

# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES AND  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN BICYCLE  
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

**DATE:** 08-26-08

Approved

Date

8/27/08

## RECOMMENDATION

Accept proposal for the development of a Downtown Commuter Bicycle Demonstration Project and refer it to the Transportation and Environment Committee for consideration in early 2009 as part of the planned update to the Citywide Bicycle Master Plan.

## BACKGROUND

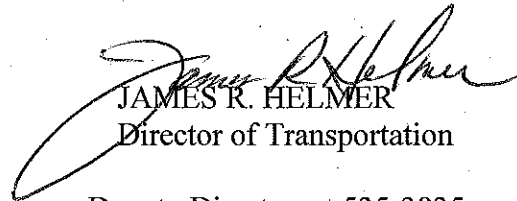
On August 18, 2008, the Transportation and Environment Committee accepted a staff report and presentation on the effort to update the City's Bicycle Master Plan and accepted the schedule for staff to return to the Committee with a draft master plan by early 2009. The intended scope of the updated bicycle plan includes the following elements:

- Expand planned bikeway network of creek trails and on-street bikeways from 300 miles to 450 miles (171 miles are currently complete)
- Enhance bicycle integration with transit and expand bike parking facilities
- Improve bicycling safety through education and enforcement programs
- Encourage greater bicycling travel to work, school and special events
- Review and consider best practices from leading "bicycle friendly communities" including colored bike lanes, separated bike lanes, and public "bike share" programs
- Identify near-term priorities for bicycle transportation system development and grant funding opportunities
- Consider policy choices that eliminate on-street parking and/or motor vehicle travel lanes in favor of improved bikeways
- Coordinate bicycle plan with City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and General Plan update process

On August 20, 2008, Mayor Reed, Councilmember Liccardo, and Councilmember Williams issued a memorandum to the Rules and Open Government Committee recommending the consideration of a Downtown Commuter Bicycle Demonstration Project that includes physically separated bike lanes in the Downtown core area, more bike racks, a bike parking valet program, and a "bike share" program. The intention is to develop a project as a candidate for grant

funding through the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) program managed by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA).

Staff finds that the scope of proposed Downtown Bicycle Demonstration Project is consistent with ongoing efforts being considered by the Citywide Bicycle Master Plan update process. Due to the proposed focus on potential bicycle transportation investments in the Downtown area, staff would work to engage key Downtown Stakeholders such as the Downtown Association, Team San Jose, and First ACT Silicon Valley, along with San Jose's BPAC and VTA's BPAC. From a schedule perspective, staff recommends that the Transportation and Environment Committee consider addressing both the Citywide Bicycle Master Plan Update and the Downtown Bicycle Demonstration Project in early 2009.



JAMES R. HELMER  
Director of Transportation

For questions please contact Hans Larsen, Deputy Director, at 535-3835.