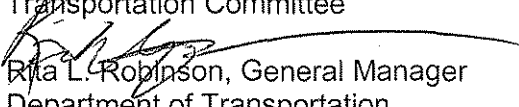


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: November 5, 2008

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Honorable Wendy Greuel, Chair
Transportation Committee

From: 
Rita L. Robinson, General Manager
Department of Transportation

Subject: BICYCLE PLAN UPDATE - CF 07-3494

SUMMARY

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is working with the Department of City Planning (DCP) on developing a new Bicycle Plan for the City of Los Angeles. This report provides the Transportation Committee with a status update on the Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. RECEIVE AND FILE this report as no Council action is necessary at this time.
2. DIRECT DOT to report back to the Committee in 120 days on the status of the Bicycle Plan.

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Angeles adopted its first bicycle planning tool in 1977. This document had little impact on the development of bicycling infrastructure in Los Angeles as it included no policy recommendations or guidelines on the development of bicycling facilities.

In 1995, the Department of City Planning (DCP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), working with a consulting team in the development of a Bicycle Master Plan, designated various arterial roadways as future bicycle lanes, identified public rights-of-way that might become bicycle path projects, and recommended policies for the implementation of bicycling as a transportation mode and recreational activity in Los Angeles.

In 2002, and again in 2007, the City Council readopted the 1996 Plan to allow the City to continue to be eligible for various funding sources that require a planning document no older than five years. During that time, DOT staff continued the implementation of various arterial bike lane and roadway separated bike path projects (such as the Los Angeles River Bicycle Path), developing an incomplete bikeway network, including 51 miles of off-street bicycle paths, 142 miles of bicycle lanes, and 156 miles of bicycle routes. In addition, various bicycle related projects, such as a City-wide bicycle map, bicycle parking projects, bicycle specific website (www.bicyclela.org) and various bicycle education projects, were implemented.

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DISCUSSION

The Departments of Transportation (DOT) and City Planning (DCP) have been working together since 2006 on the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP), the identification of funding, and the development and execution of a bid process. As a result of the RFP process, *Alta Planning and Design* has been selected to work on the new Bicycle Plan. The Departments have begun working with the consultant; the following activities have been performed and/or are ongoing:

- Four initial public meetings have been held, with additional meetings planned for early 2009;
- Additional public presentations on the development of the new plan have been made to four Neighborhood Councils, USC's School of Planning, the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, and various other community groups and organizations;
- A website (www.labiikeplan.org) and electronic survey have been developed and are available to the public for the collection of public comments and input;
- A postcard was developed and distributed to libraries, bicycle shops, and other public locations to solicit input from individuals without Web access;
- A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of City departments and two members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) has been established and has held three meetings;
- A proposed policy document has been drafted by the consultant, with input from the TAC, City departments, and the public. This proposed policy document was submitted to DOT, DCP, and the TAC for review, comment, and additional input;
- A preliminary draft of the bikeway route network map has been developed by the consultant, submitted to DOT's Bikeways group for review, and returned to Alta for corrections prior to further internal review by DOT and the TAC.

The next steps for the project include:

- Beginning facilitation of a public process on the issue of supporting mountain bicycling in City parks;
- Preparing the policy document and draft route maps for review and input by the public; and
- A second round of public meetings to present the policy and route map work completed for review, input, and further recommendation.

The Scope of Work for the consultant includes the following tasks:

- Evaluate 2002 Bicycle Plan Recommended Bikeways;
- Recommend gap closure methods and a collector street network of bikeways;
- Update Bicycle Plan Policies;
- Integrate the Playa Vista Bikeway Network into the existing bikeway network;
- Develop cost estimates for the implementation of the Bicycle Plan;
- Develop off-road bicycle policies;
- Conduct public outreach and information gathering;
- Comply with the State's design technical handbook;
- Comply with Environmental Review requirements; and
- Coordinate with City staff.

Four initial public meetings have been held to date (Valley, Westside, Central City, and Wilmington), with over 170 individuals attending and providing input with regard to bicycle routing and policy. Four follow-up meetings are planned for January 2009 when the consultant team will bring the Policy Document and a map of recommended facilities to the public for review and comment prior to bringing the document to the Bicycle Advisory Committee and City Council.

The consultant was also required to provide a website and virtual mapping tool to allow computer access to all information from the public meetings and to provide recommendations for the consultant to review as a part of the planning process. To date, over 1000 surveys and comments on the Bicycle Plan update have been received via the project website. In addition, staff has presented the Bicycle Plan to Neighborhood Councils upon request (four to date) and the consultant has developed a comment card distributed to bicycle shops, libraries, and Council Offices to allow those without internet access or the ability to attend a public meeting to provide input as well.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the consulting contract in the amount of \$450,000 has been encumbered by DOT utilizing local Transportation Development Act funds. DOT's staff time is being paid through Proposition C. In addition, staff time is being provided by DOT and DCP to administer the contract and work directly with Alta as they develop the plan.

COORDINATION

DCP and DOT have developed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of various City departments to provide input, review the work of the consulting team, and, once adopted, to implement the Bicycle Plan. To date, membership and participation on the TAC includes staff from DCP; DOT, Public Works' Bureaus of Engineering, Street Lighting, and Street Services; the Los Angeles Police Department; Los Angeles World Airports; the Department of Building and Safety; Environmental Affairs Department; Recreation and Parks; Port of Los Angeles; and members of the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee.