



Striving to create a community where people of all ages and abilities can safely enjoy bicycling  
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Petaluma City Council  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952

Dear Mayor, City Councilmembers, and City Manager:

Bike Petaluma appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the City Council's 2019 Goal Setting Workshop. Founded in 2014 and actively organizing since 2017, Bike Petaluma strives to create a community where people of all ages and abilities can enjoy bicycling.

**Bike Petaluma's overarching ask of City Council is to prioritize safety for people biking and walking to support our City's adopted goals of improving health, protecting climate, strengthening community, and creating viable alternatives to vehicular travel.** To this end, we have identified the following near-term priorities:

**1) Adopt a Vision Zero policy toward eliminating all serious injuries and fatalities caused by traffic collisions.**

Someone is hit by a driver and injured (or worse) while walking or biking on Petaluma streets every nine days. A Vision Zero policy would confirm the City's commitment to safety for vulnerable road users through proven engineering, education, and enforcement strategies.

**2) Update the outdated Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.**

The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (adopted in 2008) no longer incorporates best practices in street design or reflects bicycle and pedestrian priorities. An updated plan would create a clear roadmap toward increasing the safety and convenience of walking and biking.

In 2017 Bike Petaluma submitted a petition (see attached) asking the City to prioritize a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan update. In the meantime, we have requested that City staff works with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee to establish a prioritized list of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects that will improve safety and connectivity.

**3) Plan and implement protected bike lanes on D St. between 1st St. and Lakeville St.**

Bike Petaluma has identified this congested stretch of D St. that links transit connections with downtown as a terrific candidate for protected bike lanes, which would provide physical separation between people biking and vehicular traffic. The blocks between Weller and Lakeville Streets are slated for development in the near future, creating a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to incorporate this best practice.

**4) Make Lynch Creek Trail a welcoming, vibrant, and sustainable pathway that is celebrated and used by residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.**

Work with stakeholders (including Bike Petaluma, Friends of the Petaluma River, Friends of Lynch Creek Trail, Petaluma Waterways) to establish a vision for Lynch Creek Trail, including the identification of near, mid, and long-term projects that will enhance its accessibility, minimize impacts on the River and surrounding habitat, promote active transportation, and transform it into a linear park.

**5) Ensure that bike lanes and shoulders along major roadways are kept clear of debris and vegetation.**

Commit Recology to regularly street-sweep bike lanes and shoulders along major roadways. Similarly, we request that the City's Public Works Department regularly manages vegetation (or requires adjacent property owners to do so) where it encroaches on bike lanes and shoulders.

**6) Continue to improve the City Engineer, City Manager, and City Council's discourse with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee.**

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee has not been well-utilized over the past several years. Though the situation has improved dramatically over the recent months, we hope this trajectory will continue and all bicycle and pedestrian-related planning or discussion will continue to pass through this group before going to the City Council.

**7) Promote and sponsor events, activities, and programs that celebrate bicycling, provide bicycling education, and foster community around bicycling.**

Examples may include "open streets" events that celebrate active transportation, educational events that reach people who bike and/or drive on how to safely share the road, or other programs aimed at incentivizing or encouraging trips made by bike. Ensure that access to outreach and activities is equitable across the City.