

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

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James O'Tousa, Director

Roads & Transportation
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Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Vacant, Director

February 6, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Public Hearing to Consider Approval of the County of Ventura Active Transportation Plan (ATP); Finding that Approval of the ATP is Statutorily Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; All Supervisorial Districts**

Recommendations:

1. Approve the County of Ventura Active Transportation Plan (ATP).
2. Find that Approval of the ATP is Statutorily Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

No County costs are associated with this Board action.

Discussion:

The County of Ventura Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is a roadmap for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle projects enabling a safe and convenient active transportation network that connects more people to jobs, goods, services, and transit without the need for automobiles. It also assists efforts in meeting countywide goals of improved public health, reduced vehicle miles travelled, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The ATP is required by the County's 2040 General Plan and is funded by the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant Program. The project funding for \$825,000 included \$729,550 in grant funding with the remainder funded by Road Funds.



The development of the ATP included evaluating and prioritizing unincorporated County active transportation needs including pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and other safety improvements by utilizing and incorporating:

- Existing conditions
- Community Collaboration
- Recommendations of the 2008 Bicycle Master Plan
- Recommendations of the 2017 VCTC Wayfinding Plan
- Board-approved pedestrian and bicycle priority criteria.

The ATP will be the basis for future grant funding applications for feasibility studies, and for the design and construction of recommended improvements. Projects may be grouped to utilize future grant funding in the most economical and efficient manner.

The ATP was developed through collaboration between PWA staff, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), multiple community organizations, and input from residents of the unincorporated County. There were six TAC meetings, six CAC meetings, and four virtual community meetings. The community had opportunities to provide input on active transportation needs through an interactive map and at multiple community events. Five demonstration projects were presented to educate the public on the improvements recommended.

The top 25 pedestrian projects add 6.35 miles of sidewalk primarily in the communities of El Rio, Miners Oaks, Piru and Oakview. The 3 upcoming active transportation projects for which we have received grant funding includes 1.35 miles (21%) of these projects. The top 25 Bike Lane projects include 40.55 miles of which 5.65 miles are already in the plan funded by your Board. Approximately 50% of these projects, 20.49 miles, are to add striping for buffered class II bike lanes on roads that already were previously striped as class II bike lanes.

The ATP is available to review on the Web Site at https://s29422.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/VenturaCo_ATP_Report.pdf A prioritized list of top 25 sidewalk and bicycles projects are included as Exhibit 1 and 2 respectively.

The County's approval of the ATP is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 21080.20 and 21080.25 which exempt from CEQA review the approval of active transportation plans. The County has provided notice of this public hearing pursuant to Government Code section 6061.



Strategic Plan:

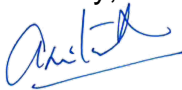
This item contributes to the Board of Supervisors (Board's) 2024-2027 strategic priority to provide:

- III. Reliable infrastructure and sustainability through
 - 3. Investing in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and preservation of our natural resources.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact Anitha Balan at (805) 654-2077.

Sincerely,



Anitha Balan, PE
Director
Roads & Transportation

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 - Top 25 Prioritized Projects of sidewalk projects
- Exhibit 2 - Top 25 Prioritized Projects of bike lane projects
- Exhibit 3 - Presentation

