



City of Sebastopol Planning Department

Date: July 8, 2025
To: Planning Commission
From: John Jay, Associate Planner (4LEAF)
Subject: Downtown Sustainable Transportation Grant

Recommendation

The Planning Commission provides feedback on the suggested metrics and make a decision on which alternative for the consultant to further analyze. The metrics being suggested will further develop the analysis being done on the preferred alternatives.

Background

On August 31, 2023, the City of Sebastopol was awarded a Sustainable Transportation Grant from the California Department of Transportation titled Sebastopol Main Street State Highways Subregional Planning and Core Redesign. The grant awarded amount was \$230,178 with a local match of \$29,822 for a total of \$260,000.

Since that time, the consultant, Fehr&Peers, along with City staff, have held meetings with the public, business owners, and workshops to get input from members of the community on how they envision the downtown area of Sebastopol. The consultant and City team held its first public workshop event in November of 2024, where they introduced the project and encouraged the community to provide feedback through a variety of engaging working groups. These stations included interactive street design options, “likes and dislikes” of current conditions, a showcase of previous work that has been done in the area, and a presentation of the next steps after this meeting.

From the November event, the consultant team took the information gathered and started to develop a list of alternatives. Within these alternatives, they looked at a variety of changes and modifications to the conditions of the study area, which include Main Street, McKinley Street, Petaluma Avenue, and Bodega Avenue. Options included adding or removing bike lanes on both sides of the streets, adding bike lanes on certain streets, modifying traffic flow on both Petaluma Avenue and Main Street, and finally, an option of closing sections of Main Street to vehicular traffic. Once these alternatives were finalized, the consultant and City staff then held another public workshop in May of 2025, where they once again invited members of the community to provide feedback on the 11 alternatives that were developed.

Since the May workshop, the 11 alternatives were taken down to four recommendations that are being presented tonight. Of those four recommendations, City staff and the consultant team are requesting that the Planning Commission provide feedback on the type of metrics they would prefer to see analyzed further. Additionally, staff is requesting that the Planning Commission

also confirm that the recommended alternatives are desirable, and the consultant can then initiate further analysis. The evaluation categories, which were established at the beginning of the project, include safety and comfort, access and mobility, sense of place and downtown vitality, feasibility and cost, and lastly, community support.

Following tonight's meeting, the project's next steps will include building and analyzing the three alternatives. Later in the fall of 2025 is to select the preferred alternative and the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council. Once the recommendation is made, the consultant team will develop an Implementation Plan and a Draft Final plan and take it to City Council for final approval in early 2026.

Fiscal Impact

As this part of the grant is included within the scope of work that has been agreed upon by the consultant and the City, there is no fiscal impact of this agenda item.

Attachments:

Presentation