

City of Marina Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

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Prepared for:

The City of Marina

Prepared by:

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Executive Summary

CITY OF MARINA PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Purpose

The Master Plan that accompanies this Executive Summary builds on the direction given in the (year adopted) Marina General Plan. This Summary provides more detail on existing conditions, a vision for Marina's future that embraces walking and bicycling, and the steps that must be taken to assure that future. This direction is clearly indicated in the vision statement that begins the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan:

As Marina grows into a diversified, vibrant, self-sufficient City, it will become a place where people will make walking and biking a part of their everyday lives. The existing street network is enhanced with well-connected walking and bicycling facilities. Future development and redevelopment creates a "village" atmosphere where mixed uses are within walking distance of each other and connected by pleasant and safe walkways and bikeways.

The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide specific policies, programs, street treatments, sidewalk features, bikeways, and land use regulation guidelines that will move the community toward that future vision. It addresses a wide range of issues including inter-agency coordination, public safety, future budgeting needs, health and environmental benefits, and economic vitality.

Components of this Master Plan

This Plan includes five chapters, each providing details on existing conditions, desired future conditions, policies, and steps to achieve the intended future. These Chapters reflect the rare opportunities that Marina has: an older developed area that is ripe for retrofit to address pedestrian and bicycle needs, numerous infill and redevelopment opportunities that can provide critical links in the pedestrian and bicycle network, and large tracts of former Fort Ord property where new villages can be developed from scratch.

Chapter 1. Visions, Goals and Strategies: This Chapter is an overview of what the community wants to become, and how to get there. It includes a vision statement describing a future Marina where walking and biking are fully integrated into everyday transportation. After the vision statement, the six goals from the General Plan that can be found on page 4 give broad direction to the City's activities for improving bicycling and walking conditions. These goals are worth examining in detail to understand the purpose of this Master Plan. The strategies that follow detail specific actions that are necessary to realize that vision.

Chapter 2. Existing Conditions: This Chapter describes the existing situation in Marina, detailing street conditions, sidewalks, auto-oriented development, and opportunities for improvements. Suggestions are offered for solutions that can solve specific problems or create a better pedestrian and bicycle facility network by building on what already exists.

Chapter 3. Recommended Improvements — Walking; Bicycling; and, Intersection and Street Crossing: This Chapter details the solutions briefly mentioned in Chapter 2 that will improve conditions for pedestrians, bicycling and intersections and street crossings. These include measures to address vehicle

speeds, parking, attractive streetscapes, security, landscaping, creating mixed-use villages, adding connections to the existing sidewalk and pathway network, accessibility features, and standards for different street types. Section 1 focuses specifically on walking. Section 2 focuses on bicycling. The speed and ease of bicycling, in the right environment, makes it a viable alternative to the automobile for longer trips than most people will make on foot. Each type of bicycle facility is described in detail, and solutions to general and specific problems are offered. Finally, Section 3 provides specific recommendations to improve intersections and street crossings. Each section includes a detailed list of projects to improve walking, bicycling and pedestrian crossings in the City of Marina.

Chapter 4. Policy and Ordinance Recommendations: This Chapter outlines the initial steps that must be taken to secure a future for pedestrians and bicycles. Policies in this Master Plan cover pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, combined efforts, funding, safety, and land use. Policy recommendations for the General Plan are also provided, including a critical step to formally incorporate the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan into the General Plan by reference. Finally, additional recommendations include annual reporting on the “state of walking and biking,” modifying the Subdivision Ordinance to assure new developments include healthy streets, and continuing to explore additional opportunities to improve walking and bicycling conditions.

Chapter 5. Prioritized Projects. This chapter describes the criteria used to prioritize projects and includes a list of priority projects.

Conclusion and Actions

Several actions are necessary to create the vision that this Plan is built on. In the short term, the following steps should be taken:

1. After the appropriate environmental analysis, adopt this Master Plan.
2. Incorporate this Master Plan into the General Plan by reference.
3. Make amendments to the General Plan as suggested by this Master Plan.
4. Initiate City activities directed at planning, funding, constructing, and operating pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs.
5. Examine Marina’s zoning code, building code, and infrastructure standards and make any changes that are necessary to improve the pedestrian and bicycling environment.
6. Establish a schedule for annual reporting on implementing this Master Plan.

This Master Plan can help bring about a safe, beautiful, and healthy Marina of the future.

Introduction

This study provides policy recommendations and recommended street standards for a pedestrian and bicycle master plan that was based on a charrette process conducted from February 2003 – April 2003 in the City of Marina in Monterey County. The charrette was a series of events in which the public, city elected/appointed officials, and city staff were invited to work together to develop a shared walking and bicycling vision for their community. The study was funded by a Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District grant.

Purpose

The purpose of developing a pedestrian and bicycle master plan for the City of Marina was to create a broad, community-based vision and action plan to make Marina a walkable and bicycle-friendly community. This plan sets the stage for achieving the General Plan Vision of creating a walkable, healthy community.

Process

To develop a broad vision and action plan for the pedestrian and bicycle master plan, it was important to involve City leaders as well as Marina residents through a highly engaging public process that provided a forum for participants to exchange ideas and build support for a common vision for Marina. The City of Marina mailed out several hundred invitation letters to local community leaders and posted a large number of posters promoting the public workshops at local businesses. In addition, the public workshops were advertised in the *Monterey County Herald* and the *Marina Gazette*. The local NBC station announced the first public workshop in February.

Through a series of focus group meetings, two public workshops, two design workshops, a walk audit, and individual meetings with key stakeholders, the Walkable Communities, Inc. design team was able to gather a wide range of data that was incorporated into this plan. (Please see the Appendix for focus group meeting agendas, meeting notes, etc.)

