

Date: March 6, 2024

To: Costa Mesa Planning Commission

From: The Active Transportation Committee

Subject: Pedestrian Master Plan

The Active Transportation Committee (ATC) approved the proposed Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) in June 2022. However, the ATC believes the PMP can be strengthened.

The ATC recommends the Planning Commission approve the proposed PMP but *we urge the Commission to make its approval conditional on the adoption of recommendations listed below.*

In 2018, the City Council approved an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for Costa Mesa. It includes pedestrian elements but is primarily focused on bicycling. The PMP supplements the ATP and its recommendations align with the six major goals contained in the ATP.

Item 1 – the PMP, unlike the ATP, does not cover the entire area of the city. It includes only preselected “Pedestrian Project Corridors”.

The city’s goal is to establish a bicycle and pedestrian friendly environment *throughout* the city. The PMP is focused on nine defined Pedestrian Project Corridors. While the corridors include major commercial and retail streets with a lot of pedestrian activity there are other areas of the city where pedestrian infrastructure can also be improved.

For example, the city recently contracted with Kimley-Horn to produce a “Local Road Safety Plan”. The report was issued in May of this year. The report surveyed nine specific locations (called segments) and recommended improvements within each segment. Two of the segments are outside of the corridors selected for the PMP. They are Arlington Dr. and the intersection of Pomona and Victoria.

Adding these two locations to the PMP will expand its area of coverage and help with the goal of establishing a pedestrian friendly environment throughout the city.

In the future, other areas of the city need to be considered for inclusion in the PMP and a time frame should be established for making these decisions. Walk audits can help determine if other pedestrian sections should be added to the PMP. The ATC can help in this effort.

Item 1A – the PMP should incorporate two reports related to pedestrian infrastructure.

In 2022, the city received two other reports covering walking and biking. Both were conducted at the city’s request and both include recommendations to improve walking infrastructure. They are the Berkeley SafeTREC Complete Streets Safety Assessment and the previously mentioned Kimley-Horn Local Road Safety Plan.

There is some overlap between the three reports. The SafeTREC and LRSP reports augment the PMP with some of their findings, recommendations, or best practices. Choosing the better recommendations and/or implementation tools from the three reports should provide the city with a first-rate pedestrian network.

Recommendation:

- a.) Incorporate the two referenced reports into the PMP as addendums so they can be utilized in implementing the PMP. This will address issues highlighted in Items 1 and 1A.
- b.) Add a statement to the PMP that states it can be expanded to include other pedestrian areas within the city. We recommend within 12 months of final approval, by Council, additional areas in the city be reviewed to determine if other sections should be included in the PMP.

Item 2 - Implementation Plan.

The PMP is missing a critically important component, an implementation plan or time schedule. Chapter Seven addresses the importance of implementation plans and the prerequisite prioritization of projects. However, no specific language is in the PMP to create a plan.

The most effective way to execute the PMP is to follow a well thought out plan. Some things a plan needs to consider is prioritization of projects, funding, construction time frames, and project management. Also, a plan will provide all stakeholders an estimate of the time and cost to implement the PMP.

The City Council, Planning Commission, Staff, and ATC can all have a role in helping to establish an overall PMP plan.

Recommendation: Within 12 months of document approval add an implementation plan to the PMP.

In summary, the ATC believes implementing these two recommendations will improve the PMP to the benefit of all the residents of Costa Mesa.

If the Planning Commissioners have any questions, please feel free to contact the ATC.

Thank you

Ralph W Taboada – Chair

The overall recommendations in this letter were unanimously approved during our December 7, 2022 committee meeting. Vice Chair – Bridget Gleason Members - Andrew Barns, Bryan Estrada, Richard Huffman, Flo Martin, David Martinez, Jennifer Vavra, Jimmy Vivar, Trace Yulie, Alternates: Benjamin Lechler, Robert Morse