



REPORT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

To: Planning Commission

From: Justin Kirk, Assistant Director of Community Development
Prepared by: Johnathan O. Skinner, Director of Community Services

Date: August 20, 2019

Subject: Active LE Plan

Recommendation

Receive and File the Draft Active LE Plan and direct staff to initiate the development of the Final Active LE Plan for further approval.

Background

The City of Lake Elsinore is one of the fastest growing California cities with 2% annual growth. While the City's Healthy LE initiative offers programs to promote a healthy lifestyle, it has limited pedestrian and bicycle amenities to allow this healthy lifestyle to be practiced. The City recognized the need for a comprehensive Active Transportation Plan / Regional Commuter Based Access Plan (ATP) that would prioritize bikeway and pedestrian improvements based on criteria such as: regional and local connectivity, safe routes to school, ten-minute neighborhoods, recreation amenities, and recommendations for smart infill growth with accompanying ATP improvements. In 2016, the City Council approved \$100,000 towards the development of an ATP in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), demonstrating the importance of active transportation facility planning.

In 2017, the City staff applied and were awarded a CALTRANS Sustainable Transportation Planning Sustainable Communities Grant for the preparation of an ATP.

In 2018, Chen Ryan Associates was contracted and supported by Placeworks to conduct an existing conditions analysis, execute an effective public outreach strategy, prepare design guidelines, goals and policies, identify an active transportation network, prioritize improvement projects, prepare project sheets for the top priority projects, and provide a correlated list of potential project funding mechanisms. The existing conditions analysis included substantial analysis of demographic and collision data as well as a detailed review of existing documentation and a variety of types of public outreach activities (website, phone/website surveys, event booths, project development team meetings, safe routes to schools meetings, and traditional public outreach meetings). The network, goals and policies, and priority projects were all reviewed and analyzed throughout the public outreach efforts.

Discussion

The Draft Active LE Plan is a responsive complete network of non-motorized facilities that connects existing and future activity centers, recreation facilities, transit stations, residential neighborhoods, employment centers, schools as well as civic and retail hubs. The Plan addresses many of the challenges our community faces with right of way infrastructure constraints, recreational/destination related needs, diverse community needs, safe routes to schools and first and last mile challenges. The Plan includes a list of prioritized projects with detailed cut sheets and cost estimates for the top ten priority projects, as well as a list of potential funding strategies according to project type.

The intent of the Plan is to provide design guidelines, goals and policies for future active transportation related projects and a planned network with a detailed list of grant application ready projects for implementation. The resulting Plan provides ten priority projects with cut sheets and the top three projects include 3D renderings. In addition, the Plan provides a corresponding analysis of funding opportunities for the priority project list.

The upcoming public outreach meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 22, 2019.

City staff hereby recommends the approval of the Draft Active LE Plan as provided in Exhibit A, and the commencement of the subsequent development of the Final Active LE Plan.

Fiscal Impact

The Active LE Plan has been funded via the City's Capital Improvement Program Budget and the CALTRANS Sustainable Transportation Planning Sustainable Communities Grant.

Exhibits

A – Draft Active LE Plan