

CITY OF CALISTOGA

STAFF REPORT

TO: CHAIRMAN MANFREDI AND MEMBERS OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: ERIK V. LUNDQUIST, SENIOR PLANNER

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

SUBJECT: CITY OF CALISTOGA BICYCLE PLAN

1
2 **REQUEST:**
3

4 Consideration of a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the 2012 Bicycle
5 Transportation Plan (BTP), which will serve as a guide to the development of a
6 comprehensive bicycle system throughout the City and the local planning area.
7

8 **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**
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10 The purpose of this meeting is to review and recommend adoption of the City of
11 Calistoga Bicycle Plan ("City Bicycle Plan"). Following preliminary review and comment
12 on the City Bicycle Plan earlier this year (March/April), the Countywide Bicycle Plan and
13 the City Bicycle Plan were adopted by NCTPA in May 2012. A copy of the Planning
14 Commission's Minutes is attached to this report (see Attachment 2). Now that NCTPA
15 has adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the City may formally consider
16 adoption of the City's Bicycle Plan.
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18 For the purposes of background information, NCTPA prepared a City Bicycle Plan
19 which is a cooperatively developed 25-year vision for a complete bicycling system in
20 Napa County. This was a public process which included review by the City's Bicycle
21 Advisory Commission (BAC), Planning Commission and City Council, and stakeholders
22 interested in bicycle-related issues. There are many benefits to supporting bicycling as
23 a more viable mode of transportation and recreation in the City. Calistoga's varied
24 terrain, beautiful scenery and mild weather is ideal for both practical and recreational
25 cycling. Additionally, the terrain in the county is mostly flat and compact, which is
26 optimal for intra-city commute and other trips. Currently, inter-city travel on the valley
27 floor by bicycle can be challenging because of the distances between cities, limited
28 connections, and roads with high-speed traffic.
29

30 The City Bicycle Plan was developed with the awareness of the recent surge of interest
31 in bicycling locally and throughout the region. New programs, systems and
32 technologies are emerging, spurred on by a desire to reduce greenhouse gas

33 emissions, promote more active, healthy lifestyles, encourage bicycling as a viable
34 transportation option, reduce traffic congestion, and provide connections between
35 communities. Additionally, the “Safe Routes to School” program has been expanded to
36 serve schools throughout Napa County. With these serving as a strong foundation for
37 bicycling in Napa County and its cities and town, NCTPA has adopted a long range goal
38 to have 10% of all trips made by bicycle in the county by 2035, a goal also reflected in
39 the City Bicycle Plan. The City Bicycle Plan supports accomplishing this goal in close
40 partnership with the governments, organizations and citizens of our community.

41
42 In general, bicycle plans must be updated every five years and include specific
43 information to be eligible for Bicycle Transportation Act funds. The City of Calistoga’s
44 Bicycle Plan was last updated in 2007 and the City, along with other local jurisdictions,
45 requested that local bicycle plan updates be included in NCTPA’s Countywide Bicycle
46 Plan update effort.

47
48 Developed as part of the comprehensive Countywide Bicycle Plan, the City’s Bicycle Plan
49 functions both as a component of the Countywide Bicycle Plan as well as a stand-alone
50 document proposed for adoption by the City. All of the requirements necessary to qualify
51 the plan for Bicycle Transportation Act funding are included in the City Bicycle Plan.

52
53 The City of Calistoga Bicycle Plan update is built upon a vision and goals that
54 developed from the General Plan, the 2007 Bicycle Plan and public participation. The
55 vision and goals of the City Bicycle Plan are broad, describing an expanded network for
56 cyclists of all ages and abilities, increasing resident and visitor use, and providing
57 health, environmental and economic benefits. The following sets forth the vision and
58 goals included in the City’s Bicycle Plan:

59 Bicycling Vision for the Region – *“A comprehensive, connected bicycle system is*
60 *achieved through supportive development patterns and programmatic practices,*
61 *and will provide people with safe, convenient and enjoyable access throughout*
62 *all Napa County jurisdictions and to destinations beyond. Bicycling is common for*
63 *everyday trips and recreation, contributing to the quality of life in Calistoga and*
64 *the health, safety and welfare of its residents, workers and visitors. Calistoga is*
65 *known as a bicycle friendly community with a “world class” bicycling system.”*

66
67 Principal Goal – *“To develop and maintain a safe and comprehensive countywide*
68 *bicycle transportation and recreation system that provides access, opportunities*
69 *for healthy physical activity, and reduced traffic congestion and energy use.*
70 *Policies, programs and projects work together to provide safe, efficient and*
71 *enjoyable opportunities for bicyclists of all types, ages, and abilities to access*
72 *public transportation, school, work, recreation areas, shopping and other activity*
73 *centers, and residential neighborhoods, and to connect Napa jurisdictions to*
74 *each other and the region.”*

75
76 The City’s Bicycle Plan update contains several new elements not otherwise included in
77 the 2007 Plan. Consistent with the comprehensive Countywide process, bicycle routes

78 in Calistoga are now connected with identified county routes. Regional routes planned
79 through the various jurisdictions—particularly the Vine Trail—gain significance as
80 primary routes. The new plan contains coordinated City/County policies, as well as
81 more specific City programs and measureable objectives.
82

83 The City Bicycle Plan map has been updated to incorporate new routes such as those
84 included in the General Plan Amendment recently adopted as a result of implementing
85 the Urban Design Plan. It is expanded to create an integrated, looped network to
86 important destinations, including schools, within and around the city. While most
87 network changes are to reduce intrusion across private property. A few routes, such as
88 Petrified Forest Road, have been added as a Class III to connect with county routes.
89

90 **GENERAL PLAN OF CONSISTENCY:**
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92 The City Bicycle Plan is a separate document that consists of a document that includes
93 maps, policies and substantial background information. Much of the City Bicycle Plan
94 background information is required to be included in accordance with the 1994
95 California Bicycle Transportation Act to be eligible for Bicycle Transportation Account
96 Funds. The City Bicycle Plan (maps and policies) is consistent with the City's General
97 Plan.
98

99 There are a few modifications to the City Bicycle Plan that will be different than the City
100 Plan adopted by NCTPA. These modifications are necessary to ensure that the City
101 Bike Plan is consistent with the General Plan and were recommended for inclusion by
102 the Planning Commission and City Council based upon public comments received.
103 These modifications are outlined as follows:
104

105 1. Map Modifications:
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- 107 a. Add southern crossing connection from Bounsall property to the
108 Washington Street Bike Path as a Class I Bike Path; and
- 109 b. Eliminate the Class II Bike Lane on Lincoln Avenue from Foothill
110 Boulevard to Cedar Street; and
- 111 c. Delete the primary planned Class II Bike Lane on Grant Street from
112 Mora Avenue to Greenwood Avenue; and
- 113 d. Delete the planned Class III on Mora Avenue from Money Lane to
114 Highway 29; and
- 115 e. Revise the Bicycle Count Locations Figure to reflect Table 4, Proposed
116 Bicycle Count Locations.
117

118 2. Modify paragraph 2 on page 14 of the draft City of Calistoga Bicycle Plan to
119 read:
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121 *A comprehensive, connected bicycle system is achieved through supportive*
122 *development patterns and programmatic practices, and will provide people*
123 *with safe, convenient and enjoyable access throughout all Napa County*

124 *jurisdictions and to destinations beyond. Bicycling is common for everyday*
125 *trips and recreation, contributing to the quality of life in ~~Napa~~ Calistoga and*
126 *the health, safety and welfare of its residents, workers and visitors. ~~Napa~~*
127 *Calistoga is known as a bicycle friendly community with a “world class”*
128 *bicycling system.*

129
130 3. Add Calistoga Policies/Programs Cal 6.c. on Page 19, as follows:

131
132 *“Cal-6.c The integrity of agricultural operations shall not be violated by*
133 *recreational or other non-compatible uses. Where trails are required, they*
134 *shall be sited to minimize the impacts to prime soils, agricultural*
135 *operations, public safety, and environmentally sensitive areas.*

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137 **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

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139 In accordance with applicable provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act
140 (CEQA), an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project
141 by NCTPA which includes the Countywide Bicycle Plan and stand-alone bicycle plans
142 and associated policies and projects for the cities of American Canyon, Napa, Calistoga,
143 St. Helena and town of Yountville, and the County of Napa. The Initial Study determined
144 that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not
145 be a significant effect in this case because any impacts will be mitigated, and therefore a
146 Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared. The Mitigated Negative Declaration was
147 certified by NCTPA on May 16, 2012 with the adoption of the Countywide Bicycle Plan.

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149 The implementation of the projects listed in the Bike Plan will be subject to additional
150 environmental review.

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152 **RECOMMENDATION:**

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154 Staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt a Resolution recommending to
155 the City Council adoption of the 2012 Bicycle Transportation Plan.

156
157 **ATTACHMENT:**

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159 1. Draft Resolution PC 2012-__ adopting the City of Calistoga Bicycle Plan
160 2. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2012
161 3. Calistoga Bicycle Plan, Figure 1 (Bike Map)
162 4. NCTPA Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (copy provided on a CD
163 separately)
164 5. Calistoga Bicycle Plan (copy provided on a CD separately)
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