



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

16-0895

Agenda Date: 2/17/2017

2017 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 17-09

TITLE Increase Bike Mode Share to 5% for Commuters by 2020

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 research and document how nearby cities and other communities in California are achieving higher bicycle mode share for commuting than Sunnyvale, which is at 1.5% (as per *Bicycle Transportation and Safety in Santa Clara County 2015*). The study would also develop plans, costs, and policy recommendations to achieve a 5% bicycle commute mode share by 2020.

What precipitated this study?

Sunnyvale is behind Santa Clara County (1.7%) as well as nearby cities such as Mountain View (5%) and Palo Alto (8%) of percentage of commuters who journey to work via bicycle. Sunnyvale should increase its bicycle mode share to help meet its Climate Action Plan, reduce congestion and air pollution. Sunnyvale has many policies which advocate bicycling as an alternative mode, however there is no bicycle specific mode share goal. Improvements in bicycle infrastructure and transit connection could also enable more children to travel to school without being driven and enable residents to complete numerous errands/trips without driving.

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: \$250,000

Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement.

Explanation of Cost:

The cost associated with this study will be for consultant services and staff time. The consultant will gather and evaluate the existing city and neighboring jurisdictions bike data, plan and policies. The consultant will develop a plan which will identify and prioritize the projects and associated costs that will result in increased bicycle commute mode share by 2020. There will also be community outreach to get feedback on the proposal.

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: The City's existing Bicycle Plan establishes and prioritizes the development of bicycle infrastructure throughout the City (including the use of best practices and progressive policies) with the goal of providing a convenient transportation alternative to motor vehicles and encourages increased bicycling in the City. Per the *Bicycle Transportation and Safety in Santa Clara County 2015*, Sunnyvale ranks fifth in the County and has increased bike mode share every year since 2009 (1% in 2009). Outside of Mountain View and Palo Alto, mode share for other Santa Clara cities ranges from a low of 0.2 to a high of 2.5. Staff agrees that having a mode share goal could be useful, but it should also be realistic (5% by 2020 would be over a 200% increase over a three year period). Staff instead would propose that including a mode share goal should be considered as part of the proposed bike master-plan update, which will provide a comprehensive review of bicycle policies and projects for the City. Staff will include a proposed capital project to fund the update of the bike masterplan next fiscal year as part of the capital budget process.

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Reviewed By: Manuel Pineda, Director, Public Works

Reviewed By: Walter C. Rossmann, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager