Since 2008, Regional Planning staff has collaborated with Public Works on the development of the Bicycle Master Plan, ensuring consistency with existing goals and policies, and cohesion of routes with land uses. In addition, staff has coordinated outreach efforts with the forthcoming General Plan Update to ensure the general public and interest groups are aware of both planning efforts. At this time, the General Plan Update and the Bicycle Master Plan are aligned in terms of land use policy maps, as well as goals and policies; implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan is important to further the overarching sustainability goal of the General Plan Update.

If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Siemers at gsiemers@planning.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-6417.

JS:CC:GS

cc: Richard J. Bruckner

Attachments:

1. Letter to Regional Planning Commission from Gail Farber, Director of Public Works, 8/16/11
2. Department of Public Works Staff Report on Bicycle Master Plan, 8/16/11
3. CD-ROM: Draft Bicycle Master Plan, Draft Bicycle Master Plan Maps and Appendices, Draft Environmental Impact Report, 1975 Plan of Bikeways



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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August 16, 2011

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: PD-1

Regional Planning Commission
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Regional Planning Commissioners:

REPORT ON THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN FOR THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

On March 3, 2011, the Department of Public Works released the Public Review Draft of the County of Los Angeles Bicycle Master Plan (Plan). The Plan reflects comprehensive changes to the 1975 Plan of Bikeways and an updated network of proposed bikeways, new goals, policies, programs, and other major content.

At your Regional Planning Commission (Commission) meeting on August 24, 2011, Public Works staff will provide an overview of the Plan as a discussion item. The Plan will be presented before the Commission for approval at a future public hearing before it is submitted for adoption by the Board of Supervisors by March 2012. In particular staff will highlight the following:

Project Description

The Plan proposes a vision for a diverse regional bicycle system of interconnected bicycle corridors, support facilities, and programs to make bicycling more practical and desirable to a broader range of people in the County. The Plan is intended to guide the development and implementation of a comprehensive bicycle network and other bicycling programs throughout the unincorporated communities of the County for 20 years (2012 to 2032). The Plan recommends 695 miles of new bikeways throughout the County. The implementation of this proposed bikeway network is estimated to cost \$285 million of which \$79 million is required for off-street bikeways and the remaining \$206 million for on-street bikeways. Plan implementation will begin in 2012 after

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environmental reviews required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are completed and the Plan and environmental document are adopted by the Board.

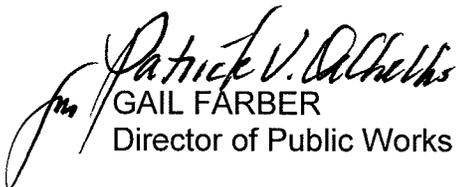
The Plan is a supplementary document to the County General Plan, providing more detailed bicycle planning and policy direction than is included in the currently adopted General Plan. The Plan organizes the County into ten planning area boundaries, which are identical to those used for the Draft General Plan, with the exception of the Coastal Islands Planning Area, which contains no County-maintained roadways or bicycle facilities.

The Plan would replace the 1975 Plan of Bikeways. Along with the existing and proposed bicycle network under County jurisdiction, the Plan describes bicycle-related programs that are essential facets of the overall bicycle system envisioned for the County. These include education, encouragement, and enforcement programs. The Plan includes design guidelines for bicycle treatments, funding options, cost estimates for the highest priority projects, and a phased implementation strategy for the proposed bikeway facilities.

Attached is a staff report containing more details on the development, schedule, and content of the Plan. Also included is a compact disc containing 1975 Plan of Bikeways, the Plan and the draft Program Environmental Impact Report, which is also available on the Department of Public Works' website at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/go/bikeplan/>. A hard copy of these documents will be available in the commissioner's lounge. Additional copies will be made available on request.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Patrick DeChellis, our Deputy Director for Transportation Infrastructure and Services, at (626) 458-4004 or staff may contact Mr. Abu Yusuf of our Programs Development Division, Federal, State, and Railroad Coordination Section at (626) 458-3940 or ayusuf@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,


GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

AY:pr

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Attach.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
STAFF REPORT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BICYCLE MASTER PLAN**

The Bicycle Master Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction
- Chapter 2 - Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions
- Chapter 3 - Existing Conditions and Proposed Network
- Chapter 4 - Education, Enforcement, and Encouragement Programs
- Chapter 5 - Funding and Implementation

Goals and Policies

Goal 1 – Bikeway System: Expanded, improved, and interconnected system of County bikeways and bikeway support facilities.

- Policy 1.1 – Construct the bikeways proposed in the 2012 County of Los Angeles Bicycle Master Plan over the next 20 years.
- Policy 1.2 – Promote changes in the County codes and land uses that encourage additional bikeways and bicycle support facilities.
- Policy 1.3 – Coordinate with developers to provide bicycle facilities that encourage biking and linkages to key destinations.
- Policy 1.4 – Support the development of bicycle facilities that encourage new riders.
- Policy 1.5 – Prepare regular updates of the Bicycle Master Plan to be current with policies and requirements for grant funding and to improve the network.
- Policy 1.6 – Develop a bicycle parking policy.

Goal 2 – Safety: Increased safety of roadways for all users.

- Policy 2.1 – Implement projects that improve the safety of bicyclists at key locations.
- Policy 2.2 – Encourage alternative street standards that improve safety such as lane reconfigurations and traffic calming.
- Policy 2.3 – Support traffic enforcement activities that increase bicyclists' safety.
- Policy 2.4 – Evaluate impacts on bicyclists for new or reconfigured streets.
- Policy 2.5 – Continue to support the County's Suggested Routes to School Program.
- Policy 2.6 – Support Development of a Healthy Design Ordinance.

Goal 3 – Education: Developed education programs that promote safe bicycling.

- Policy 3.1 – Provide bicycle education.
- Policy 3.2 – Consider safety education campaigns aimed at bicyclists and motorists (e.g., public service announcements, brochures, etc.).
- Policy 3.3 – Engage County staff working on street design, construction, operations, and maintenance projects to consider the safety of bicyclists in their work.
- Policy 3.4 – Support training for the California Highway Patrol.

Goal 4 – Encouragement Programs: County residents that are encouraged to walk or ride a bike for transportation and recreation.

- Policy 4.1 – Support organized rides or cycling events, including those that may include occasional street closures in the unincorporated areas.
- Policy 4.2 – Encourage non-automobile commuting.
- Policy 4.3 – Develop maps, way-finding signage, and striping to assist in navigating the regional bikeways.

Goal 5 – Community Support: Community supported bicycle network.

- Policy 5.1 – Establish a community stakeholder group to assist with the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.
- Policy 5.2 – Create an online presence to increase outreach for bicycling matters in the County of Los Angeles jurisdiction.
- Policy 5.3 – Increase efforts to gauge community interest and needs on bicycle-related issues.

Goal 6 – Funding: Funded Bikeway Plan.

- Policy 6.1 – Identify and secure funding to implement this Bicycle Master Plan.

Existing Conditions and Proposed Network

The County currently maintains approximately 144 miles of on- and off-road bikeways. The Plan recommends implementation of approximately 695 miles of new bikeways throughout the County in the next 20 years. The different types of bikeways are explained below:

- *Class I – Bike Path:* Bike paths are off-road bikeways that are physically separated from vehicular traffic and used exclusively by bicyclists, pedestrians, and other nonmotorized modes of travel.
- *Class II – Bike Lane:* A bike lane is a striped lane on the right-hand side of the road for exclusive bicycle travel.

- *Class III – Bike Route:* Bike routes provide shared use lanes where the cyclist shares travel lanes with motor vehicles.
- *Bike Boulevards:* Bike boulevards are similar to bike routes but can have additional design features for traffic calming to promote bicycle travel.

The following table summarizes the existing and proposed miles for each type of bikeway facility by planning area.

Planning Areas	Existing Facilities			Proposed Facilities			
	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class I	Class II	Class III	Bike Blvd
Antelope Valley	3.2	3.8	0.2	--	74.2	107.8	--
East San Gabriel Valley	7.5	7.6	9.4	25.1	22.8	25.6	3.0
Gateway	45.9	1.0	9.7	12.1	19.4	10.4	--
Metro	--	2.3	--	0.6	41.4	21.4	12.1
San Fernando Valley	--	1.5	--	2.2	0.9	5.3	--
Santa Clarita Valley	--	2.4	0.9	15.9	29.1	101.4	--
Santa Monica Mountains	--	0.5	--	--	1.8	66.1	--
South Bay	8.9	1.1	--	2.7	12.5	8.3	--
West San Gabriel Valley	23.3	--	2.6	8.0	15.9	28.5	4.9
Westside	11.5	--	0.7	2.5	6.9	5.9	--
Total Mileage	100.3	20.2	23.5	69.1	224.6	380.7	20.0

Education, Enforcement, and Encouragement Programs

Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement programs are crucial for raising awareness of bicycle use and providing safe conditions for all roadway users. The Plan recommendations include programs to educate bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists on rights, responsibilities, and bicycle operation; connect current and future bicyclists to existing resources; and encourage people to bicycle more frequently.

Funding and Implementation Plan

Implementation of the Plan will necessitate grant funding from Federal, State, and regional sources. Wherever possible, bikeways will be incorporated into the County road construction projects. The Plan identifies planning level estimates of project costs

and potential grants for project funding. The Plan prioritizes the different projects based on their utility and ease of implementation and groups the recommended bikeways into the following implementation phases:

- *Phase 1* – These projects are planned for construction between 2012 and 2017
- *Phase 2* – These projects are planned for construction between 2017 and 2027
- *Phase 3* – These projects are planned for construction between 2027 and 2032

Environmental Clearance

The planned release date for the Draft PEIR for the Plan is August 9, 2011. The Draft PEIR examines the potential impacts of the Plan on the environment.

Stakeholder Outreach

Community involvement was solicited throughout the development of the Plan. Three rounds of public workshops were held to present and receive feedback from the public on the Plan's findings and recommendations.

The first round of workshops was held in February and March 2010 and included 10 workshops. These workshops introduced the Plan and provided opportunity for public input. The Plan team performed extensive outreach to inform County residents of these workshops, including posting notices on the project website, producing a meeting flyer in English and Spanish, distributing a press release, and providing comment cards to local bike shops, libraries, and regional parks and recreational facilities.

The second round of workshops was held in June 2010 and included 11 workshops. The second round served as a mid-project update for the public. These workshops focused on specific study corridors being evaluated by the project engineering team; education, encouragement, and enforcement program recommendations; and project prioritization methodology. Outreach for the second round also included discussion of the Plan at unincorporated area Town Council meetings and at Regional Planning meetings for community specific plans, distribution of postcards at "Bike to Work Week" events throughout the County sponsored by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and posting public service announcements on County websites, County bus shelters, on buses and shuttles that operate within or near unincorporated areas, and through social media tools such as Public Works' Twitter accounts and Facebook pages operated by members of the Plan's advisory committee.

The third and final round of public workshops was held in March and April 2011 following the release of the Draft Plan and included 11 workshops. The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) was retained to assist with the outreach to maximize the attendance at the workshops. LACBC distributed the press release to news media outlets, radio, and television. They requested various entities post the workshop information to their websites and sent e-mail "blasts" to their membership/subscribers. Copies of CD's containing our Plan were distributed to all County libraries; paid

advertisements were placed in the local newspapers to promote the workshops; and follow up advertisements were placed in local newspapers in mid-May 2011 to remind the public to submit their comments on the Plan by the June 3, 2011, deadline.

For environmental clearance, a public scoping meeting was held on April 9, 2011, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Metro building in downtown Los Angeles. Public Works will be hosting a public review meeting for the Draft PEIR on September 15, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Hall of Records.

Schedule

The following is the schedule for the Bicycle Master Plan Update:

Schedule	Task
March 3, 2011	Publish Draft Bikeway Master Plan (Plan) for Public Review
March – April, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR-Notice of Preparation and scoping meeting • Third round of public workshops for feedback on Draft Plan
August 9, 2011	Publish Draft PEIR
August 15, 2011	Public Review meetings for feedback on Draft PEIR
Winter 2011/2012	Public Hearings – Regional Planning Commission
Spring 2012	Public Hearings – Board of Supervisors
March 2012	Adoption of Plan and PEIR by Board of Supervisors