



JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION AND COMPLETE STREETS COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Subject: Consideration of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments adding bicycle parking regulations. The proposed amendments are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (Commonsense Exemption) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines since there would be no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

Prepared by: Nick Zornes, Development Services Director

Initiated by: Adopted 6th Cycle Housing Element 2023-2031

Attachments:

A. Draft Bicycle Parking Regulations

Recommendation:

Provide recommendation of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments adding bicycle parking regulations.

Environmental Review:

The approval of the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments adding bicycle parking regulations is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (Commonsense Exemption) since there would be no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

Background

Bicycle parking is a critical strategy for promoting bicycling for transportation and recreation. Convenient, easily used, and secure bicycle parking encourages people to replace some of their car trips with bicycle trips and helps legitimize cycling as a transportation mode by providing parking opportunities equal to motorized modes. The City currently does not have codified regulations pertaining to the requirement for bicycle parking in private development projects. Past review of projects have used sources such as the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority’s (VTA) Bicycle Technical Guidelines, Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals (APBP) Bicycle Parking Guide, and professional best practices to incorporate bicycle parking into projects as part of the development review process.

The recently adopted 6th Cycle Housing Element 2023-2031 includes Program 3K - Standardize Multimodal Transportation Requirements - which requires streamlining the Development Review process for multi-family housing projects by adoption of development standards for multimodal transportation such as bicycle, pedestrian, parking traffic and public transportation issues by May 2023. Therefore, these bicycle parking and storage regulations are a required implementation item from the adopted current Housing Element.

The Los Altos Complete Streets Master Plan adopted in 2022 also includes a recommendation for an interdepartmental effort to develop a bicycle parking requirement ordinance based on land use to help support a full suite of multimodal improvements which these regulations would assist in implementing.

Discussion/Analysis

The intent of the proposed regulations is to provide regulations for consistent review and implementation of bike parking in all development projects. A “development project” includes the construction or substantial reconstruction of:

- A multifamily housing development project of four or more units,
- Any facility wherein four or more employees will be regularly employed, or
- Any parking lot or other parking facility not dedicated to another use.

The draft standards are adapted from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority’s Bicycle Technical Guidelines: A Guide for Local Agencies in the Planning, Design and Maintenance of Bicycle Facilities and Bicycle-Friendly Roadways (Revision No. 3), March 3, 2022. Both long-term (also known as Class I) and short-term (also known as Class II) bicycle parking space design standards are provided as well as the number of spaces based on land use. Number of spaces based on land use without regard to the zoning or general plan designation of the site is similar to how vehicle parking spaces are calculated and required in development projects.

Next Steps

The recommendation from the Complete Streets Commission and Planning Commission on the draft bicycle parking regulations will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration at their meeting tentatively scheduled in April 2023.

Public Notification

For this meeting, a public hearing notice was published in the *Town Crier*.