



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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16-0524

Agenda Date: 2/3/2017

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### 2017 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

#### **NUMBER**

DPW 17-01

**TITLE** Develop Implementation Standards for Cycle Tracks / Separated Bikeways

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Public Works  
Support Department(s): N/A

#### **Sponsor(s):**

Board/Commission: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

#### **History:**

1 year ago: N/A  
2 years ago: N/A

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

##### **What are the key elements of the study?**

This study would evaluate the pros and cons of Class IV bikeways known as cycle tracks or separated bikeways. In addition, the study would develop standards or guidelines which would aid in the determination of the best locations to implement cycle tracks within the City of Sunnyvale.

##### **What precipitated this study?**

Interest in cycle tracks is a growing trend and is used as a way to accommodate novice bicyclists by providing complete separation from motor vehicle traffic. The Protected Bikeways Act of 2014 established Class IV bikeways for California and required Caltrans to establish design criteria for them. However, these facilities have to be balanced with possible safety hazards and other adverse traffic issues. BPAC would like the City to develop procedures and guidelines for the design and placement of cycle tracks in order to ensure any decision to implement them will be made with the full understanding of its benefits and drawbacks.

**Planned Completion Year:** 2018

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

##### **Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Major

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$75, 000

Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement

**Explanation of Cost:**

The cost associated with the study is for consultant services. The study would examine the potential benefits and drawbacks, design guideline and standards, and expected costs for various types of separated bike lanes/cycle tracks like one way protected cycle tracks, raised cycle tracks, two way cycle tracks, and contra flow cycle tracks. Staff would be responsible in guiding the consultant in the development and ultimately approving the standards. It is unlikely that this process would develop or replace standards and guidelines that already exist. Instead this would be expected to be a repackaging of existing information into Sunnyvale specific standards. However, we would anticipate that it will require a community engagement process to include all interested parties including property owners, schools, and advocacy groups.

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown; study would include assessment of potential costs.

**EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS**

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Position:** Drop

**Explanation:** Comprehensive design and placement guidelines for various types of cycle tracks or separated bikeways are given in Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) "Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide", and also in National Association of City Transportation officials' (NACTO) "Urban Bikeway Design Guide".

Should there be an opportunity; staff would use the above guide manuals to implement separated bikeways or cycle tracks in the City. It would not be a best use of funding and staff time to develop additional standards beyond already those established and already in use by many jurisdictions. Staff's priority is identifying a location and pursuing grants for a pilot project as discussed with Council during the bicycle Study Session on March 15, 2016. In addition as part of the Capital Budget Cycle staff will propose to update the City Bicycle Masterplan. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the benefits and concerns of separated bikeways and identify corridors that might be appropriate.

Prepared By: Carol Shariat, Principal Transportation Engineer/Planner

Reviewed By: Shahid Abbas, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Reviewed By: Manuel Pineda, Director, Public Works

Reviewed By: Walter C. Rossmann, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager