

Sebastopol Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

I. Introduction

This *Sebastopol Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* was developed as a component of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority's (SCTA's) *2008 Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*. While part of the *Master Plan*, the Sebastopol plan is also a stand-alone document to be used by the City of Sebastopol to guide implementation of local projects and programs and document city policy. It is also designed to be a component of the *Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* to improve coordination in realizing the countywide bicycle and pedestrian system.

The Sebastopol plan was developed over the course of a year through the coordinated efforts of the SCTA's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, a focused project steering committee, Sebastopol staff, and input from the public through a series of public workshops and public review periods. The Project Steering Committee was established to oversee the development of the plan and consisted of representatives from the County and each of its cities. Public workshops were held throughout the County to collect input from interested members of the public. The workshops were advertised through various local and regional print media, mailings, the posting of public fliers, and government outreach efforts.

The primary emphasis of this planning effort is to facilitate transportation improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Purposes of the Plan

The purposes of the *Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* are to:

- Assess the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in Sebastopol and throughout Sonoma County in order to identify a set of local and countywide improvements and implementation strategies that will encourage more people to walk and bicycle;
- Identify local and countywide systems of physical and programmatic improvements to support bicycling and walking;
- Provide local agencies that adopt the Plan with eligibility for various funding programs, including the State Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA);
- Act as a resource and coordinating document for local actions and regional projects; and
- Foster cooperation between entities for planning purposes and to create Geographic Information System (GIS) maps and a database of existing and proposed facilities countywide.



VISION

How Does the Plan Affect Daily Life in Sonoma County?

The *Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* describes a vision for the future of these alternative transportation modes, identifies policies to help achieve that vision and contains funding strategies for implementation of the projects and programs contained within the plan. These policies affect what choices we have for travel by car, bus, and bicycle and on foot. By identifying transportation priorities and the funding to support them, the Plan determines what projects are built and what programs are pursued.

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To achieve these, the Plan includes recommendations for physical improvements and programs that could be developed to enhance and expand existing facilities, connect gaps, address constraints, provide for greater local and regional connectivity, and increase the potential for walking and bicycling as transportation modes.

Vision Statement

Through a collaborative planning process, a vision, goal and objectives were approved by all ten jurisdictions of Sonoma County: Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Cotati, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Sebastopol, and the County of Sonoma. These are designed to guide the development and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Sonoma County and express the intent of SCTA and its member agencies to enhance non-motorized mobility and to improve safety, access, traffic congestion, air quality, and the quality of life of Sonoma County residents, workers and visitors.

The vision for a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian transportation system is:

In Sonoma County bicycling and walking are:

- Important to residents' quality of life
- Integral parts of an interconnected transportation system
- Safe and convenient for all user groups
- Viable means of reaching desired destinations
- Routinely accommodated
- Encouraged by easy connections to transit
- Fostered by education and enforcement
- Advanced by actions of government, schools and the private sector
- Promoted as tourism and recreation attractions
- Mode choices that contribute to personal health
- Options that reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions

Caltrans Compliance

Bicycle Transportation Act

To be eligible for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds, a city or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that addresses items a – k in *Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2*. If a city plans to use a countywide BTP to establish their eligibility for BTA funds, the countywide BTP must include a discussion of items a – k for that city in addition to addressing these items for the unincorporated areas in the county. Items a – k, and their location in this Plan, are identified in Appendix A.

Bicycle Transportation Plan Approval Process

Following adoption at the local level, a city or county sends their plan to the appropriate Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for approval. Sonoma County's RTPA is the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). RTPA approval consists of verifying that the plan is in compliance with Section 891.2 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Following RTPA approval, the local

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3. Vision, Goal, Objectives and Policies

Vision, Goal, Objectives, and Policies

This section defines the vision for bicycle and pedestrian transportation throughout Sonoma County, and outlines the vision, principal goal, and objectives that will serve as guidelines in the continuing development of the countywide bicycle and pedestrian transportation system². Through a collaborative planning process, the vision, goal and objectives were approved by all ten jurisdictions of Sonoma County: Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Rohnert Part, Petaluma, Sonoma, Sebastopol, and the County of Sonoma. These are designed to guide the development and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Sonoma County and express the intent of SCTA and its member agencies to enhance non-motorized mobility to improve safety, access, traffic congestion, air quality, and the quality of life of Sonoma County residents, workers and visitors.

The vision, goal and top-tier objectives are meant to function as the mutually agreed upon common framework applicable to both the primary countywide system and local bicycle and pedestrian networks. Policies, and possibly additional objectives, that address jurisdiction-specific issues are included in the individual County and city/town plans.

The role of the SCTA is in advocating, planning, coordinating, and funding, whereas local agencies, such as cities, towns, and the County, transit agencies, Caltrans, and the non-profit and private sectors, will be chiefly responsible for implementation of objectives and policies.

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Principal Goal:

To develop and maintain a comprehensive countywide bicycle and pedestrian transportation system, which includes projects, programs, and policies that work together to provide safe and efficient opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians to access public transportation, school, work, shopping, services, recreation and residences.

² The "system" is defined as the whole of all of the components – physical and programmatic.