

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

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MVB

Date: January 10, 2012

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **City of Lancaster Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways**

Recommendation:

Adopt **Resolution No. 12-02**, approving the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways as modified by the Architectural and Design Commission.

Fiscal Impact:

Development of trail and bikeway facilities will result in public expenditures for design, construction, and maintenance.

Background:

At the November 3, 2011, Architectural and Design Commission meeting, Ryan Snyder, the City's consultant for the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the inception of the Plan, various components of the Plan, and status of the review process and adoption of the Plan. Chairperson Bartlett directed that the Commissioners split the Draft Plan into three sections and work in pairs to review, and report back their findings.

At the November 22, 2011, Architectural and Design Commission meeting, each team of Commissioners commented on their particular section of the Draft Plan. The Commissioners reviewed and considered all the public comments received to-date.

At the December 1, 2011, Architectural and Design Commission meeting, the Architectural and Design Commission voted (4-0-0-2) to recommend to the City Council approval of the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways with specified modifications.

Discussion:

The recommended Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways includes a number of important components as described below:

Goals, Policies, and Actions. The Master Plan includes a list of goals, policies, and actions, which is a comprehensive blueprint by which the City can become more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. The goals, policies, and actions were developed through a collaborative process and thoroughly vetted by the Technical Advisory Committee, and other components of the Plan were developed to meet the intent of these goals. Some of the goals are: provide a safe, connected and convenient street environment; create a network of off-street shared-use paths; promote the health of our residents by providing

opportunities to bicycle or walk; provide amenities and facilities to increase bicycling and walking; provide opportunities to bicycle and walk for commuting; support safe access to and from schools; and develop routes and facilities to enhance the economic viability of Lancaster.

Bicycle Plan. The Bicycle Plan recommends an additional 40 miles of Class I bike paths, 137 miles of Class II bike lanes, and 37 miles of Class III bike routes. The Bicycle Plan provides details for proposed bikeways and street improvements, installation of bicycle parking, providing for end-of-trip amenities, and educational programs to promote bicycling.

Trails Plan. The Trails Plan calls for 48 miles of equestrian trails, 6 miles of multi-purpose paths, and 24 miles of jogging trails, ultimately allowing residents and visitors to walk, jog, bicycle, ride a horse, skateboard, or find another non-motorized way to travel and exercise on a separate network of different type of trails.

Pedestrian Plan. The Pedestrian Plan discusses recommendations and improvements for 60 locations within the City. The tables within the Pedestrian Plan list existing conditions and provide graphic illustrations of the proposed changes for each site. Some of the potential improvements include high-visibility crosswalks, new or widened sidewalks, bulb-outs and curb extensions, new audio signals and countdown signals, and median islands.

ADA Transition Plan. The ADA Transition Plan identifies the physical obstacles that limit accessibility, describes methods to make these facilities more accessible, allocates budget to the needed improvements; provides a schedule for improvements, and identifies specific City staff to be responsible for coordinating implementation of the Plan.

Staff believes the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways will implement the goals developed, will positively change the way in which the City designs the physical components of our City, including the public realm, will create a network of linkage and connectivity, and will enhance complete street policies. The Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways is an important element of the City's vision for a Livable Community, which includes health, safety, economic vitality, and sustainability. This Plan is one of many steps to create a healthier and more active community. Therefore, staff is proposing that the City Council approve the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways, as modified by the Architectural and Design Commission.

EAW:BSL/jr

Attachments:

Resolution No. 12-02

Exhibit "A"

Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways (Available for review in the City Clerk's Department)

Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways – Public Comments Matrix

ADC Staff Report dated December 1, 2011