



# Active Transportation Plan Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is active transportation?**

Active transportation (also known as non-motorized transportation) is any human-powered mode of travel, primarily walking and bicycling. Active transportation networks provide connectivity for walking and bicycling.

## **What is an Active Transportation Plan?**

An Active Transportation Plan is a planning document that the Madera County Transportation Commission is preparing, which will provide recommendations to assist in the planning and delivery of cycling and walking infrastructure in the years to come.

The Active Transportation Plan will build upon current bikeways and recreational trails available in the region to create healthy, accessible, and sustainable communities where active transportation is a key element of a safe, innovative, and integrated transportation system that connects where we live, work and play. A primary objective of the plan is to provide infrastructure to encourage cycling as a viable means of transportation for both recreational and utilitarian purposes.

## **What modes of transportation does the Active Transportation Plan consider?**

The Plan will focus, primarily, on the needs of people who walk and bike on Madera Region's streets, sidewalks, and trails.

## **What is the project area for the development of the Active Transportation Plan?**

The Plan area encompasses anything located in the County of Madera, including within the City of Madera, City of Chowchilla, and unincorporated communities.

## **How will the Active Transportation Plan be used?**

The Plan will be used to guide future walking and biking improvements, and will help the Madera Region's partner agencies apply for grant money to implement the recommendations.

## Madera County Transportation Commission

# Active Transportation Plan

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why does MCTC need an Active Transportation Plan?

The Madera County Transportation Commission is committed to working with its partner agencies to develop bicycle and walk-friendly communities that foster and promote active transportation, where residents and visitors can easily access community and neighborhood destinations as well as employment areas through the use of a safe, connected, and convenient network of on-and off-road active transportation facilities.

Creating bicycle and walk-friendly communities involves addressing and delivering a number of essential priorities (plans, projects, programs, etc.) that are categorized according to:

- Engineering: creating safe and convenient places to walk and ride;
- Education: giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride;
- Encouragement: creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling and walking;
- Enforcement: ensuring safe roads for all users;
- Evaluation and Planning: planning for bicycling and walking as safe and viable transportation options.

The prepared Active Transportation Plan will define the region's vision priorities in each of the aforementioned categories and provide staff with the framework to address and implement each.

#### What is the scope of the Active Transportation Plan?

The goal of the Active Transportation Plan study is to encourage, promote, and enable cycling and walking in the County as viable, safe, and attractive transportation modes through the implementation of active transportation infrastructure, policy, and programming. The broad scope of the Active Transportation Plan includes the following:

- Research and assess active transportation initiatives currently being implemented within the County relating to infrastructure, programming, and policy and consolidate them to provide the basis of an active transportation strategy.
- Establish a comprehensive active transportation network of on-and off-road active transportation facilities that will encourage utilitarian and recreational travel by walking and cycling.
- Develop an implementation strategy that will guide staff in the delivery of an active transportation network.
- Strengthen Active Transportation policies, and adopt policy changes and associated processes to make cycling and walking a viable, safe, and attractive mode of travel.
- Improve programming aimed at enhancing the culture of cycling and walking, expand established programs, and develop new programs to encourage, educate and support active transportation with the County.
- Create a framework to measure and assess the progress of active transportation in the region.

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#### What are the challenges and benefits of delivering active transportation facilities in our County?

The Madera Region has a variety of challenges that will need to be addressed related to establishing active transportation as a viable way to get around. These include:

- Safety and security: riding in traffic, riding along rural roads with agricultural conflicts, unsafe pedestrian road crossings, missing or unmaintained sidewalk, and/or unmaintained roads and bike lanes.
- Existing land use patterns: low-density, single-use, auto-dependent development makes walking and cycling between destinations time consuming and unrealistic.

The following provides an overview of some of the key benefits of expanding and supporting active transportation in the region:

- Public health and safety: active modes are a healthier form of transportation, well-designed networks and purpose-built infrastructure can also greatly improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- Environment and sustainability: active transportation generates far less air pollution emissions and is far less carbon intensive than other forms of transportation. Improved air quality benefits children, older adults, and individuals with respiratory diseases the most.
- Economic and financial: construction and maintenance costs are far lower than other transportation infrastructure and have positive local economic development impacts.
- Community and quality of life: positive impacts on overall community and individual well-being, social cohesion, and community identity.
- Transportation and connections: improves connections to, and between, community destinations, which improves the broader transportation network, transit trips often begin and end with walking or cycling, therefore there are public transit ridership benefits.

#### Who is undertaking the development of the Active Transportation Plan?

The Madera County Transportation Commission is acting as the project lead for the development of the Active Transportation Plan and will be coordinating with the County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians. The Madera County Transportation Commission has engaged the consultant services of Fehr & Peers to assist in the development of the plan with VRPA Technologies, Inc. assisting with technical aspects and community engagement activities.

#### When will the Active Transportation Plan be complete?

Work on the Active Transportation Plan began in the Winter of 2016. The project will take approximately 11 months with completion of the final document expected by the Fall of 2017. Note that the schedule is subject to change and amendment.

## Madera County Transportation Commission

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#### How can I get involved?

The Madera County Transportation Commission supports the public participation process and wants to get as many citizens involved in the Active Transportation Plan development process as possible. A primary objective in the development of the Active Transportation Plan is to maximize the opportunities for public outreach, learning, and sharing. The general public and stakeholders are being invited to provide input in a variety of ways:

- Take our Survey – survey instrument will be available at the Project website in January 2017
- Provide feedback using our online mapping tool available at the Project website in January 2017
- Join us at one of our Pop-up Community Engagement Events – check our Upcoming Events section at the Project website
- Join our Stakeholder database and we will send out updated Project information as it becomes available
- Leave us a comment or feedback on our Project website

#### Contacts

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