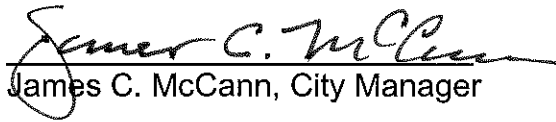


City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Dan Takasugi, Public Works Director/City Engineer
DATE: March 17, 2009
SUBJECT: Presentation by Eliot Hurwitz of the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA) on the Napa Valley Greenway Feasibility Study

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:


James C. McCann, City Manager

ISSUE: Presentation by Eliot Hurwitz of the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA) on the Napa Valley Greenway Feasibility Study.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive presentation.

BACKGROUND: The Napa Greenway Feasibility Study explores the potential to create a world-class multi-purpose trail (bicycles, pedestrians, etc.) to be named the Napa Valley Greenway designed to serve residents and visitors from the City of Calistoga in the north to the City of American Canyon in the south, with an ultimate connection to Vallejo and the BayLink Ferry Terminal. This study evaluates multiple alternative routes in ten segments through the County and evaluates these alternatives. The Greenway is envisioned to take a place among the best-known trail systems in the state, such as the San Francisco Bay Trail and American River Parkway, and offer tangible economic, environmental, health and other benefits to Napa County residents as well as to protect and enhance the Valley's unique environmental and agricultural resources.

Napa County has ideal weather and good geographic topography for cycling. There is an existing series of Class II Bike Lanes (marked bike lanes within paved roadways) between most of the incorporated jurisdictions. However, Class II connections generally do not appeal to families, novice riders, and visitors.

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25 In November 2007, with financial support of all jurisdictions in Napa County,
26 including the City of Calistoga, NCTPA issued an RFP for a "Napa Countywide
27 Class One Bicycle Path Feasibility Study" and chose Alta Planning which began
28 work in January 2008. The study went through public review and was approved
29 by the NCTPA Board on February 18, 2009.

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31 The Greenway trail would not encroach into the City of Calistoga's municipal
32 boundaries. However, the City of Calistoga has a property interest in that one of
33 the Greenway trail alignment alternatives considers using the City's owned
34 parcels along the City's NBA/SWP water transmission line alignment (between
35 Big Tree Rd. and Lodi Lane). Those fee simple parcels were purchased with City
36 water enterprise funds.

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38 A parallel bicycle trail initiative is the Napa Valley Vine Trail. This is a private
39 endeavor, led by the Vine Trail Coalition. Staff anticipates bringing a
40 presentation to Council in the near future on the Vine Trail initiative.



NAPA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING AGENCY

TO: Calistoga City Council
SUBJECT: Review of Napa Greenway Feasibility Study

SUMMARY

The Napa Greenway Feasibility Study explores the potential to create a world-class multi-purpose trail (bicycles, pedestrians, etc.), to be named the Napa Valley Greenway designed to serve residents and visitors from the City of Calistoga in the north to the City of American Canyon in the south, with an ultimate connection to Vallejo and the BayLink Ferry Terminal. This study evaluates multiple alternative routes in ten segments through the County and evaluates these alternatives. The Greenway is envisioned to take a place among the best-known trail systems in the state, such as the San Francisco Bay Trail and American River Parkway, and offer tangible economic, environmental, health, and other benefits to Napa County residents as well as to protect and enhance the Valley's unique environmental and agricultural resources.

Napa County has ideal weather and good geographic topography for cycling. There is an existing series of Class II Bike Lanes between most of the incorporated jurisdictions. However, that network does not currently connect to every jurisdiction (although that has been planned) and Class II connections generally do not appeal to families, novice riders and visitors – groups that would be interested in biking as a transportation mode.

The Napa Greenway Feasibility Study proposes constructing a continuous multi-use trail from the BayLink Ferry terminal in Vallejo (Solano County) north through the Napa Valley. The Greenway is envisioned to provide a continuous, high quality experience for bicyclists, pedestrians, and others, for trips to school, work, shopping, recreation, and exercise. There are many existing segments of pathways along this route. The Feasibility Study will allow NCTPA, the six jurisdictions in Napa County as well as private groups, to take the next steps of design, funding, and eventually construction of the Greenway. The Napa Valley Greenway has the potential to help reduce traffic congestion, improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, increase property values, improve the local tourist economy while not increasing roadway congestion, and offer residents an invaluable option to exercise and recreate. It is expected that the Greenway will be used by schoolchildren, local residents walking/bicycling to work or shopping, and by commuters and visitors. An objective of this project is to create a 'world class' Greenway system reflecting the unique setting, history, and needs of the Valley.

In November 2007, with the support of all of the jurisdictions in Napa County, NCTPA issued an RFP for a "Napa Countywide Class One Bicycle Path Feasibility Study" and

chose Alta Planning which began work in January 2008. The TAC reviewed Executive Drafts of the Feasibility Study at its meetings on September 2008 and February 2009. Additional comments were submitted in writing from TAC members and the public. As part of the work on the project, it is proposed to call the project a "greenway" given that it is much more than a bicycle path and similar projects around the country demonstrate that such a path attracts broad use by pedestrians, families and skaters as well as bicycle riders. The Study is now presented to the NCTPA Board with approval of the TAC.

An important objective of the Greenway is to contribute to countywide efforts to mitigate global warming emissions from the transportation sector as mandated by recently enacted statewide legislation, particularly AB 32 and SB 375. These new state laws signal a new aggressive position in the State to reduce our CO2 emission profile, making use of every available means, particularly encouraging a large increase in bicycling.

Attachments: (1) Napa Greenway Feasibility Study - Executive Summary

The full report is available for download at www.nctpa.net