



EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION

Working for safe, convenient and enjoyable bicycling for all people in the East Bay

July 23, 2012

Rochelle Wheeler and
Beth Walukas
Alameda County Transportation Commission
1333 Broadway, Suite 200/300
Oakland Ca 94612

Re: Request to extend deadline for the Alameda Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Dear Rochelle and Beth:

The East Bay Bicycle Coalition requests additional time to provide comments and input on the draft Alameda Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. We are making this request specifically because Chapters 4 and 5 were just released last month for public review and they are the most important chapters of the Plan and they are significantly lacking in details. In addition, the Plan as a whole was just released, where prior we only had access to the information. There is still a lot of work to do on these Plans. Please extend the comment deadline one month until August 31 and then schedule the updates Plans for review by Alameda CTC committees in October.

Here are our concerns:

- The Implementation Chapter needs to be significantly more thought out and robust. It needs timelines, performance goals, details for who is responsible, and a very achievable 5-year plan for what can be accomplished before the next update. For this, our organization is spending quite a lot of time researching other Bicycle Plans from around the Country to compare their implementation chapters with the proposed chapter in our plan. There is no comparison. We are continuing this effort to put together ourselves a more robust proposal for an Implementation Plan that Alameda County can be proud of. We need more time to do this;
- Performance Goals. Our Plans need measurable performance goals and you will be hearing more about this from our members. However, we are doing research from around the country on the goals other cities have adopted. It's something of an embarrassment that we have no measurable performance goals in our draft plan or for our County. Staff has indicated that they have concerns about performance goals for bike/ped projects, but we would like to hear these concerns from your legal department before allowing them to limit the robustness of our Plans. We note that the Alameda CTC has plenty of measurable performance goals in the areas of GHG reductions, vehicle LOS on the CMP, and air quality reduction for Air District funded projects. From our perspective, there is no legitimate reason our Plans should not



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include measurable performance goals. We need more time to develop our own proposals here;

- The Plans were on hold for seemingly a year as the Alameda CTC worked on the Transportation Expenditure Plan and just recently restarted the bicycle and pedestrian plan process. While we are glad to see this process restart, it is not easy to move to the back burner other projects we are working on and bring these Plans to the forefront. We need more time to shift gears and work on this.

There will be plenty of time to have these updated Plans ready for the next call for projects with a one month extension. With the deadline being this Friday, July 27, 2012, we would appreciate an early indication if this request can be granted.

In the meantime, I strongly encourage you to take a look at the Bicycle Plans from the cities of Portland, Seattle and Minneapolis. We are confident you will agree after reviewing these plans that our Plans can be much better and that we need more time to do the work necessary to finish work on our Plans.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and please feel free to call me with any questions.

Cordially yours,

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