STAFF REPORT

City Council
Meeting Date: 2/7/2017
Staff Report Number: 17-032-CC

Consent Calendar: Adopt a resolution in collaboration with the Cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City directing staff to participate in sub-regional planning on bike routes

Recommendation
Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution (Attachment A) of support endorsing a collaborative effort with the Cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City to identify and plan for a safe and accessible north-south bicycle route for travel across and between these mid-Peninsula communities.

Policy Issues
The proposed resolution is consistent with the City’s 2016 Circulation Element that includes goals to (1) provide safe, efficient circulation system that promotes a healthy, safe, and active community and quality of life throughout Menlo Park and (2) increase accessibility for and use of streets by pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. Additionally, policies to support coordination with neighboring jurisdictions to implement regional transportation improvements are consistent with this effort.

Background
After several discussions regarding transportation and mobility challenges common to the mid-Peninsula region, on May 2, 2016, the city managers of Menlo Park, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City and senior leadership at Stanford University committed to work collaboratively on transportation solutions to improve walkability, enhance the bicycle network, address first- and last-mile challenges associated with using transit, advocate for enhanced Caltrain service, and improve traffic signal coordination and other “smart” approaches for travel on major arterials crossing the mid-Peninsula. One focus area identified by the group is to enhance bicycle networks and infrastructure with the goal of creating an interconnected, regional bicycle network.

Analysis
Given the ease of implementation, the low cost relative to other transportation projects, and the potential to make significant improvements in a short time, upgrading bicycle infrastructure in the mid-Peninsula makes practical sense. For this reason, the Managers Mobility Partnership has been discussing the need for a north-south bicycle corridor traversing the four cities. In Menlo Park, this route is expected to be located on an existing bike route between El Camino Real and Middlefield Road to connect to key destinations and include only potential minor stripping, sign or signal modifications. To document this commitment, each city is seeking City Council approval of a resolution authorizing staff to do the following:
1. Carry out a short-term project to delineate existing North-South routes more effectively, with common signage across the four cities, and improvements made where there are gaps and difficulties for the cyclist.

2. Initiate a longer-term creative process to identify new, more linear and more continuous north-south route(s). The resolution kicks off a planning process for a high-quality, secure bicycle facility, one that is safe for use by cyclists from age 8 to age 80.

3. Coordinate with Partnership communities on a thorough, systematic, and broad-based community engagement process to identify the route(s).

The City Councils of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City have each approved the resolution as attached at meetings in January 2017.

Staff anticipates using community engagement channels to be initiated for the Transportation Master Plan in the coming year to seek community input on a potential route. Outreach and planning would be coordinated with immediate neighbors, including the Town of Atherton, San Mateo County, and East Palo Alto, as well as Partnership cities. This coordination is critical to developing a corridor that would allow residents to seamlessly and safely traverse jurisdictional boundaries. Proposed designs that result from these engagement efforts would be developed with the input and review of the Bicycle Commission and would ultimately return to the City Council for approval.

**Impact on City Resources**
Designating an existing north-south bicycle route and exploring longer-term projects would be accomplished within existing staff resources and funding through related ongoing projects. Decision making on designating a route and funding any significant capital improvement would be at the Council’s discretion at a future date.

**Environmental Review**
The adoption of this resolution is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act. Any specific projects that result from this process would be reviewed for potential environmental impacts as those projects are defined.

**Public Notice**
Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Attachments**
A. Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. ________

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CITIES OF MOUNTAIN VIEW, PALO ALTO AND REDWOOD CITY, PROVIDING DIRECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING ON BIKE ROUTES

WHEREAS, the cities of Menlo Park, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Redwood City face transportation and mobility challenges in their communities in the wake of regional population growth and economic expansion; and

WHEREAS, the managers of these four cities have agreed to work jointly to address these challenges, through the Managers' Mobility Partnership; and

WHEREAS, enhancing the bicycle network and associated infrastructure is a crucial component of comprehensive transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, biking collisions disproportionately affect disadvantaged people in our region; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of bicycle commuters is a shared goal of the four cities in the Managers Mobility Partnership; and

WHEREAS, an interconnected regional network of bicycle routes is necessary to increase the number of people who choose to bicycle as a form of transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of Menlo Park does hereby:

SECTION 1. City of Menlo Park will begin a collaborative process of identifying a high-quality, safe, north-south Mid-Peninsula bicycle corridor which traverses the four partner cities of the Managers' Mobility Partnership.

SECTION 2. Each city will engage in its own public outreach process and coordinate closely with the other Partnership cities to articulate the route for that north-south bicycle corridor.

SECTION 3. The bicycle corridor will be one that is:

a. Suitable for riders of all ages and abilities;

b. Direct, and serves as an artery linking the partner cities;

c. Identified by suitable signage;

d. Provides access to downtown areas, job centers, and other intense land uses.
SECTION 4. In the short term, the cities will collaborate to address gaps, enhance signage, and explore other improvements to the existing bicycle network between communities.

I, Pamela Aguilar, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said Council on the seventh day of February, 2017, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this seventh day of February, 2017.

____________________________________
Pamela Aguilar, CMC
City Clerk