

CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF FRESNO

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

The City recognizes that it is in the public interest to officially recognize the bicycle as a viable transportation option. The development and implementation of a strong bicycle policy, including: bikeways, secure parking, improved public access to public transit, intermodal bicycle-carpool coordination, and educational programs for cyclists and drivers to promote the safe sharing of public roadways must be given a priority in transportation planning.

At both the state and national level, it has been recognized by the Legislature and Congress that the time has arrived to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Promoting more widespread and efficient pedestrian and bicycle travel and mass transit are central to balancing the country's inter-modal transportation system. The involvement of concerned and involved citizens to address these issues and advise local legislative and administrative bodies is required to meet our common objectives of creating more livable communities.

It is with this background that an Advisory Committee is established to advise the City Council, Office of the Mayor and city staff on non-motorized transportation matters.

OBJECTIVE

The City's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (hereinafter Advisory Committee) shall advise and recommend policies for the planning, development and maintenance of pedestrian and bikeway systems for safe and enjoyable circulation for both utilitarian commuting travel and recreation within the City.

The Advisory Committee's goal will be to ensure sensitivity to bicycle and pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public works projects which impact bicyclists and pedestrians.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

The Advisory Committee is established to advise the City Council on bicycle and pedestrian matters and shall meet monthly and report no less than semi-annually to the City Council on its recommendations and pending works. This committee's advisory and review function on matters related to bicycling and walking shall include, but not be limited to:

1. REVIEW OF THE GENERAL PLAN

- a. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the development and review of comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian goals, objectives and implementation policies in the general plan, community plans and area specific plans (e.g., the general plan bicycle/pedestrian sub-element including non-motorized transportation objectives, maps of existing and proposed bike routes-including supporting facilities such as bicycle parking-and walkways within the city, as well as those connecting to surrounding jurisdictions}.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall also review recommended changes to same bicycle/pedestrian sub-element of the general plan, community plans and area specific plans.
- c. The Advisory Committee shall work with the City to promote walking and utilitarian and recreational cycling.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

- a. The Advisory Committee shall review and comment on the functional classification and physical condition of existing bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and bicycle routes (Caltrans Class I, II & III facilities, respectively) within the City.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall identify all current road hazards, obstructions, site access restrictions, circulation impediments (e.g. to airports, transit stations, across freeways, bridges, etc.) as they affect cyclists and pedestrians.
- c. The Advisory Committee shall inventory the current provision of bicycle parking facilities within the city and recommend appropriate bicycle parking technology and locations which would increase use of bicycles for commuting and other utilitarian trips.

3. REVIEW ALL ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- a. The Advisory Committee shall review all (including state, county, and regional park district) projects that fall within the city's jurisdiction insofar as they relate to bicycling. Designs of these projects shall be reviewed for accommodation of cyclists and pedestrians' needs. Resurfacing projects will be examined to assess feasibility of incorporating improvements for bicycle safety and access. Improvements such as installing gates in fences, repairing pot-holes, controlling vegetation to increase sight distance, minimizing the use of raised markers and marking signal loop detectors will be considered.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall evaluate and make recommendations to the City Bicycle Committee (composed of staff from the Public Works and Development Departments) regarding safety issues for all types of bicycle and pedestrian facilities (e.g. proper signs, street markers, traffic calming and control devices to designate bikeways, regulate traffic, and improve safety and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians.)

4. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING

- a. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations on capital improvements to increase use and safety of bicycle/pedestrian facilities (e.g. bikeways, signage, pedestrian/bicycle bridges, bike parking facilities, intersection and traffic signals, traffic calming, walkways, etc.).
- b. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the review, prioritizing and recommendations of bicycle/pedestrian projects for funding under either Capital Improvements Programs, designated Transportation Development Act Article 3 funds or other district, county, state or federal bicycle and pedestrian grant programs.

5. ENFORCEMENT

The Advisory Committee shall provide input to the City Council and Police Department on:

- a. Enforcement of provisions of the vehicle code pertaining to the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and the resulting effect on accidents involving cyclists.
- b. Bicycle-parking security and theft prevention.
- c. Legislation regarding bicycle and pedestrian travel in the city.

6. EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

- a. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the City's efforts to promote operator (children, youth, and adult cyclist; and motorist) awareness and competence through education programs, coordinating with County programs where available.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the City's efforts to promote bicycling and walking as viable forms of urban transportation and recreation. The Committee will also participate in other local, regional or statewide bicycle promotion activities and take a leadership role in planning and implementing Bike to Work Day/Week in May of each year.

7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Advisory Committee shall consist of no fewer than nine (9) voting members approved by the Mayor and the City Council. The members may consist of representatives from each council district. Members shall be individuals who have a strong interest and enthusiasm for planning, improving and maintaining bicycle and pedestrian facilities. They may also be representative of the following interests:

- a. Bicycling organizations

- b. Local bike shops
- c. The schools or Department of Parks and Recreation
- d. Pedestrian, jogging, or running organizations
- e. At-large bicyclists who either live or work in the city

Committee members must live within Fresno County but only two (2) members of the Advisory Committee may live outside of the City of Fresno. In addition to the nine voting members, the City Manager will designate staff from the Public Works and Development Departments to provide administrative and technical support to the committee.

8. ORGANIZATION AND TERMS OF OFFICE

At the initial meeting of the Advisory Committee, and yearly thereafter, the Advisory Committee members shall select such officers as deemed necessary by the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee shall establish rules and regulations for its own organization and procedures and shall meet when necessary as determined by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall meet a minimum of 11 times a year. All meetings shall, except as provided by law, be open to the public.

The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be three years. Initial appointments will be staggered, by lot, so that three members serve a three-year term, three members will serve a two-year term and three members will serve a one-year term. Thereafter, all subsequent appointments will be for a three-year term. Appointments can be renewed for consecutive three-year terms.