



## AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** May 9, 2023

**Subject:** Adopt Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments adding bicycle parking regulations to the Los Altos Municipal Code. 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

**Reviewed by:** Jolie Houston, City Attorney  
Jon Maginot, Assistant City Manager

**Approved by:** Gabe Engeland, City Manager

**Initiated by:** Adopted 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element 2023-2031

**Attachments:** Attachment 1 – Draft Bike Ordinance  
Attachment 2 – Appendix A

### **Fiscal Impact**

No fiscal impacts to the City of Los Altos are associated with the draft ordinance.

### **Recommendation:**

Adopt Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments adding bicycle parking regulations to the Los Altos Municipal Code.

### **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.

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.

### **Complete Streets Commission and Planning Commission Consideration**

On March 23, 2023, the Complete Streets Commission and Planning Commission held a Joint Meeting where both commissions were presented the draft ordinance and made recommendations which have been integrated accordingly. The following items were discussed and requested to be integrated into the draft standards:

1. Provide a specific voltage of charging for electric bikes in storage areas.
2. Correct 72" bicycle storage depth to the VTA recommended 75".
3. Specify that bicycle storage areas shall be "well-lit".
4. Specify that any required lighting of bicycle storage be "shielded from adjacent properties".
5. Provide a parking ratio specific to Private Schools.
6. Provide an increased bicycle space ratio greater than the minimum recommended by VTA.
  - a. The VTA recommended bicycle space requirements is 1 per unit. The Complete Streets Commission recommended increasing this to 1.5 per unit. The Planning Commission recommended no change and maintained the 1 per unit requirement. Staff has created a blended rate of 1.25 per unit and incorporated this into the draft ordinance.

**Subject:** Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments Adding Bicycle Parking Regulations

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**City Council Introduction**

On April 25, 2023, the Los Altos City Council introduced the draft ordinance at its regularly scheduled meeting. At that meeting the City Council received a staff presentation, asked questions of staff, received public testimony, and discussed the item. Included within the motion to introduce the draft ordinance were two amendments which are as follows:

1. Long-Term Bicycle Parking requirements for Multifamily Residential uses to be **1.5 per unit.**
2. Strikeout Section 14.75.040(B)(1)(b)

Both amendments included in the City Council motion were incorporated into the ordinance attached to this Agenda Item.