



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: May 2 2023
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 60 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, P.E., Public Works Director, 568-3010
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation 568-3064
SUBJECT: County Active Transportation Plan; All Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

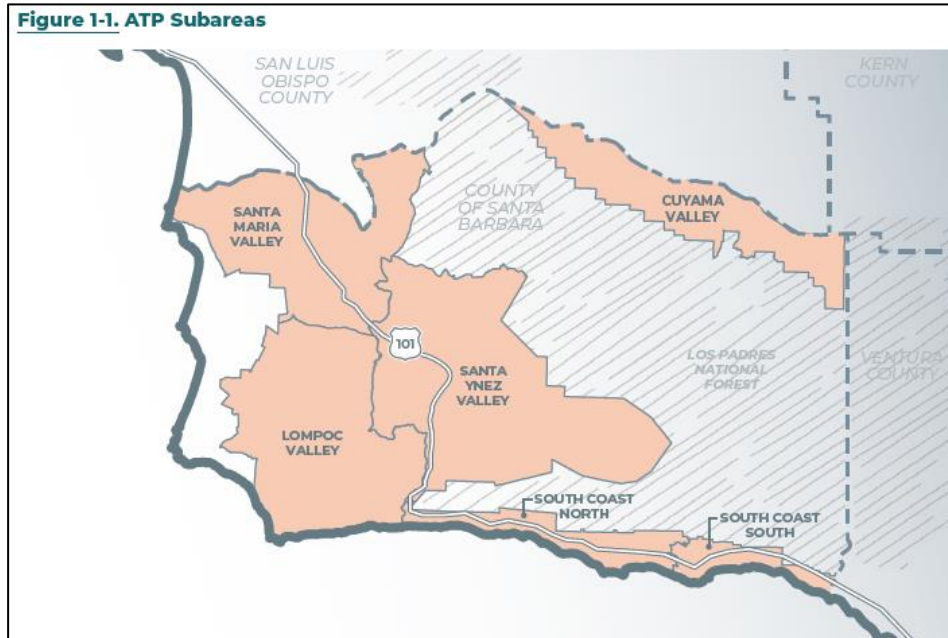
That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and adopt a Resolution to adopt the County Active Transportation Plan; and
- b) Find that this action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.20, which statutorily exempts active transportation plans, and CEQA Guidelines § 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies), and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

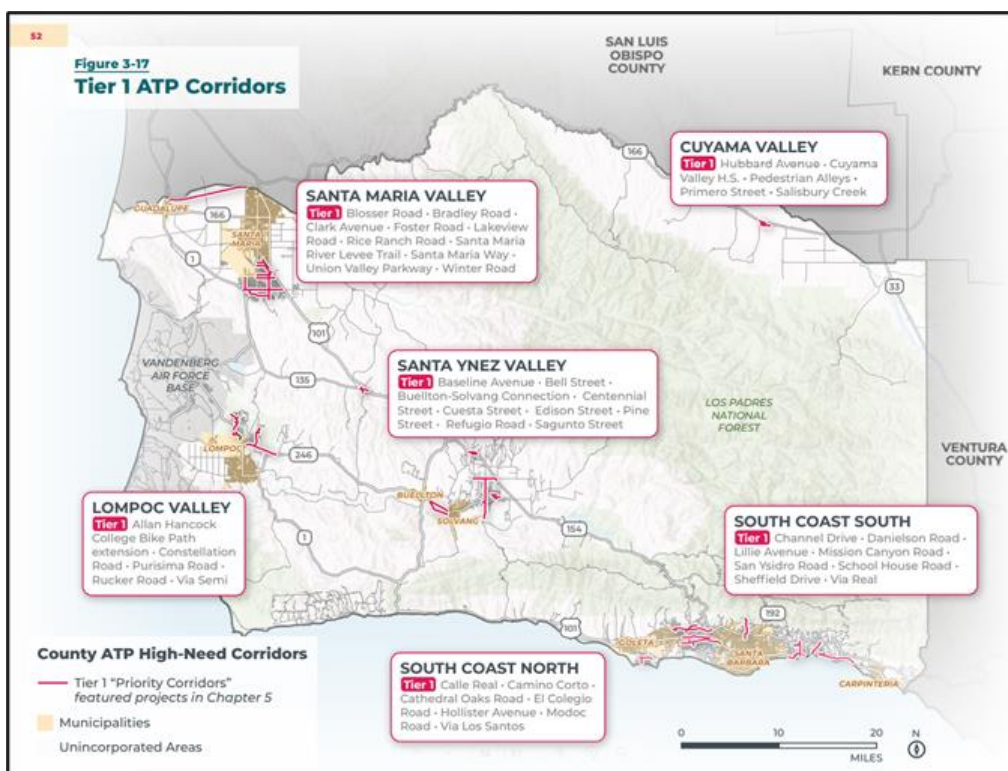
Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to adopt an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for unincorporated Santa Barbara County. Active Transportation refers to any form of transportation primarily powered by human energy, such as walking, cycling, and non-motorized scooters, or skateboards. The ATP is the County's first plan to evaluate walking, biking, and rolling throughout the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. The ATP's vision statement is "the county's transportation system should inspire people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, or roll for everyday transportation by providing comfortable, connected, and accessible transportation networks and supporting programs and policies that encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips."

The ATP assesses existing conditions and user needs, incorporates public and stakeholder input, and identifies active transportation projects that will help connect more people to jobs, schools, services, and transit. The ATP divides the unincorporated areas into six subareas (Figure 1-1) to focus outreach, maintain regional equity, and recognize the diversity and uniqueness of each unincorporated community.



Chapters 1 and 2 of the ATP contain introductions, vision, goals, and policies. Chapter 3 highlights the ATP’s process for identifying priority corridors within each subarea based on demand factors, safety analysis, and community input (see Figure 3-17). Chapter 4 details the engagement process. Chapter 5 summarizes the community feedback, existing conditions and field observations, and recommended infrastructure changes for each priority corridor. Chapter 6 focuses on future implementation of the plan and explains that most of the project ideas in the ATP are currently unfunded and without detailed designs or timelines for construction. Chapter 6 also includes conceptual construction cost estimates for projects, as well as potential funding sources for projects, and a discussion of non-infrastructure programs that support active transportation in Santa Barbara County.



The ATP is intended as an informational document that staff, stakeholders, and the public can reference to understand the goals and roadmap for active transportation. The ATP also presented an opportunity for the community to provide input to Public Works on what types of facilities are desired on County roadways. Typically, projects identified in recently adopted plans, like the ATP, are more competitive for future grant opportunities. The ATP does not legally bind the County to later activities and does not require any mandatory measures or amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use and Development Code. This document may be amended or adjusted as new information becomes available.

Background:

In 2020, the County received a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant of \$474,934 to develop an Active Transportation Plan. The grant required an 11.47% (\$61,566) local match from the County through staff time. The Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant Program is intended to encourage local and regional multimodal transportation and support implementation of Regional Transportation Plans (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS). Awarded projects should contribute to the State’s greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for 2035, employ best practices for regional mobility and transportation, and address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

For the past two years, staff collaborated with the consultant, Fehr & Peers, coordinating outreach and preparing the ATP. This plan strives to meet the goals set forth in the Sustainable Communities Grant by facilitating increased walking, biking, and rolling in the region. Investments in active transportation confers a variety of benefits including reduced traffic congestion, improved safety, comfort, health, air quality, economic vitality, and quality of life. The ATP builds off the many natural elements that make Santa Barbara County a desirable home to residents and businesses, as well as a destination for visitors.

The ATP was developed during the COVID-19 public health emergency, so the community engagement approach relied on both in-person and virtual strategies. Phase 1 of the community engagement occurred in 2021 and was completely virtual. Phase 1 focused on understanding existing conditions and user needs in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. Phase 2 began in 2022 and focused on gathering feedback on the proposed project ideas that came out of Phase 1 of the engagement process. Phase 2 relied on both in-person and virtual strategies, which are summarized in Chapter 4 of the ATP.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Funding Sources	Amount
Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant	\$474,934
Planning & Development: General Fund	\$31,566
Public Works: TDA-LTF	\$30,000
Total	\$536,500

Special Instructions:

After the Board meeting on May 2, 2023, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Send a copy of the Minute Order of these actions to the Public Works Transportation Division, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 to Ashley Kruzell, ext. 83064.
2. File the Notice of Exemption (Attachment D) with the Office of Planning and Research, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Clerk of the Board to retain a copy on file.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board Resolution Adopting the County's Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Attachment B: County Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Attachment C: Notice of Public Hearing

Attachment D: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Mark Friedlander, Active Transportation Manager, 568-3576