

Maloney, Mike

From: Jenny Bard <jenbard@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:42 PM
To: _PLANCOM - Planning Commission
Subject: Santa Rosa Bike and Red Plan update comments

Dear Planning Commission members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Santa Rosa's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan update. As a member of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition board of directors, former member of the Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and long-time advocate for bicycles and bike lanes in Santa Rosa, I am pleased to support the Plan update and wish to thank staff and the consultants for all the hard work on this important effort.

I am writing to urge the commission to support the Plan and to consider additional ways you can support its goals.

The mission of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition is to promote safe bicycling for everyday transportation and recreation. We strive to make bicycling to be a safe, convenient option for people of all ages and physical abilities.

I call your attention to these key take-aways from the plan:

- Of the top survey comments, the vast majority (238) said they wanted increased separation between road users, including buffered or separated bike lanes.
- The vast majority of cyclists in Santa Rosa (50-60%) are "Interested, but concerned" and would cycle more if the streets were buffered or had separated bike lanes.
- Bicycle mode share increased just one tenth of one percent between 2012 and 2016. (1.2 percent to 1.3 percent). This in spite of adding miles of new Class II bicycle lanes in the city.

In order to achieve goal 2 to "Design bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are accessible and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities to use," it will be necessary to have far greater number of roadways that provide safe and inviting infrastructure and bike ways on our city streets and those include buffered bike lanes, separated bikeways and two-way separate bikeways. We greatly appreciate the inclusion of Class IV bike ways in the plan. However, the plan calls for only three (3) class IV projects with separated bikeways, totaling 2 miles, a tiny percentage of the total proposed. For a plan that takes us to 2040, this is completely inadequate.

As stated in both public comment and examined in section on User Experience and Traffic Stress, it is clear that by simply adding bike lanes on roadways next to speeding cars, we will not achieve our long-term goal of making cycling comfortable and safe. In fact, we should look at the miniscule increase in bicycle mode share between 2012 and 2016, in spite of the great number of miles of added bicycle lanes, as proof.

I urge the planning commission to consider additional ways the city can prioritize Class IV bike ways in projects that come before you. Cities all over the country have recognized the need for Class IV bike ways and Santa Rosa can do much more to support and build them. In order to achieve the goal of increased cycling by residents of Santa Rosa, it is necessary to have the kind of bicycle infrastructure that encourages interested cyclists to feel safe to do so.

Thank you for your service on the Planning Commission and considering these comments.

Best wishes,

Jenny Bard

Join us in making Sonoma County a great place to ride a bike! www.bikesonoma.org