

City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: AUGUST 17, 2021**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE RIVERSIDE PACT PLAN AND ALL COMPONENTS INCLUDING PEDESTRIAN TARGET SAFEGUARDING, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN AND ADDITION OF CHAPTER 13.19 OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE (RMC) TO ESTABLISH THE COMPLETE STREETS ORDINANCE – RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE

ISSUES:

Consideration of: 1) adoption of a resolution to approve the comprehensive PACT Plan and all four components of the PACT Plan including Pedestrian Target Safeguarding, Active Transportation Plan, Complete Streets Ordinance, and Trails Master (PACT) Plan; and 2) introduction and adoption of an ordinance to add Chapter 13.19 to the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) to establish the Complete Streets Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution to approve the proposed comprehensive Riverside PACT Plan and all four components of the PACT Plan including Pedestrian Target Safeguarding, Active Transportation Plan, Complete Streets Ordinance, and the Trails Master Plan; and
2. Introduce and adopt an ordinance to add Chapter 13.19 to the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) establishing the Complete Streets Ordinance.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Mobility and Infrastructure Committee met on May 13, 2021 to review this matter, with Chair Conder, Vice Chair Perry, and Member Hemenway present. The Committee unanimously recommended that the City Council approve and adopt the proposed final version of the Riverside PACT Plan.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REVIEW:

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director concurs with the recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

On November 18, 2016, the Public Works Department submitted a grant proposal to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to prepare a Citywide Active Transportation Plan. On July 24, 2018, the City Council authorized Public Works staff to submit a second grant proposal through the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to prepare a Pedestrian Target Safeguarding Plan.

In early 2019, SCAG informed the Public Works Department that both requested projects could be combined into a single planning document. SCAG allocated \$250,000 and the City contributed a matching fund of \$125,000 toward this effort. On May 7, 2019 the City Council voted to approve the SCAG proposal and accept a grant award from SCAG in the amount of \$250,000 for the collaborative development of a combined Active Transportation and Pedestrian Target Safeguarding Plan. Following negotiations between SCAG and City staff, SCAG agreed to include a Complete Streets Ordinance as part of the City's planning efforts. On December 17, 2019 the City Council approved an appropriation of funds to further add the Trail Master Plan Update element as a fourth and final component of the strategic PACT Plan.

On August 13, 2020 an update on the progress of the Riverside PACT planning efforts was presented to the Mobility and Infrastructure Committee.

On November 16, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission received an update on the Trails Master Plan component of the Riverside PACT and provided input.

DISCUSSION:

What is the PACT?

The Riverside PACT is a first for the City of Riverside, in that it is an integrated active transportation & recreation planning effort combining streets, plazas, sidewalks, trails, and streetscape design. This comprehensive plan includes the four key components described below.

The Pedestrian Target Safeguarding Plan is oriented towards areas of high pedestrian traffic, with the objective of providing residents and visitors with safe pedestrian spaces for gatherings, events, civic engagement, and recreation. Specifically, this plan seeks to prevent both accidental and intentional vehicular collision in public spaces.

The Active Transportation Plan aims to improve biking and walking connections and will be used by the Public Works Department as a roadmap for prioritizing and funding improvements.

The Complete Streets Ordinance is a document to be integrated into the Riverside Municipal Code that will create design standards that are mindful of all roadway users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and motorists. These new design standards will change how roadways are constructed as part of both public and private improvements.

The Trail Master Plan Update, overseen by the Parks & Recreation Department, aims to create a connected urban and rural trail system to boost quality of life in Riverside. This plan envisions the expansion of our existing trails system, and investments that can be made to improve existing trails.

The set of four documents were prepared simultaneously to form the Riverside PACT (Pedestrian Target Safeguarding, Active Transportation Master Plan, Complete Streets Ordinance, and Trail Master Plan Update) Plan which represents the City of Riverside’s combined commitment to comprehensive active transportation & recreation. Because the plans and documents are being prepared by a single consultant team, and as engagement for each component is shared, each document informs and supports the others. Residents engaging in the plan preparation can see how the on-street bicycle network connects to the trail system and we are able to make recommendations for both simultaneously.

Engagement Strategy:

The Riverside PACT was developed prior to and during the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the initial stakeholder meetings, technical advisory, and field audits were conducted in-person, the team quickly transitioned to an online engagement strategy to continue plan development. The most successful of these online events was broadcasted on Riverside TV, Youtube, Facebook Live, and Zoom. The event received hundreds of live views, and thousands of online engagements with the most popular platform of engagement being Facebook. Residents were able to vote on issues and contribute live to the meeting by calling in or texting a dedicated line. Updates regarding the project along with links to engagement opportunities were regularly posted at www.riversideca.gov/pact.



Comprehensive Community Engagement Strategy

The Draft PACT was circulated online for the public to review and feedback from the public comment period has been integrated into the final document.

Summary of Plan Recommendations:

“P” The Pedestrian Target Safeguarding Plan:

This plan provides recommendation design solutions to enhance public space security, including a specific examination of six high priority areas. The plan recommendations include an array of streetscape elements that incorporate security components, such as walls and fences, planters, bollards, and hardened street furniture (e.g. light posts and seating).

“A” The Active Transportation Plan:

The Active Transportation Plan recommends pedestrian improvements including the enhancement of pedestrian crossings at 51 intersections and the creation of over 25 miles of new and enhanced sidewalks as shown in Figure 1. Recommendations include enhancements to crossings, signals, transit stops, the general walking environment, sidewalks, and lighting improvements.

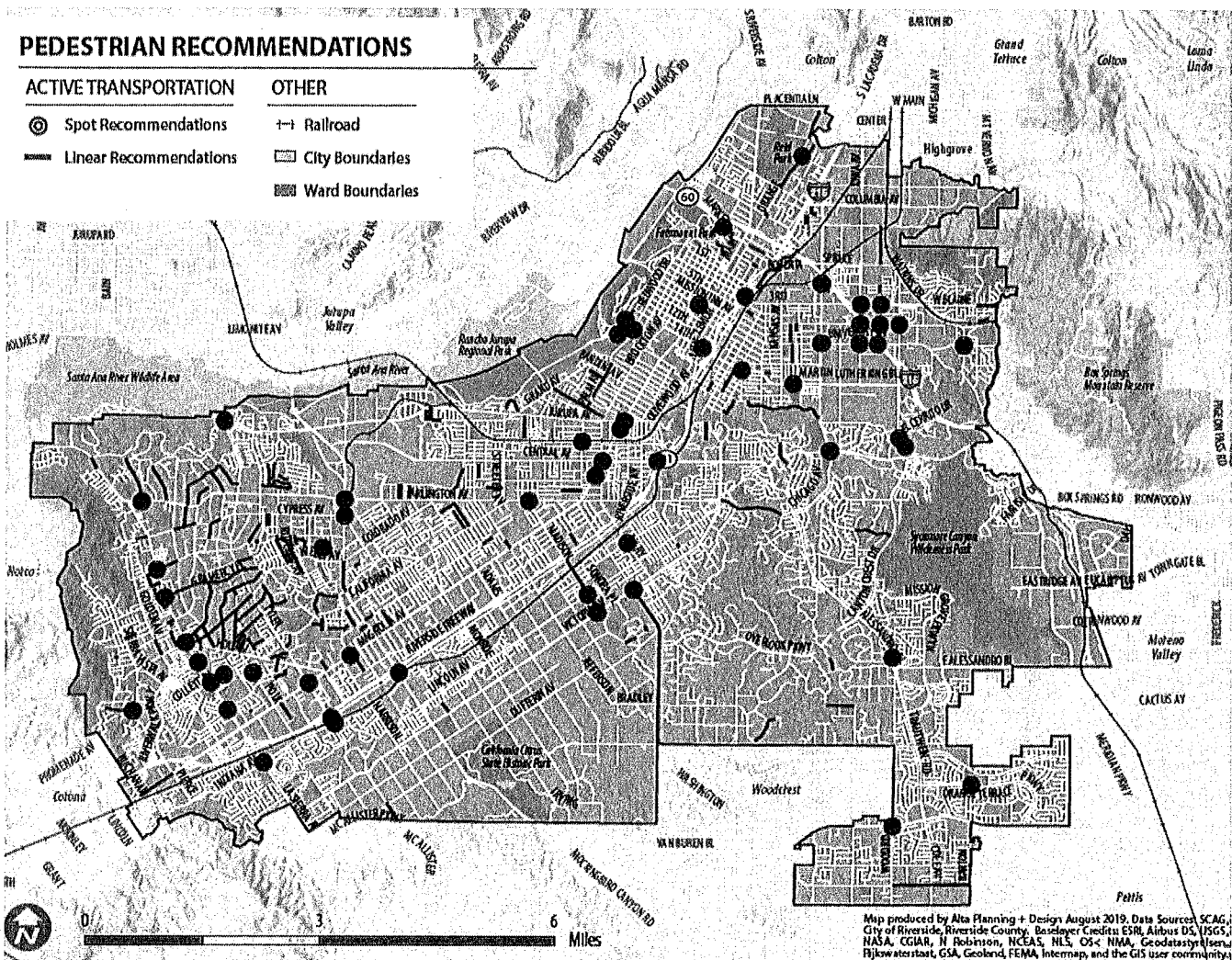


Figure 1- Recommended Pedestrian Projects

Based on needs analysis and community outreach process assessments, the Active Transportation Plan recommends installation of 111 miles of new bikeways updating the City's total bike network to 365 miles as shown in Figure 2. These recommendations include 1.5 miles of Shared Use Path (Class I), 40.5 miles of Bike Lane (Class II), 30.7 miles of Buffered Bike Lane (Class IIB), 1.4 miles of Bicycle Route (Class III), 27.7 miles of Bicycle Boulevard (Class IIIB), and 9.6 Miles of Separated Bikeways (Class IV).

Additionally, the Plan considers removal or limiting on-street parking where conflicts exist between bikeways and parking spaces. These conflict zones include 21.5 miles of total recommended bikeways. Additional community planning and assessment would occur prior to the removal of parking facilities to accommodate a planned bikeway.

The listed projects have been prioritized into three tiers based on their Connectivity Impact, Health and Equity Impact, Safety Impact, Community Identified Needs, and Regional Goals.

The Active Transportation Plan also includes programmatic recommendations, including Safe Route to School Recommendations, Safe Routes to Transit Recommendations, a Shared Mobility Study, an assessment of regional connections, discussions of a way finding program, and a discussion of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction.

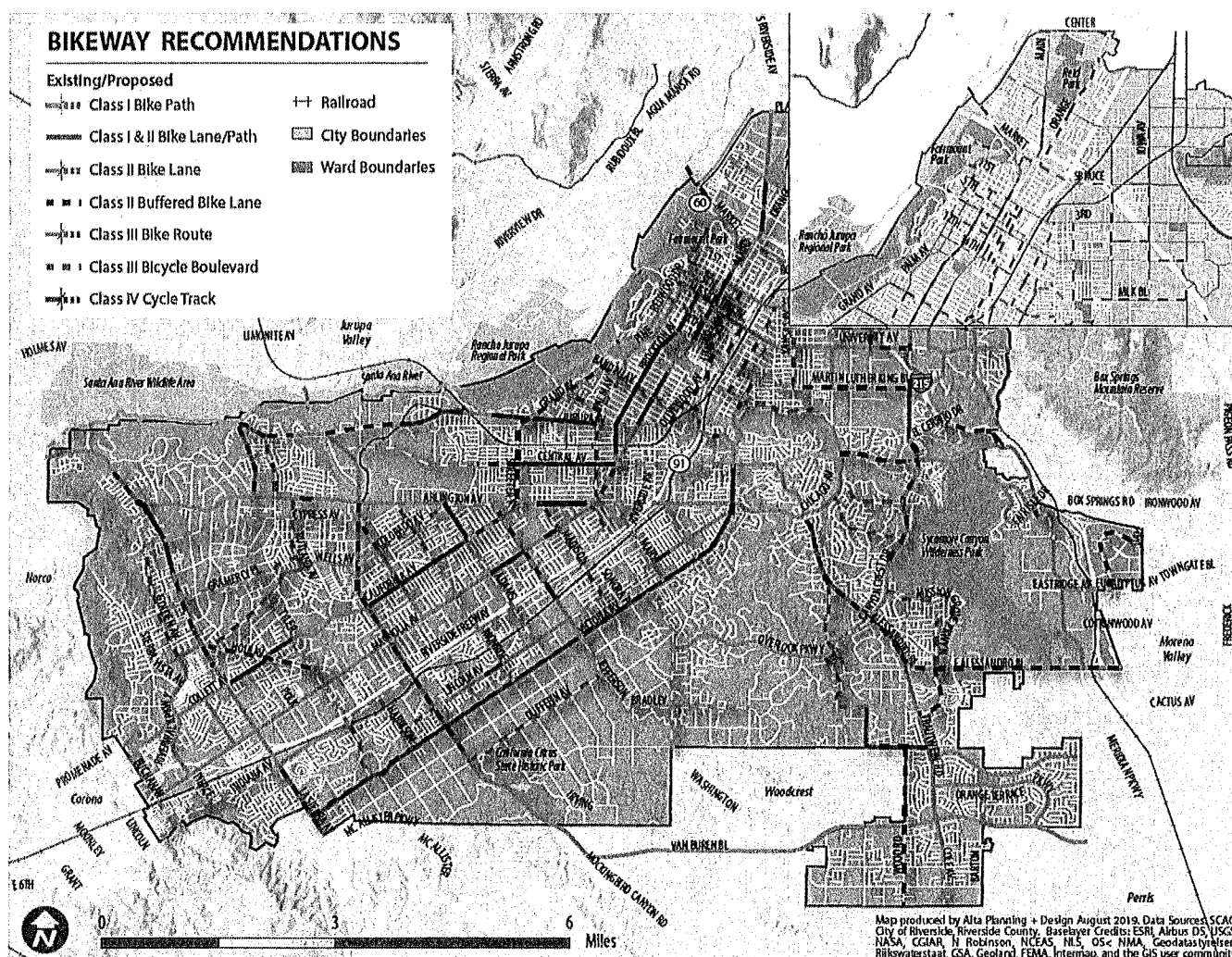


Figure 2- Recommended Bikeway Projects

“C” The Complete Streets Ordinance:

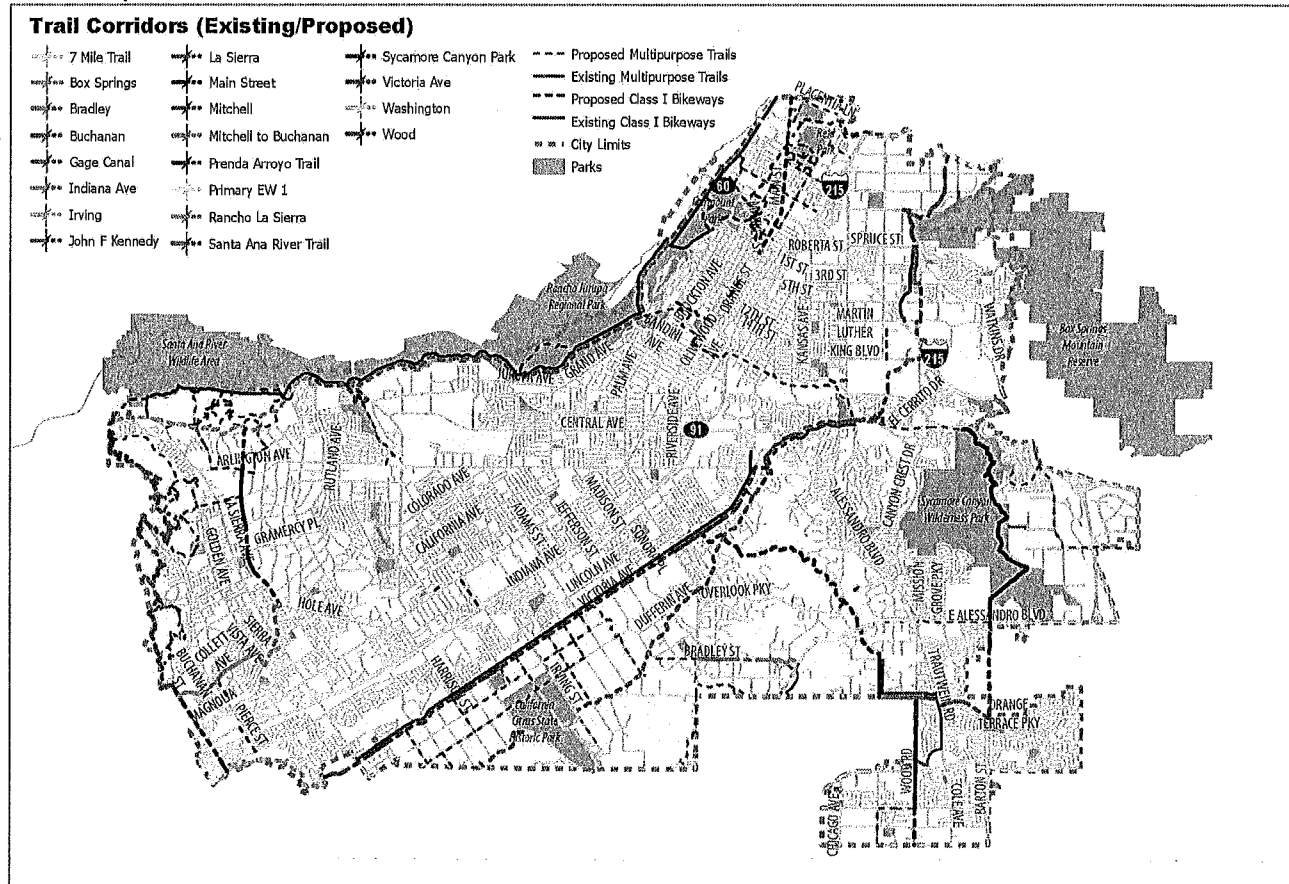
This ordinance references the Pedestrian Safeguarding Recommendations, Active Transportation Plan, and Trails Master Plan for specific project location recommendations. As new development and City projects are brought forward, they will be evaluated against Complete Streets Ordinance criteria to determine appropriate design features. The City engaged with the business community to refine the recommendations within the Complete Streets Ordinance and clarify the extent to which private developers are responsible for improvements within the public right-of-way.

Key components of the Complete Streets Ordinance include consideration of traffic calming along new and impacted roadways, assessment of nearby transit amenities, street trees, pedestrian connections during construction activity, bicycle facilities, and more.

“T” The Trail Master Plan Update:

The PACT includes an update to the City’s Trailer Master Plan (“TMP”). The TMP was originally adopted by the City Council in 1996 and is overseen by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. The updated TMP envisions an interconnected urban and rural trail system to boost the quality of life in Riverside. Major updates to the TMP are the addition of trails from the Northside Specific Plan and the addition of trails in the greenbelt area. The updated plan also prioritizes investments that can be made to improve existing trails and expand the trail network to better serve the community’s needs. Prioritization is based on connectivity, health and equity, community identified need, and regional goals. The Trails Master Plan update was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission on November 16, 2020.

Trail Map:



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The Riverside PACT began development prior to the establishment of the City of Riverside Strategic Plan 2025; however, its central vision and goals as outlined in the Active Transportation Plan are aligned with those of the Strategic Plan.

PACT active transportation vision: Riverside will be a model community for multi-modal travel that provides safe and comfortable connections to community destinations while promoting healthy active mobility options for all ages and abilities.

The six plan goals are as follows: Health, Economic Prosperity, Safety, Accessibility, Environmental Stewardship, and Social Responsibility.

The PACT aligns with the five cross cutting threads of the Strategic Plans as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Throughout the PACT process the community was extensively consulted, informed, and empowered. The PACT team: maintained an interactive bilingual project webpage which included maps and a community survey, hosted technical advisory committee meetings, hosted three community workshops, hosted 10 walking audits, attended 42 stakeholder meetings, sent out over 1,000 individual emails, and hosted virtual meetings with a cumulative attendance of over 1,000 virtual attendees and over 20,000 social media impressions. Special thanks to participants in the PACT technical advisory committees.
2. **Equity** – PACT Goal 6.0 is to promote equitable and socially responsible investment across Riverside that bolsters community resilience.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The PACT includes a comprehensive implementation plan which identifies funding pathways for the projects included within its recommendations. The PACT additionally includes the information needed to empower staff to easily prepare grant applications for included projects, including safety, demographic, and cost data.
4. **Innovation** – The PACT plan is the first of its kind for Riverside – an integrated alternative transportation and pedestrian safety plan for both on and off-street facilities, and is strengthened by the inclusion of the Complete Streets Ordinance which codifies the key features of each plan component.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Each PACT goal supports the City's triple bottom line approach to sustainability, and its attention to community health, safety and accessibility support resident resilience.

PACT active transportation goals are shared below for reference:

Healthy - Promote citywide and regional transportation goals through investments in active transportation that create a culture of walking and biking.

Economic Prosperity - Create an interconnected recreation and transportation network linking on-street facilities with existing trails, employment and commercial centers.

Safety- Improve safety, reduce collisions, and create comfortable corridors for walking and biking in Riverside.

Accessible - Enhance access to community destinations (parks, schools, work, libraries, shopping areas and community centers) and transit.

Environmental Stewardship – Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by developing an active transportation network that is a viable alternative to vehicle travel.

Socially Responsible - Promote equitable and socially responsible investment across Riverside that bolsters community resilience.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Gilbert M. Hernandez, Interim Public Works Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Concurs with;



Councilmember Chuck Conder, Chair
Mobility and Infrastructure Committee

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Ordinance
3. Riverside PACT Document
4. PowerPoint Presentation
5. Mobility and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2021
6. Letter of Support