



Meeting Date: February 17, 2015

TOWN OF MORAGA

STAFF REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: February Agenda Items

New Business

Item VIII. A. Moraga Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan – (discussion)

Information below was presented by Coleman Frick, Assistant Planner with the Town, for the Town Council meeting of February 11, 2015. Mr. Frick will provide a short presentation and be available for questions.

Background

On, January 14, 2014, the Town Council adopted a Resolution, authorizing submittal of a grant application for 2014/15 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Grant Funds for a comprehensive update of the Moraga Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Town was awarded \$50,000 in grant funds by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in August 2014, and is therefore able to proceed with the project.

There is a strong local interest in making Moraga a better connected community, one that accommodates the transportation and recreation needs of all residents. The MBPP is in need of a comprehensive update that meets the Goals and Objectives of the General Plan. By making circulation within the Town safer and more enjoyable for all users, and prioritizing multi-modal projects rather than traditional road improvement projects, and in accordance with new “complete streets” requirements, Moraga will become more attractive and family-oriented for its residents.

The Fiscal Year 2014/15 budget includes funding for development of a municipal wayfinding program for the Town that would design and implement a coordinated program of directional and other wayfinding signage for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Given the clear overlap between the elements of the MBPP update and the wayfinding plan, staff has suggested combining these into a concurrent process, allowing for efficiencies to be achieved between the two efforts.

Discussion

2004 Moraga Bike and Pedestrian Plan

The 2004 Moraga Bike and Pedestrian Plan (MBPP) implements General Plan Implementation Policy IP-K2 designed to provide a comprehensive plan for addressing pedestrian and bicycle circulation issues as well as recreational trail use. The existing MBPP was adopted in 2004, and relies heavily on the format and content of the Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle Plan as it was then adopted.

The MBPP includes a limited network of local facilities, focused primarily on recreational trails. The existing MBPP is not well tailored to local conditions, and lacks detail with regard to the design, location and cost of future facilities. Few, if any, of the trail facilities identified in the 2004 MBPP have been constructed, although projects including Palos Colorados and Rancho Laguna reflect some of the new off-street recreational trails recommended in the plan.

The limited scope of the existing MBPP has proven problematic when seeking grant funds, because most such programs prioritize funding for projects that are located in areas under control of the local jurisdiction, such as within the public right-of-way, and that have been clearly vetted through inclusion in an existing adopted plan or CIP.

Moraga Wayfinding Plan

The adopted FY2014-15 Capital Improvement Plan includes the preparation of a Town-wide Wayfinding Plan. The Wayfinding Plan would provide a coordinated program of directional signage for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, which would help system users move more efficiently to their destinations, help promote a more cohesive visual identity for Moraga, and reduce the need for ad-hoc signage to community destinations and events. Given the Town-wide scope, obvious correlation with major components of the transportation system, and integration of signage into the MBPP system, there is a significant opportunity to achieve efficiencies and better coordinate the two efforts.

Eisen | Letunic was the consulting firm selected by Town Council at their February 11, 2015 meeting. Eisen | Letunic provided the Town with a realistic scope and budget that meets the needs of Moraga's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update and Wayfinding Plan. The strategies and policies outlined in the project scope will allow Moraga to identify the needs of Moraga residents and position the Town to implement bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects in the future.

Project Scope

The proposed consultant scope of work for the MBPP Update and Wayfinding Plan outlines a detailed description of how the Plan will provide for a walkable, bike-friendly Moraga that reduces vehicle miles travelled, and implement the General Plan and Moraga Center Specific Plan, including its policies, and land use designations. The updated Plan will provide the necessary tools, vision and strategies to guide the physical development of a functional and integrated network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including sidewalks and trails.

The scope of work includes the following major components:

- Evaluation of existing local and regional transportation policies and plans.
- Public Outreach Plan development.
- Creation of a PBMP Citizens Advisory Committee to provide guidance and input PBMP Update and Wayfinding Plan process. Staff will present Council with the PBMP Citizens Advisory Committee Charter at a future date, but preliminarily it is suggested the Committee would include representatives of the Planning Commission and Park and Recreation Commission, as well as 3-4 community members.
- Data collection to identify existing conditions in the Town.
- Preliminary analysis and assessment of bicycle and pedestrian needs in Moraga.
- Identification of key destinations and signage locations for Wayfinding Plan.
- Preparation of initial draft PBMP
- Public review and public hearings regarding draft plan
- CEQA review of PBMP Update and Wayfinding Plan
- Draft of final PBMP Update/Wayfinding Plan and presentation to Council

The project scope includes services from Bike East Bay, a non-profit dedicated to promoting and supporting improved bike facilities in Alameda and Contra Costa County, who will help coordinate volunteer resources to help assess conditions on the existing bike network. The Town was also successful in an application to receive a no-cost Bicycle Safety Assessment through UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies, which will help supplement the consultant's work. Given the project's relatively limited budget, these resources help the Town achieve the desired scope of work in a cost-effective manner.

Recommendation

Provide feedback to Town staff regarding the upcoming Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Item VIII. B. Moraga Center Specific Plan Park Mitigation Site Concept – (discussion)

As developments in the Moraga Center Specific Plan area progress, it is becoming apparent that the concept of a park mitigation site might be beneficial. This concept could provide residential development project applicants an additional choice to “buy-in” to privately owned parkland in lieu of Park Development Impact Fees or creating a small park on-site. This concept is currently a high level goal for the Town Council and is scheduled in the near future to be addressed by the Planning Department.

The two current developments, Camino Ricardo and Via Moraga have proposed small park parcels. The idea behind a park mitigation site is to provide an opportunity for the Town to potentially realize a single larger parcel of land that can eventually be dedicated as new public parkland.

The 2008 Town of Moraga Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies a need, with the current population, of an additional 7.4 acres of neighborhood parkland. With a potential future build-

out of 19,300, the 7.4 acres increases to a total of 10 acres. The Town currently has zero (0) acres/100 residents of “neighborhood” parkland.

National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) provides standards and classifications of different types and sizes of parks. NRPA considers a neighborhood park to be within walking and bicycling distance of most users, generally 2-5 acres in size, and serve residents within a 1/2-mile radius. Neighborhood parks are typically designed to provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. Neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playgrounds, turf areas, picnic tables, and benches.

This topic is before the Park and Recreation Commission for your information. Comments/suggestions provided by the Commission will be forwarded to the Planning Department and Town Council. As this conceptual idea progresses, staff will keep the Park and Recreation Commission informed.