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May 8, 2008

The Honorable City Council  
C/O City Clerk's Office  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 5-13-08

Submitted in PLUM Committee

Council File No: 07-3494

Item No.: 3

Deputy: BARBARA GREAVES

CF: 06-3231  
07-3494

Attention: Planning and Land Use Management Committee and  
Transportation Committee

**SUBJECT: CITY'S BICYCLE PLAN UPDATE**

In response to two motions introduced by Councilmember Reyes relative to the development of a City ordinance/policy calling for the consideration of bicyclists in the planning, design and construction and reconstruction of transportation projects and other bicycle policy related approaches, the Department of City Planning (DCP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are providing this report on the development of the City's new Bicycle Plan, a component of the Transportation Element of the General Plan.

The City's consultant-assisted preparation of a revised citywide Bicycle Plan has been greatly aided by the gathering of public input via four initial regional public meetings, staff presentations at Neighborhood Council Meetings, and input received via a project website (including a mapping and public survey tool). That information and public input has provided the City with a wide variety of beneficial information and will enable the City to develop a comprehensive Bicycle Plan. As the City's main policy document regarding bicycling issues, the updated Bicycle Plan will provide the direction that will assist staff with the development of City policies and ordinances that can be incorporated into Community Plans and with the implementation of necessary bicycling infrastructure throughout Los Angeles. Additionally, the updated Bicycle Plan will address many of the ideas raised in the two motions.

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PLANNING & LAND  
USE MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION

## Background

The City of Los Angeles initially adopted its first Bicycle Plan in 1977. This document had little impact on the development of bicycling infrastructure within Los Angeles as it included no policy recommendations or guidelines for the development of bicycling facilities. In 1995, the Departments of City Planning and Transportation working with a consulting team in the development of the Bicycle Plan Update, designated various arterial roadways as future bicycle lanes, public rights-of-way that might become bicycle path projects, and recommended policies for the implementation of bicycling as a transportation mode and recreation activity in Los Angeles. This Plan was adopted by the City Council in 1996 as part of the General Plan's Transportation Element.

In 2002 and again in 2007, the City Council re-adopted the 1996 Plan to allow the City to continue to be eligible for various funding sources that require a planning document no older than five years. During that time DOT staff continued the implementation of various arterial bike lane and bike path projects such as the Los Angeles River Bicycle Path developing an incomplete bikeway network including 51 miles of off-street bicycle paths, 142 miles of bicycle lanes (striped lanes for bicyclists on roadways), and 156 miles of bicycle routes (preferred routes on streets). In addition, various bicycle related projects such as a citywide bicycle map, bicycle parking projects, bicycle specific website ([www.bicyclela.org](http://www.bicyclela.org)) and various bicycle education projects were implemented.

## Current Status

DCP and DOT have been working together since 2006 on the development of an updated Bicycle Plan. The departments have hired Alta Planning + Design (Alta) to assist in the preparation of the update. Alta is a highly experienced firm specializing in bicycle planning and has prepared such plans for many cities, including Portland, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, West Hollywood, among others. The Scope of Work for the consultant requires:

- Evaluation of the 2002 Bicycle Plan Recommended Bikeways;
- Recommendation for gap closure methods and a Collector Street Network of Bikeways;
- Update of the Bicycle Plan policies and recommendations for changes;
- Integration of the Playa Vista Bikeway Network into the Existing Bikeway Network;
- Development of cost estimates for the implementation of the Bicycle Plan;
- Development of off-road bicycle policies;
- Conducting public outreach and information gathering;
- Compliance with the State's Bicycle Transportation Account requirements;
- Development of a Bicycle Facility Design Technical Handbook;
- Compliance with Environmental Review requirements; and
- Coordination with City Staff.

Four initial public meetings have been held to date in the Valley, Westside, South L.A. and the Harbor Area. Over 170 individuals attended the public meetings and provided input with regard to bicycle routing and policy. Two meetings are being planned for Summer 2008, to address issues related to mountain biking. Four follow-up public meetings will be held in Fall 2008, when the consultant team will bring a draft Plan to the public for review and comment prior to submitting it to the City Planning Commission and City Council for their consideration.

The consultant team has created a website ([labikeplan.org](http://labikeplan.org)) and virtual mapping tool ([bikely.com](http://bikely.com)) to allow anyone with computer access to view all of the information from the public meetings and provide recommendations for the consultant to review as a part of the planning process. To date, over 1,000 surveys and comments have been received via the project website regarding the Bicycle Plan update. In addition, staff has provided Bicycle Plan presentations to Neighborhood Councils upon request and has asked the consultant to develop a comment card to be distributed to bicycle shops, libraries, and Council Offices to allow those without internet access or the ability to attend a public meeting to provide input as well. As a part of the revised Bicycle Plan, progressive and innovative ideas such as bike boulevards, road modifications, and bike stations will be researched and incorporated as appropriate.

The Department of City Planning and Department of Transportation are currently addressing the needs of bicycles and pedestrians through updated policies and procedures. Among other initiatives, DCP has introduced a walkability checklist in its project review to better provide for the pedestrian experience. Also in collaboration with DOT, the review and modification of car-oriented mitigation measures (street widenings, etc.) and the introduction of bike and pedestrian-friendly mitigation measures are ongoing. Additionally, DOT is currently installing bicycle racks throughout the City.

### Coordination

The Department of City Planning and Department of Transportation have developed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of various departments within the City to provide input, review the work of the consulting team, and, once adopted, implement the Bicycle Plan. Membership and participation on the committee includes staff from City Planning; Department of Transportation; Public Works Bureau of Engineering, Street Lighting, and Street Services; Los Angeles Police Department; Los Angeles World Airports; Department of Building and Safety; Environmental Affairs Department; Department of Recreation and Parks; Port of Los Angeles; and members of the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee.

### Recommendations

That the City Council:

1. Support continued work by the City departments and the consulting team on

the new Bicycle Plan and return to Council with updates on the progress of the project; and

2. Direct City departments to identify potential bicycle projects for funding and implementation, following adoption of the Bicycle Plan by City Council, anticipated in 2009; and
3. Recommend the revision and update of LAMC 12.21 and 91.6307.1 which require the inclusion of bicycle parking facilities in new and redeveloped construction projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Jordann Turner, Department of City Planning at 213-978-1379, or Michelle Mowery, Department of Transportation at 213-972-4962.

Sincerely,



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