



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 12/02/2025

ITEM NO: 12

DATE: November 20, 2025
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: **Approval of a Two-Year Work Plan for the Los Gatos Youth Commission (2026 - 2028)**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Town of Los Gatos Youth Commission's proposed two-year work plan covering the 2026 -2027 and 2027 - 2028 school years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no budget associated with the Youth Commission.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

This item supports the strategic priority Sustainability through education and advocacy around environmental ordinances, and Community Outreach and Inclusivity by supporting youth engagement across diverse community segments. It also supports the core values of Civic Engagement and Public Safety by encouraging youth participation in civic life, local government, and public service, and promoting initiatives focused on pedestrian and e-bike safety.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Los Gatos Youth Commission serves as an advisory body to the Town Council on matters affecting local youth. The Commission consists of 19 students entering grades 8 through 12, serving one-year terms as established in Resolution 2025-025.

Meetings are held monthly from September through May. With ongoing support from the Office of the Chief, the Commission contributes to programs, awareness campaigns, and policy work aligned with Council goals. The Chief of Police acts as the primary liaison, overseeing

PREPARED BY: Jamie Field
Chief of Police

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

strategic direction, meeting facilitation, and administrative support. This includes coordination of youth members, event involvement, and interdepartmental connections through liaisons and ad hoc initiatives.

Traditionally, the Youth Commission has operated on a one-year work plan cycle. However, limited meeting frequency (once per month during the school year) poses challenges in developing, implementing, and reporting on meaningful initiatives within such a constrained timeframe and competing educational and extracurricular interests of the group.

DISCUSSION:

Rationale for a two-year work plan-

For the first time, the Los Gatos Youth Commission is proposing a two-year work plan. This model provides a more sustainable structure, allowing youth members to:

- Establish long-term projects that require extended research or implementation timelines;
- Onboard new or returning members with continuity and clear direction;
- Adjust flexibly to school-based scheduling demands (e.g., exams, holidays); and
- Reinforce institutional memory across academic years.

Summary of previous accomplishments (2024 - 2025)

- Traffic Safety Ad Hoc: Developed and distributed an E-Bike safety awareness flyer and began pedestrian crossing safety assessments with a survey, rendering upwards of 600 responses from the community.
- Environmental Ad Hoc: Produced outreach materials for the Single-Use Plastic Ordinance.
- Community Outreach Ad Hoc: Participated in civic events and expanded engagement strategies.
- Teen Wellness Ad Hoc: Led an anti-controlled substance use campaign.
- Ongoing liaison presence and youth representation across six other Town liaison groups, and participation in the Children's Holiday Parade and Spring into Green.

Proposed two-year work plan (2026 - 2028)

The proposed work plan continues to organize efforts through four established Ad Hocs. The plan is flexible to accommodate project evolution and allows for expansion should capacity permit.

Proposed work plan overview (2026–2028)

1. *Traffic Safety Ad Hoc*

- Build on the traffic survey assessment from 2024-25.

- Research recommendations to increase VTA ridership in Los Gatos. This would include efforts to design a survey for the Los Gatos High School to evaluate why youth may not use public transit options and ways to increase the use.
- Promote e-bike safety and work with CSTC on how to improve.

2. *Environmental Ad Hoc*

- Evaluate and develop recommendations to modify the plastic straw ordinance for the furtherance of environmental sustainability.
- Develop outreach for business compliance and identify stakeholders and potential concerns.

3. *Teen Wellness Ad Hoc*

- Consider stress management initiatives, including through partnership with Canine Companion and developing outreach materials.
- Explore youth-led mental wellness initiatives and enhance the wellness center activities.

4. *Community Outreach Ad Hoc*

- Participate in legacy events like the Children's Holiday Parade and Spring into Green that will offer information and advocacy of current and historical Youth Commission initiatives.
- Evaluate the feasibility, partnership, and opportunity for a multi-cultural event.
- Create mentorship and recruitment tools for Youth Commission recruitment and sustainability.

CONCLUSION:

The Youth Commission's proposed two-year work plan reflects a forward-thinking approach to youth civic engagement and local and global matters. It honors Council's commitment to fostering leadership, safety, and sustainability through active youth voices, while enhancing the Commission's ability to achieve impact that positively contributes to the community and Council priorities.

Council approval of the two-year structure will provide continuity, flexibility, and a framework for deeper civic participation of the youth.