

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report

**Meeting:** March 26, 2026

**From:** Public Works Department

**Subject:** Local Roadway Safety Plan



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**Recommended Action:** Receive an informational presentation on the draft Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) and provide feedback.

**Background:** In October 2025, the City Council received an informational update on the City's Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP). The LRSP is a data-driven safety planning tool encouraged by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans that helps local agencies analyze crash patterns, identify safety concerns, and develop strategies to reduce severe and fatal collisions.

Completion of an LRSP is an important step toward eligibility for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and other state and federal transportation safety funding programs. The plan provides a structured framework for evaluating traffic safety conditions throughout the City and identifying potential safety improvements.

Crash data analysis and community outreach have now been completed, and a draft Local Roadway Safety Plan has been prepared. The draft plan is being presented to the City Council for review and input prior to finalization.

**Discussion:** The Local Roadway Safety Plan evaluates traffic safety conditions throughout Capitola using five years of collision data and community input. The purpose of the plan is to better understand the factors contributing to collisions within the City and to identify strategies that can reduce severe and fatal crashes.

The analysis included a review of crash history across the City's roadway network, roadway characteristics and traffic volumes, and behavioral factors associated with collisions. The plan also incorporated public input gathered through community outreach and an online interactive safety survey.

The crash data analysis identified several trends consistent with staff observations and community feedback. Collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists represent a significant portion of severe injury crashes within the City. State safety ranking data also indicates that Capitola experiences relatively high rates of pedestrian and bicycle crashes compared to jurisdictions of similar size.

The crash analysis identified contributing factors associated with collisions in Capitola, including impaired driving and driver right-of-way conflicts involving pedestrians and bicyclists. The analysis also highlighted speeding as a safety concern raised through both crash data and community input.

To address these trends, the LRSP identifies both location-specific and systemwide strategies. The plan highlights several locations where crash patterns suggest that additional safety evaluation may be warranted. These locations are presented as case studies illustrating potential approaches the City could consider when evaluating future safety improvements.

The plan also recommends a range of potential safety strategies. These include infrastructure improvements such as enhanced pedestrian crossings, traffic calming treatments, improved visibility at intersections, and improvements to bicycle facilities where feasible. In addition, the plan identifies programmatic strategies focused on education, outreach, and enforcement that may help address behavioral risk factors contributing to crashes.

Public engagement was an important component of the LRSP process. Outreach included a community meeting, an online safety survey, and an interactive map that allowed residents to identify locations where they have experienced safety concerns. Public feedback emphasized concerns related to speeding,

pedestrian crossings, bicycle safety, and e-bike behavior, particularly along corridors that serve both neighborhood access and regional travel.

The LRSP is intended to serve as a planning framework that helps guide future safety investments. Adoption of the plan does not commit the City to specific capital projects but provides a data-driven foundation for identifying safety priorities and pursuing grant funding opportunities.

Staff is seeking Council input on the Draft LRSP prior to finalizing the document. Following Council feedback, staff anticipates returning to Council with the final LRSP for formal adoption.

In reviewing federal transportation safety funding programs, staff has also identified that certain grant programs, including the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, encourage jurisdictions to adopt a policy commitment aimed at eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries. In order to strengthen the City's eligibility for these programs, staff anticipates returning with a future agenda item that would include both adoption of the final LRSP and consideration of a resolution establishing a long-term roadway safety goal consistent with these principles.

Fiscal Impact: Preparation of the Local Roadway Safety Plan was budgeted in FY 2024–25 and rolled over into the current fiscal year. Adoption of the LRSP does not commit the City to specific capital improvements but will help position the City to pursue external funding opportunities for safety-related projects.

Attachments:

1. Draft Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP)

Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority: Community Safety; Healthy Families, Community, and Environment; Sustainable Infrastructure

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