Policy and Programs

Objective	Program/Policy/Practice Name	Description
	Active Transportation Design Policy and Standards	Adopt a policy to develop or adopt design standards and specifications based on recent research and modern best practice for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit friendly street design.
	Older Adult Mobility Program	Support older adult mobility options, including a Trishaw Pilot via Cycling Without Age, to provide access to statistically low-risk transit, possibly operated by trained student and/or older adult volunteers along low volume residential streets.
	Bike Parking Inventory & Usage Monitoring Program	Conduct an inventory and monitor usage of bike parking at City properties and public right-of-way (such as sidewalks) and continue to provide sufficient supply. Establish a program for members of the public to request site inspections and evaluation for installation of bicycle racks or parking corrals. Ensure the City's bike parking program provides facilities that are publicly accessible and available for use by all members of the public, helping achieve a mode shift and corresponding lower motor vehicle emissions and traffic congestion.
	Bike Parking Requirements For New Development	Regularly review the City's minimum short- and long-term bike parking requirements for new development projects and update requirements to reflect changes in parking demand. Update and maintain the City's list of approved bike parking designs to accommodate a variety of bicycle types such as e-bikes and cargo bikes.
Comfortable and Enjoyable: Enhancing the comfort and	Walk & Bike Friendly Development	Consider prioritizing or requiring certification that encourages bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly developments, such as LEED-ND. Encourage developments that limit vehicle parking.
enjoyment of walking and cycling through amenities such as shade, greenery, and well-designed streetscapes.	Wayfinding Plan	Develop a non-motorized wayfinding plan connecting bicycle and pedestrian facilities with key local and regional destinations such as schools, trails, parks, and rail stations. Evaluate cut-throughs, short connections, ramp access, and ADA compliance. Continue to expand wayfinding facilities as the bicycle and pedestrian networks are implemented, and in coordination with Caltrans, develop a Wayfinding Signage Program specific to El Camino Real to help cyclists connect to the local bicycle network.
	Bike Racks on Buses	Work with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and coordinate with their Wheels on the Bus Pilot Program, to monitor the use of bike racks on buses and determine if demand is being accommodated.
	TDM Program	Promote and expand the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program and continue to support implementation of TDM programs in an effort to increase the share of trips made by walking and biking and advance the City's sustainability, climate action, vehicle miles traveled and carbon reduction goals. Pursue full participation of Palo Alto employers in the Transportation Management Association (TMA) and pursue expanding the TMA from Downtown to California Avenue and other areas of the city when appropriate.
	Crossing Guards	Periodically evaluate school crossing guard locations and warrants to determine their appropriateness and evaluate opportunities for new locations. As part of the evaluations, consider factors such as the needs of younger bicyclists who may cross while walking, and incorporate collision and location data to assist in identifying opportunities for pilot locations that could increase the walk to school mode share.
	Development Review Updates	Development review and roadway design will be evaluated by metrics that focus on safety risk, user comfort, and access for all users including pedestrians and bicyclists such as kinetic energy risk, level of traffic stress, and travel time by mode. Clearly communicate to help residents understand why proactive enhancements to support low-stress network buildout may be needed.



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	Bicycle Lending Library	Partner with the Palo Alto library and community partners that have space, capacity and expertise to create a bicycle lending library that enables residents to check out different types of bicycles, supplies, including trailers, and educational materials, including bike blenders, bike trivia wheels, safety vests for events, helmets and more; consult with agencies that have implemented similar programs such as the City of Oakland and San Mateo County Libraries.
	TDM Pilot Program for City Employees	Conduct a City of Palo Alto TDM pilot to improve facilities and encourage employee use of active transportation vehicles to reduce risk, given the high percentage of city vehicles that are used for <2 mile single occupant trips around town. Determine how best to pilot and incentivize trips to focus on both the right tool for the trip relative to the distance. Provide access to different types of bikes/trailers to support a wide range of users, access to an improved storage facility, conduct regular rides and safety trainings, ensure bicycles are regularly maintained and that there are risk management and anti-theft provisions to ensure safety and security.
	Long-Term Education Program	Create a long-term education program to change the travel habits of residents, visitors, shoppers, and workers by informing them about transportation alternatives, incentives, and impacts. Work with the PAUSD and with other public and private interests, such as the Chamber of Commerce and Commuter Wallet partners, to develop and implement this program.
	Bike Education Program	Partner with groups to advertise and carry out bike safety and education classes in the city, including classes oriented towards children, older adults, and non-English speakers
	Employee Education Program	Encourage and fund the participation of employees working on bicycle and pedestrian facilities in professional organizations and conferences in order stay up-to-date on the state of the practice and successes in other cities. Provide resources and support for employees to further their education, develop new skills, and keep up with changing patterns and transportation technologies.
	Interactive Map Tool	Update the City's website to enhance its static bicycle facility and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Walk & Roll Suggested Route maps with interactive mapping applications. Work with PAUSD, PATMA, and other partners to share this resource.
	Community Rides Program	Partner with organizations to lead all ages and abilities bicycle rides throughout the calendar year, including rides that utilize recently-implemented projects.
	Valet Parking Program for Events	Collaborate with Community Services Department to partner with and budget for organizations to provide bike parking and/or bike valet services at City-sponsored or other large events.
Community-Lea and	Street Closures - Open Streets	Prioritize street closures on areas located on the High Injury Network (identified in the Safety Action Plan), where high bicycle and pedestrian activity is expected, and where there is community support.
Cooperative: Fostering community engagement and participation in promoting active transportation,	Street Closures - School Streets Pilot	Implement a Street Closure - School Streets Pilot Program that can be used to gather data and outcomes that could then be applied to other schools. Community input will be used to identify locations for the pilot. School streets implement timed closures that prevent vehicles from entering the specified school zone. Restrictions are in place for approximately 15 to 90 minutes during drop-off and pick-up times and is enforced using signage and physical barrier(s). During this time, only pedestrians and cyclists can enter the School Street zone, aside from exempt vehicles (e.g. residents living in the zone).
supported by education, programming, and infrastructure investments in	Active Transportation Incentives Program	Encourage PATMA to provide additional bicycle/scooter incentives citywide.
infrastructure investments, in a way that cultivates learning for all network users of all ages .	Safe Routes to School	Enhance and sustain the City/PAUSD/PTA/Youth community partnership to reduce risk to students en route to and from school, and encourage more families to choose healthy, active, sustainable alternatives to driving solo more often. Grow and strengthen community-wide support through the SRTS 6 E's (Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Engagement, Evaluation, and Equity) model for safe, active, healthy, sustainable, school commutes. Aim to: • Adopt and institutionalize key SRTS practices and policies and gather best practices. • Provide, expand, and enhance school and community-based SRTS education programs and materials. • Promote and encourage use of the new traffic garden at the Ventura Community Center to increase bike education. • Expand and enhance encouragement programs to communicate the value of SRTS. • Gather data to assess and improve outcomes. • Engineer routes to develop a more safe and efficient network. • Deepen awareness and engagement with City staff, Council, and community representatives to advance and institutionalize SRTS.
		 Commit an equitable distribution of resources to encourage broad community participation. Maintain a Secondary School SRTS Coordinator to develop a youth SRTS program for grades 6-12
	Safe Routes to School Action Plan Updates	Update the 2019 Safe Routes to School 5-Year Action Plan, relaunch the process to establish yearly strategic objectives and determine whether to move forward to complete those goalsdefine a five-year action plan to advance safe routes to school. Consider establishing or working with existing advocacy groups to reach out to local businesses or groups to neip support and promote walking and bicycle-related
	Community Partnerships Program	projects and to maximize public-private funding opportunities such as development of bicycle or walking maps, path maintenance, and installation of bike parking facilities
	Bike and Pedestrian Count Program	Establish regular citywide bicycle and pedestrian counts at key corridors, intersections, destinations, and require that intersection traffic counts collected for development projects' transportation studies include bicyclist and pedestrian volumes. Utilize the counts collected in 2024 to establish a baseline for select locations. Enhance bicycle count efforts and collect more data to guide decisions by installing permanent automatic counters along key bikeways in representative locations. Using bike counters with displays along popular routes can encourage people to bike more often.



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Objective	Program/Policy/Practice Name	Description
	Performance Reporting Program	Collect data and conduct analysis as part of periodic status reports detailing the City's performance in relation to metrics recommended in this plan.
	Community Feedback Program	Expand survey efforts such as the Palo Alto Community Survey and the Performance Reports and National Citizen surveys to collect information related to walking and bicycling facility quality, Plan implementation, and programs.
	Institutionalize Safety	Via the 2025 Safety Action Plan, the City has committed to reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries on the City's roadways. Institutionalize safety into all aspects of policies, planning, program, design, implementation, and maintenance.
	Safe Routes to Work, Shopping, Downtown, Community Services, and Parks	Where Walk and Roll Map Suggested School Routes overlap with HIN, prioritize speed management and pedestrian/bicycle enhancements, especially at intersections: FHWA Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations, FHWA Improving Intersections for Pedestrians and Bicyclists, DIB 94, FHWA Safe System Approach for Speed Management. Establish non-HIN routes as primary access routes where possible and prioritize improvements on access routes with speeds over 25 mph: AB 43, countermeasure toolbox, DIB 94
	Review Protocols for Updating	Develop protocols to review the city's walk and roll suggested routes to school to proactively determine if traffic controls or other engineering modifications may be
	Suggested Walk and Roll Maps	needed to improve student safety while walking, biking, and rolling to school.
	Speed Management Program	Implement a proactive speed management program following the FHWA Safe System Speed Management Framework to guide location specific interventions in all focus areas. Lower speed limits and design speeds on streets within the bike network and without protected bikeways to 25 mph or lower.
Safe and Inclusive: Prioritizing safety for all transportation network users regardless of age and ability, and ensuring equitable access to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure across the community while reducing fatal and severe	Systemic Uncontrolled Crosswalk Placement/Enhancement Program	Develop a systemic uncontrolled crosswalk placement/enhancement program for ped safety and accessibility: DIB 94, FHWA Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy, FHWA Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Locations. Proactively design proposed crossings to provide bicyclists and pedestrians with context-appropriate facilities such as marked crossings, bike boxes, bike signal heads, bike detection, and leading bicycle intervals (LBIs)/leading pedestrian intervals (LPIs), audible and/or countdown signals, accessible push buttons, and curb ramps
	Update Traffic Calming Program	Systemically identify speed management needs and opportunities (such as speed humps and neighborhood traffic circle) and prioritize into a yearly implementation program based on kinetic energy risk, equity, proximity to schools, community input, and similar factors. Most funds should be programmed proactively, but some can be reserved for quick response discretionary purposes. Implement speed management strategies to moderate vehicle speeds to a contextually appropriate target speed: AB 43, countermeasure toolbox, FHWA Safe System Approach for Speed Management. It is recommended that that the Traffic Control Maintainer II position in Public Works (eliminated during the pandemic) be restored, so City staff can respond more quickly to add, maintain, or repair roadway safety infrastructure such as delineators, bollards, signage, guardrails, crash attenuators, faded striping and curb paints, and other features.
injury crashes .	Near-Miss Reporting Program	Utilize SafeTREC Street Story mapping portal (https://streetstory.berkeley.edu/city/palo-alto) to enable and encourage residents to provide information on near-misses and other safety information that would otherwise not be included in regularly-reported safety reports and statistics.
	The City's Office of Transportation Traffic Engineering Team	Add or reallocate staff to administer quick build or traffic safety programs, including coordination, evaluation, planning, and engineering.
	Prioritize Maintenance of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	Incorporate and prioritize bicycle and pedestrian facility maintenance needs into the City's transportation maintance program standards and funding.
	Prioritize Bikeways in the Repaving Program	Prioritize repaving of new and existing bikeways as part of the repaving program.
	Incorporate Pedestrian Improvements Into Repaving Program	Change approach to repaving program to include pedestrian improvements including sidewalk widening and curb extensions. This would require additional funding and a change in City processes for completing road and sidewalk repairs or installations.



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Objective	Program/Policy/Practice Name	Description
Connected and Accessible: Featuring a convenient and interconnected network of	Better Bikeways	Incorporate best design practices and guidance, such as those outlined in the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide, when designing and implementing walking, biking, and rolling facilities to create a network that meets the needs of users of all ages and abilities; this includes guidance on recommended facility widths and low-stress intersection treatments. Design and implement safer roads to facilitate travel by vulnerable users through appropriate walking and biking facilities in the context of adjacent vehicle facilities, speeds, and volumes, including sufficient width and horizontal separation. Implement strategies to provide better bike crossings of major streets, such as diverters, daylighting, dedicated signals and phasing, pavement markings, and protected intersections.
	Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Improvement Program	Establish dedicated funding for implementation of projects identified in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update and Pedestrian District Guidelines
	Station Access Program	Coordinate with Caltrain to deliver local station area access improvements that meet universal design principles such as curb ramps, tactile and audio crossing cues, improved sidewalks, slower traffic speeds, shorter crossing distances, and increased crossing time. Partner with Caltrain to encourage plans for low-stress active transportation facilities to Caltrain stations, and coordinate to ensure that grade separation projects adjacent to stations reflect multi-modal access needs.
	Signal Modification Program	Incorporate the crossing needs of bicyclists and pedestrians and encourage safe driver behavior when reviewing and adjusting signal timing at City traffic signals. Consider adding "Bicycle Detected" signal heads to recommended bike routes intersecting with arterials.
sidewalks, bike lanes, and	Bicycle Detection Pilot Project	Implement innovative "blue light" (or other) bicycle detection indicators and signs at complex bicycle crossings.
trails that provide efficient	Update CIP Funding to Prioritize Bicycle and Pedestrian Access and Route	Allocate funding and prioritize implementation of BPTP projects as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). May include bike routes, streets on HIN, equity considerations: BPTP, HIN, East Palo Alto Walk and Roll Routes, Palo Alto Population Below Poverty, Palo Alto Transit Corridors. Ensure funding is allocated beyond signing/striping so intersections are also addressed through these projects: FHWA Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations, FHWA Improving Intersections for Pedestrians and Bicyclists. CIP Projects will align with Safe System Approach: FHWA Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy, CIP Implementation Guidance.
improving environmental	Identify Funding Opportunities	Continue to monitor federal, state, and regional funding opportunities to augment local funds to implement recommended walking, biking, and rolling improvements.
health through lower vehicle miles traveled and reduced	Establish Dedicated Funding Source	Establish dedicated funding for citywide walking and bicycling facilities and supporting infrastructure such as bike parking in the City's CIP.
greenhouse gas emissions .	Quick-Build Program	Implement quick-build pilot/trial projects of the Plan's walking and bicycling infrastructure recommendations.
	First/Last mile connection to Caltrain stations	Implement bikeways with connections to Caltrain stations to promote access.
	Existing Trail Access Improvements project	Enhance on-street intersections along the existing trail network, key existing bridge/overpass approaches, and school route shared use paths, to improve ADA access, bikeway connectivity, and convenience for all users. Priority upgrades include: modifying or replacing substandard safety corrals with bollards and associated striping/signage; installing accessible curb ramps and regrading poor transitions; pedestrian-scaled lighting; installing high visibility crosswalks at key locations; and landscaping maintenance/removal.
	Safe Routes for Private Schools	At the request of private schools with dedicated staff available to support Safe Routes to School program development, and as resources are available provide guidance to private schools regarding Safe Routes programming and developing Walk and Roll suggested route maps to reduce vehicle trips.



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Objective	Program/Policy/Practice Name	Description
Integrated and Collaborative: Collaborating with neighboring cities to create a seamless, integrated, and efficient regional network of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.	Update Municipal Code to Revise Walking, Biking, and Rolling Guidance	Review the City's municipal code and ordinances to remove language that can discourage walking, biking, and rolling (such requirements to cross at crosswalks and at a right angle, to report secondhand bike purchases to the police department, and for skateboarders to wear reflective devices while riding between sunset and sunrise). Update code to align with State guidelines and create consistent language (e.g., for bike access on bridges, over and underpasses).
	Regional Network	Continue to consult with other agencies on bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects that abut or intersect jurisdictional boundaries to ensure consistency in facilities, including Cities (East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Los Altos, and Mountain View), Counties (Santa Clara and San Mateo), Caltrans, and Caltrain. Partner with VTA and adjacent jurisdictions to develop a connected network prioritizing access while minimizing distance between regional access points.
	PABAC Structure	Work with the Palo Alto Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PABAC) to evaluate existing role and structure, discuss membership and the potential to include members and/or liaisons from local non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, transportation management associations, City committees, and other groups, and propose changes that increase efficiency and effectiveness of the committee.
	Effective Regulation and Education on E-bikes for Youth Safety	Advocate for comprehensive statewide regulations and safety initiatives to ensure the responsible use of electric-bikes bicycles, electric scooters, and other electric mobility devices, particularly by youth. Prioritize youth safety through effective regulation and education. For example, mandatory safety courses, stricter age restrictions and helmet laws, public awareness campaigns, and investment in bicycle infrastructure to create safer riding environments.
	Electric Bicycle Engagement	Work with Palo Alto Police Department to develop strategies to encourage the safe use of e-bikes on public roads.
	Discouraging Driver Speeding	Work with Palo Alto Police Department and other partners when implementing and publicizing engineering, education, and enforcement efforts discouraging vehicle speeding near schools and high-injury locations in the city, particularly.
	Caltrans Coordination	Work with Caltrans to streamline permitting and integrate connected bikeways into Caltrans projects. Improve bikeway design approaching and crossing Caltrans facilities.
	Implementation Updates	Work with other jurisdictions and agencies to ensure that new or upgraded facilities are reflected in each agencies' respective bikeway maps and applications.

