



CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: April 20, 2026

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Active Transportation Plan Update - Phase 3 Project and Program Priorities

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SUMMARY

This item presents draft active transportation project and program priorities for the City's Active Transportation Plan update.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive a presentation on the draft project and program priorities prepared as part of the Active Transportation Plan and provide feedback to staff.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Review of compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act will accompany the draft plan once it has been developed.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is to encourage biking and walking through supportive policies and infrastructure investments that enhance safety and improve key routes. The ATP serves as the City's guiding document for active transportation and is required for eligibility for regional transportation funding, including Alameda County Measure B (2000), Measure BB (2014), and Vehicle Registration Fee programs.

Albany's most recent ATP update kicked off in July 2024. Since then, staff and the consultant team have worked to ensure the project delivers on the items stipulated in the project scope of work, incorporates sufficient public engagement opportunities, and addresses complex issues such as the future design of Solano Avenue. Below is a timeline of project milestones to date:

- **October 24, 2024:** City staff and project consultants hosted a community open house at the Albany Community Center to discuss project goals and existing conditions.
- **December 5, 2024:** Transportation Commission received a presentation on the plan goals and existing conditions analysis, including feedback from community engagement to date.

- **February 18, 2025**: City Council received a presentation on the draft goals and existing conditions analysis prepared for the Active Transportation Plan, and provided direction to staff on analysis to prepare before presenting a Council discussion of the role of Solano Avenue in the future active transportation network.
- **February 27, 2025**: Transportation Commission received a presentation on National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Guidelines on facility selection for All Ages and Abilities and their incorporation into regional and county plans and policies.
- **May-June 2025**: City staff engaged with Albany Unified School District principals, parents, and students through a series of engagement meetings.
- **May 5, 2025**: City Council received a presentation on parking and cost analysis for potential bicycle facilities on Solano Avenue and provided direction to staff to further develop an alternative that reorganizes parking to one side parallel and the other side 60-degree angle parking with approximately 11 feet of right-of-way provided to an uphill cycle track (referenced as Alternative 1 in the discussion) as part of the Active Transportation Plan update.
- **May 20, 2025**: City staff and project consultants hosted a community open house as part of a larger Citywide Planning Expo at the Albany Community Center to discuss the draft citywide pedestrian and bicycle networks.
- **June 26, 2025**: Transportation Commission received an update on the Active Transportation Plan development and draft citywide pedestrian and bicycle networks.
- **October 20, 2025**: City Council received a presentation on draft active transportation networks and provided direction to staff.
- **December 4, 2025**: Transportation Commission received analysis of Solano Avenue Bicycle Facilities concept and recommended that City Council add Solano Avenue to the cycling network in the Active Transportation plan and continue to plan for an uphill protected bikeway on Solano Avenue.
- **January 22, 2026**: City staff and project consultants hosted a community open house as part of a larger Citywide Planning Expo at the Albany Community Center to discuss active transportation project and program priorities.
- **February 26, 2026**: Transportation Commission reviewed draft project and program priorities and recommended that City Council approve the project and program prioritization inclusive of changes recommended by the Commission.

Input received on project and program priorities is discussed in detail as part of the Technical Memorandum (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

The development of the new ATP is progressing across three phases. The first phase established the goals for the ATP and reviewed existing conditions. The second phase developed the framework for walking, biking, and rolling networks citywide, including network maps and network quality guidelines. This presentation is part of the third and final

phase, presenting the draft project and program priorities for the plan. The priorities build upon the draft networks and the project's goals and existing conditions analysis previously presented to City Council, translating those building blocks into the discrete projects and programs that will improve active transportation in the city.

Plan Development Phases



The Technical Memorandum (Attachment 1) outlines the process for identifying and prioritizing projects and programs. It details the criteria developed and community feedback received, presents the draft priorities, and provides the complete project and program lists. Priority projects would be the next set of projects that staff would work to develop. Project development generally entails additional project planning and alternatives analysis; public engagement; development of detailed designs; and programming for funding and construction through Capital Improvement Project (CIP) planning. The ATP is intended to be a living document updated roughly every five years. The priority project list can be regularly reviewed and refreshed through these updates, reflecting accomplishments and any changes in policy over time.

Following this presentation, development of the Active Transportation Plan document will be the final step of this third and final Phase of the planning process.

Active Transportation Network Revision

The attached Technical Memorandum also includes updated active transportation network maps. These incorporate Council direction at the October 20, 2025 meeting as well as the December 4, 2025 Transportation Commission recommendation.

At the December 4, 2025 meeting, the Transportation Commission received an analysis of the Solano Avenue Bicycle Facilities concept recommended for development by City Council at the May 5, 2025 meeting. The analysis included a review of the concept with respect to design guidance; design features and considerations; parking, loading and curb management; and public transit integration. The parking analysis for the concept validated the 1-block estimate that was presented to City Council, showing overall anticipated parking reduction remaining in the 5-10% range. The discussion also identified a number of areas for further study and development as part of planning and design work, including emergency response needs, loading/delivery management, American Disability Act (ADA) parking requirements, bus stop design, drainage needs, green infrastructure requirements, and ADA sidewalk and business access requirements. The proposed Midtown Solano Avenue Streetscape Project, included in the project list, includes the proposed uphill protected bikeway as the desired cycling/rolling facility following the Transportation Commission recommendation to include Solano Avenue in the cycling and rolling network. Additional planning and design work will be needed to

further develop the design options for active transportation improvements with sufficient detail to address the issues identified above.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Goal 1 of the City’s Climate Action Plan is “Decrease passenger vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through use of alternative modes.” Under Goal 1, Action 1.1.1 calls for the development of a new ATP, and states:

Analyze gaps in the active transportation network and develop a new ATP that serves as the basis for prioritizing active transportation projects for all ages and abilities in the City. The Plan should emphasize multimodal transportation, access to transit, pedestrian safety, bike racks and lockers, beautification, green infrastructure, and a seamless regional bike network that favors low stress bike lanes where feasible. The Plan will ensure that transportation infrastructure is safe and accessible for all ages and abilities.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

‘Equitable Outcomes’ is included as Goal 3 of the Active Transportation Plan. It further states that the goal is to: “Ensure the needs of all users, including disadvantaged populations, are integral factors in project prioritization and development.”

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

Goal 3 of the City Council’s 2025-2027 Strategic Plan is “Promote streets that support safety, transportation, and mobility options.” The first objective listed in the objectives of Goal 3 is to update the ATP.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The project and program priorities will inform work by staff. Ultimately, the ATP identifies desired improvements and program activities that will require future funding to implement. Active transportation projects are generally funded through a mix of city funds, direct local distributions from county and state transportation funding, and grants.

NEXT STEPS

Following tonight’s discussion of project and program priorities, City staff and consultants will proceed to development of the plan document.

Staff anticipates returning to the Council in summer 2026 for consideration of plan adoption.

Attachments

1. Active Transportation Project and Program Priorities Technical Memorandum