



**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: April 4, 2023
Placement: Set Hearing
(4/4/23),
Departmental (5/2/23)
Estimated Time: 60 minutes on 5/2/23
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:

Set a hearing on the Departmental Agenda on May 2, 2023 (ESTIMATED TIME: 60 MINUTES) to:

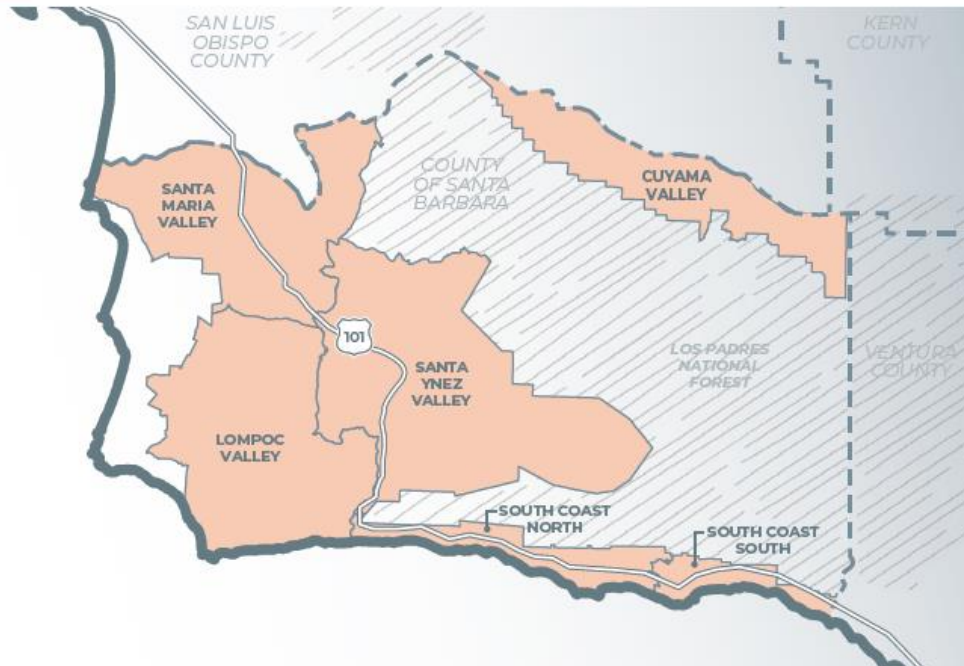
- a) Adopt a Resolution to adopt the County Active Transportation Plan; and
- b) Find that this action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.20, which statutorily exempts active transportation plans, and CEQA Guidelines § 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 assesses existing conditions and user needs, incorporates public and stakeholder input, and identifies projects that help promote a more accessible, efficient, comfortable and convenient active transportation network connecting more people to jobs, goods, services, and transit. The ATP divides the unincorporated areas into six subareas (see Figure 1-1) to focus outreach, maintain regional equity, and recognize the diversity and uniqueness of each unincorporated community.

Figure 1-1. ATP Subareas



The ATP identifies priority corridors within each subarea based on demand factors, safety analysis, and community input. Chapter 5 summarizes the community feedback, existing conditions and field observations, and recommended infrastructure changes for each priority corridor. Chapter 6 includes conceptual construction cost estimates for each corridor as well as potential funding sources for projects.

The ATP is intended as an informational document that staff, stakeholders, and the public can reference to understand the goals and roadmap for future improvements in active transportation. Projects identified in recently adopted plans, like the ATP, are more competitive for future grant opportunities, including the State’s Active Transportation Program, which awarded over \$80 million to our region for project in the most recent grant cycle (Cycle 6). 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.

On May 2, 2023, Staff will present the ATP for your Board’s consideration and adoption.

Background:

For the past two years, staff worked with the consultant, Fehr & Peers, coordinating outreach and preparing an ATP plan. The ATP is funded by a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant awarded to the County in FY 20-21. On August 18, 2020, your Board adopted a resolution authorizing Public Works to enter into an agreement with Caltrans to accept the \$474,934 grant to prepare the ATP. The grant required an 11.47% or \$61,566 local match from the County which was covered by staff time. No additional general funds were required to complete the ATP.

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.

The ATP 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 many 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 hearing on April 4, 2023, direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the attached Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment A) pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.20 in the Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Maria Times, and Lompoc Record ten (10) days prior to hearing.

After the Second Reading 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 Kruzel, ext. 83064.
2. File the Notice of Exemption (Attachment B) 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: Notice of Public Hearing

Authored by:

Mark Friedlander, Active Transportation Manager, 568-3576