



December 2, 2019

John Kopchik  
Director, Department of Conservation and Development  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553  
[john.kopchik@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:john.kopchik@dcd.cccounty.us)

Re: Contra Costa County General Plan Update

Dear Mr. Kopchik:

On behalf of the Safe Routes Partnership, I am writing to provide some general, high-level comments on the general plan update for the county. We have participated in multiple community meetings to discuss the update. We are pleased that the county has taken so seriously the need for wide community input by holding a large number of meetings. At these meetings we expressed the need for the county to more fully address walking, bicycling, Safe Routes to School, and Complete Streets.

We are pleased that pedestrian access, bicycling networks, and Complete Streets are called out as goals. It is particularly good that Complete Streets as a concept and its elements are spelled out in the plan. Safe Routes to School as a concept, however, is not explicitly mentioned, and we think that would be important to do so in order to emphasize the commitment of the county to ensure safe walking and bicycling access to schools.

Safe Routes to School should be addressed specifically, citing its proven successes in improving the safety, health, and well-being of students and families. Schools should be listed among the destinations the county will prioritize for access via active transportation. The county has two highly successful Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure education/outreach programs, operated by the county health services and Streets Smarts Diablo, respectively, which should be referenced in the plan.

We also appreciate that the general plan references the bicycle master plan. Ideally, in the future, the county should develop a specific countywide Safe Routes to School plan, which should then be referenced in a future general plan.

Finally, as I'm sure you are aware, state law under SB 1000 requires an environmental justice element to be incorporated in new general plan updates, and we hope to see this added in future drafts. Affordable transportation options--including biking, walking, and transit--are a critical component of environmental justice that we urge you to fully consider.

Please note that we have had discussions with Bike East Bay, who will also be making comments in the future, and their comments will be important to addressing access and equity in this process.

Thank you very much for considering our recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact Margo Pedroso, Deputy Director, Safe Routes Partnership at [margo@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:margo@saferoutespartnership.org) or 301-292-1043.

Sincerely,

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