

Appendix A

Evidence of Community Support

- **Merced County Association of Governments Certification**
- **City Committees, Commissions and Council Actions**
- **Community Letters of Support**



PH: 209.723.3153
 FAX: 209.723.0322
www.mcagov.org
 369 W, 18th Street
 Merced, Ca. 93540

PROOF OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETENESS

Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP)

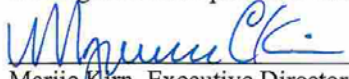
Merced County Association of Governments provides this letter as **proof of certification of completeness** for the **City of Merced 2013 Bicycle Transportation Plan**, as outlined in Sections 890.6 and 891.2 of the California Bicycle Transportation Act.

Section 890.6 of the California Bicycle Transportation Act specifies that county and city governments shall establish minimum safety design criteria for the planning and construction of bikeways and roadways where bicycle travel is permitted; and

Section 891.2 of the California Bicycle Transportation Act establishes that a county or city may prepare a bicycle transportation plan to assist in establishing such criteria, and which shall include the following elements:

- a. The estimated number of existing bicycle commuters in the plan area and the estimated increase in the number of bicycle commuters resulting from implementation of the plan;
- b. A map and description of existing and proposed land use and settlement patterns;
- c. A map and description of existing and proposed bikeways;
- d. A map and description of existing and proposed end-of-trip bicycle parking facilities;
- e. A map and description of existing and proposed bicycle transport and parking facilities;
- f. A map and description of existing and proposed facilities for changing and storing clothes and equipment;
- g. A description of bicycle safety and education programs conducted in the area included within the plan, efforts by the law enforcement agency having primary traffic law endorsement responsibility in the area to enforce provision of the Vehicle Code pertaining to bicycle operation, and the resulting effect on accidents involving bicyclists;
- h. A description of the extent of citizen and community involvement in development of the plan;
- i. A description of how the bicycle transportation plan has been coordinated and is consistent with other local or regional transportation, air quality, or energy conservation plans;
- j. A description of the projects proposed in the plan and a listing of their priorities for implementation;
- k. A description of past expenditures for bicycle facilities and future financial needs for projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters in the plan area.

The City of Merced, in collaboration with the Merced County Association of Governments, has prepared a Bicycle Transportation Plan that complies with state law as described above and with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).


 Marjie Kirn, Executive Director


 Date

City Committees, Commissions and Council Actions and Resolutions

- **City Parks and Recreation Committee**
-- Recommended Approval on 6-24-13 (Minute Action)
- **City of Merced Bicycle Advisory Commission**
-- Recommended Approval on 6-25-13 (Minute Action)
- **City of Merced Planning Commission**
-- Recommended Approval on 8-21-13 (PC Resolution #3022)
- **City of Merced City Council**
-- Approved on 9-16-13 (City Council Resolution 2013-44)

RESOLUTION NO. 2013- 44**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTING THE CITY OF MERCED 2013
BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND
ADOPTING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
#13-01**

WHEREAS, The Bicycle Transportation Plan bikeways map and text document has been amended with completed and future bikeways, current air quality information and standards, and other text changes, which are proposed to update the former plan, last updated in October 2008; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Merced expects an increase of recreation, carless, and commuter bicyclists as the City population and the University of California Merced attendance increases over the coming years; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Merced, recognizing the health and environmental benefits of bicycle use for recreation, carless, and commuter purposes in its City, is intent on continuing its commitment to improving its bikeways; and,

WHEREAS, The Recreation and Parks Commission, the Bicycle Advisory Commission, and the Planning Commission reviewed the amended Bicycle Transportation Plan at the public hearings, and recommended approval of the amended Bicycle Transportation Plan as updated; and,

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the amendments to the City's Merced Vision 2030 General Plan related to bike facilities as specified in General Plan Amendment #13-01; and,

WHEREAS, The City Council held a noticed public hearing on September 16, 2013 at which time all those interested in the matter were provided the opportunity to speak or to provide written or oral testimony regarding the amendments to the existing City of Merced Bicycle Plan and Merced Vision 2030 General Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Based upon the evidence and testimony in the record at the City Council public hearing, the City Council, exercising its independent judgment and review, hereby approves the 2013 Bicycle Transportation Plan, which amends and restates the City of Merced Bicycle Plan.

SECTION 2. By approving the 2013 Bicycle Transportation Plan, the City Council directs the City Manager to assist in carrying out the intentions, goals, and guidelines presented in the 2013 Bicycle Transportation Plan whenever possible and practical within the financial constraints and priorities of the City to further the quality of bicycling and bicycle commuting.

SECTION 3. Based upon the evidence and testimony in the record at the City Council public hearing, the City Council, exercising its independent judgment and review hereby approves General Plan Amendment #13-01, which updates Figure 4.9 of the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan depicting the City of Merced's Bikeway System and makes text changes in Section 4.3.8 of the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan relating to the Bicycle/Trail System.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify as to the adoption of this Resolution.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of September 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members: BLAKE, DOSSETTI, MURPHY, RAWLING, LOR, PEDROZO, THURSTON

NOES: Council Members: NONE

ABSENT: Council Members: NONE

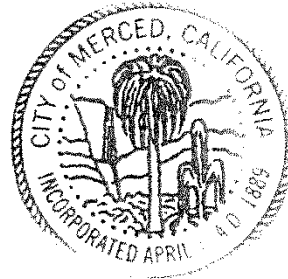
ABSTAIN: Council Members: NONE

APPROVED:

[Handwritten Signature]
Mayor

ATTEST:
JOHN M. BRAMBLE, CITY CLERK

BY: *[Handwritten Signature]*
Deputy City Clerk



(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Handwritten Signature] 6/24/13
City Attorney Date

Community Letters of Support

- **Merced / Mariposa County Asthma Coalition**
- **Merced County Department of Public Health**
- **Merced City School District**
- **Merced Union High School District**
- **UC Merced Transportation, Parking and Fleet Services**
- **Building Healthy Communities**
- **Golden Valley Health Center**
- **Merced Bike Coalition**



Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition
Controlling asthma through awareness and education

June 10, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Merced/Mariposa Asthma Coalition supports the City of Merced Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP).

Poor air quality is a concern for those living in the San Joaquin Valley. As noted in Chapter 7, Section 3, of the City's Bike Plan, "on-road mobile sources contribute to the levels of ground ozone and particulate matter, which could cause heart and respiratory problems." If people could be encouraged to bicycle and walk more, and drive their pollutant-emitting vehicles less, then perhaps, we'll see betterments to air quality and improvements to people's health.

The Merced/Mariposa Asthma Coalition strongly supports the City of Merced's efforts to seek appropriate funding for the types of projects that will promote more bicycling and fewer auto trips.

Sincerely,

Celeste Ramos
Past Chair
Merced/Mariposa Asthma Coalition



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kathleen Grassi, R.D., M.P.H.
Director

June 13, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Merced County Department of Public Health (Department) submits this letter in support of the City of Merced's Bicycle Transportation Plan (Plan). The Department strongly supports the Plan and recognizes the effort the City of Merced has made in emphasizing the public health benefits of bicycling as a part of a healthy lifestyle.

The 2013 Plan update demonstrates a strong commitment to policies that will improve the overall health of the community. As described in the Plan, the public health benefits of bicycling include increased air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, bicycling is an excellent form of physical activity for children and adults and can contribute to the reduction of the risks for chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes.

The Plan supports the work of the Department's CA4Health initiative, particularly its efforts to improve safe routes to school. The Plan emphasizes educating the public on the health benefits of cycling, promoting bicycling as a means of transportation, improving safety conditions for bicyclists, and encouraging the use of bike transportation for students and school faculty with safe and direct bicycle facilities. These are all important goals that align with the Department's CA4Health initiative.

The Department is pleased to partner with the City of Merced on the Bicycle Transportation Plan implementation and supports the City of Merced's efforts to seek appropriate funding for Plan activities that will go far to promote healthy living for all Merced residents.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Grassi, RD, MPH
Director

Merced County Department of Public Health

KAG:sn



444 West 23rd Street, Merced, California 95340
Phone (209) 385-6600 Fax (209) 385-6393



Board of Education: President Adam Cox; **Clerk** Jessica Kazakos; Darrell Cherf; Gene Stamm; Susan Walsh
District Superintendent: RoseMary Parga Duran, Ed.D.

June 3, 2013


To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Merced City School District (MCSD), I would like to offer our support of the City of Merced Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP). The safety of our students walking and/or bicycling to/from school continues to be a concern for the District, school administrators, and parents.

I appreciate the number of bike lanes proposed by the BTC that are near several of our school sites. These bike lanes will provide safer bikeways for our students to and from school. With safer conditions provided with these bike lanes, parents will feel more comfortable with allowing their children to ride their bikes to school.

Any measures that can be taken to create a safe environment for students and faculty bicycling each day to and from school are greatly appreciated. We fully support the projects and trust the BTP's proposed projects can be funded. If you would like to contact me regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at (209) 385-6343.

Sincerely,



Craig Magnussen
Chief Operations Officer
Merced City School District

"To ensure that every student excels academically, builds character, and is a productive member of our community."



Superintendent
 V. Scott Scambray, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendents
 Sandra L. Scambray, Ed.D.
 George S. Sziraki, Jr., Ed.D.
 Leonard C. Kahn

Board of Trustees
 Dora Crane
 Dave Honey
 Eda M. Johnson
 William Snyder
 Sam Spengler

June 13, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Merced Union High School District (MUHSD) strongly endorses and supports the City of Merced Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP).

The proposed improvements, including the new bike path and bike lanes on Childs Avenue for students bicycling to/from Golden Valley High School, would improve student safety tremendously and would encourage more students to bike to school. Currently, students would have to bike on dirt road shoulders on Childs Avenue on their way to the high school.

I am also greatly thankful for the proposed bike lanes on streets and roads that lead to our new E. Capitan High School in North Merced. I am expecting a significant student population coming to school from the homes just south of our new school. With these bike lanes in place, more students will be encouraged to ride their bikes to school.

On behalf of the MUHSD, I strongly support the City of Merced's efforts to seek appropriate funding for the types of projects that will ensure the safety of our students.

Sincerely,

V. Scott Scambray, Ed.D.
 Superintendent
 Merced Union High School District

June 13, 2013



Mr. John Bramble
City of Merced
City Manager
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA. 95340

Dear John,

Building Healthy Communities/ United Way of Merced County are pleased to support the Merced City Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) being submitted for funding thru Caltrans by Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) to enhance the existing bikeway system in the Merced community. We strongly support the BTP and the focus it has on enhancement, education, and safety for bicycle commuters, through community outreach and collaboration.

A priority of our organization is the development of communities where kids and youth are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The ultimate goal is to revolutionize the way we think about health; we believe that the BTP brings forth an array of potential positive changes. This plan mentions health benefits that arise from cycling like; reduction in obesity and type 2 diabetes, as well as a reduction of greenhouse gases. It also emphasizes the need for safety around schools by incorporating projects that help youth get to and from school, the enhancement of bikeway systems in an under-developed part of Merced, and the commitment to provide safety education.

We enthusiastically endorse the efforts that MCAG and the City of Merced have put together to seek external funding to sustain the Bicycle Plan design. We will continue to be an active participant of this community outreach effort conducted by the City – our community's comments and concerns, and their recommendations about the existing bikeway system have been incorporated into this plan very effectively. As an active community partner to the City of Merced we are very excited for the possibility that this proposal will be funded.

Sincerely,

Isai Palma
Hub Administrative Coordinator

Tatiana Vizcaino-Stewart
Hub Manager

Flip Hassett
Executive Director, United Way

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Transportation, Parking and Fleet Services

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
 5200 N. LAKE RD
 MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95341
 (209) 228-8277

July 1, 2013

Mr. John Bramble
 City Manager
 City of Merced
 678 W. 18th Street
 Merced, CA 95340

Dear Mr. Bramble:

I am writing in support of the efforts by the Merced County Association of Governments and the City of Merced to update the 2008 City of Merced Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP). An updated BTP will serve the growing community of Merced by developing a long range plan that will provide safe paths, facilities and programs to encourage and support bicycle transportation.

The University of California, Merced (UC Merced) is a growing institution in the Merced region, with a projected fall 2013 enrollment near 6,000 students and a goal of 10,000 students by 2020. With student, staff and faculty populations on the rise, more and more people from the UC Merced community will benefit from improvements to regional bike paths, bike lanes and facilities. UC Merced was built with a commitment to sustainability, including a goal to reduce our carbon footprint and provide incentives to campus commuters to increase the use of alternative modes of transportation. In addition, UC Merced is committed to continue to collaborate with the City of Merced to further develop sustainable transportation initiatives, including bicycle transportation. With updated BTP improvements in place, more students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to utilize bike transportation to and from the university and around the City of Merced.

I applaud the efforts of the Merced County Association of Governments, the City of Merced, and the supporting agencies on the new draft BTP and support the efforts of the City of Merced to seek appropriate funding for these types of bicycle transportation improvement projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karin Groth".

Karin Groth
 Director
 Transportation, Parking and Fleet Services



CORPORATE OFFICE

737 West Childs Avenue • Merced, California 95341
209-383-1848 • Fax 209-383-0136 • www.gvhc.org



LOCATIONS

Ceres • Dos Palos • Gustine/Newman • Le Grand
Los Banos • Merced • Modesto • MOMobile
Patterson • Planada • Turlock • Westley

August 14, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Golden Valley Health Centers I would like to express our support for the City of Merced's Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP).

Golden Valley Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center that has served patients in the Merced community for over 40 years and is accredited by The Joint Commission. Through our community health centers, we provide comprehensive primary medical, dental and behavioral health as well as health education and eligibility screening to an ethnically diverse population, including migrant and seasonal farm workers, Southeast Asian refugees and the homeless population of Merced and Stanislaus Counties.

Our organization understands that the health of our patients depends on more than a visit to the doctor's office; and a safe built environment is the foundation of a healthy community.

The BTP addresses the barriers that many of our patients who use cycling as a mode of transportation encounter every day. We are glad that implementation of the BTP will connect bikeways that will enable bicyclists to travel safely and conveniently between destinations without barriers or gaps in the route. The BTP will also address the importance of educating the youth in our community on safety by promoting bicycle safety programs in employment centers and local schools. We are also pleased the BTP takes into consideration implementing a system where bicyclists can easily report bikeway maintenance issues.

Golden Valley would like to recognize the BTP planning process which allowed the plan to be developed with considerable input from the community and we are proud to have hosted a public workshop at the GVHC Senior Health and Wellness Center, to help residents understand the Bike Plan update process and to hear their ideas and experiences so their concerns could be addressed by the Plan.

We look forward to continue our partnership with the city to improve the health and safety of our patients inside and outside of our clinic's walls.

Sincerely,


Christine Noguera
Interim CEO



Merced Bicycle Coalition
731 E. Yosemite Ave. Suite B, #427
Merced, CA 95340

*Making our community safer, our air cleaner, and our citizens healthier
by promoting bicycling as a safe and normal means of everyday transportation and recreation*

July 15, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that the Merced Bicycle Coalition expresses its support for the City of Merced's 2013 Bicycle Transportation Plan. We commend the City Planning staff, Bicycle Advisory Commission, associated community organizations, and community participants in open meetings for collaboratively developing a working document that reflects the city's collective support of bicycling. This document underscores the City's commitment to bicycling as a viable and accessible means of transportation, as a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from automobile travel, and as a vehicle for promoting the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has found that half of all trips made by Americans are less than three miles, a distance comfortably within cycling range. A comprehensive approach to enhancing bicycling infrastructure, as supported by the Bicycle Transportation Plan, can encourage more cyclists to ride safely and securely. Projects that make bicycling even more convenient are popular, relatively uncomplicated to implement, and environmentally friendly—such that all of us, even if we don't ride, benefit from bicycle planning and infrastructure.

The mission of the Merced Bicycle Coalition is to make our air cleaner, our community safer, and our citizens healthier by promoting bicycling as a safe and normal means of transportation and recreation. We look forward to working with the City staff, Bicycle Advisory Commission, and other community groups to implement the Bicycle Transportation Plan bicycling policies.

Sincerely,

Dwight Miller Ewing
Chair, Merced Bicycle Coalition

