



BIKE TRI-CITIES
P.O. Box 4634
Pasco, WA 99302
www.BikeTriCities.org
BikeTheTri@gmail.com

September 5th, 2020

To: Erin Braich, Senior Transportation Planner

From: Bike Tri-Cities Board of Directors

Re: Comment on the 2020 Active Transportation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2020 Regional Active Transportation Plan. Over the last few years, numerous improvements have been made towards active transportation infrastructure in the region. We have found members of our local government to be receptive to public suggestion and request. Active Transportation projects are being prioritized on the Transportation Improvement Plans, which is appropriate as roads are becoming more deadly to vulnerable road users. We are looking forward to the establishment of a Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee; we understand there is broad support for this within the community.

In order to improve air quality and public health, we encourage local governments to focus on converting trips less than 2 miles from auto to active transportation modes. It is imperative that Desire Lines are identified between neighborhoods, transit stops and hubs, parks, and amenities such as grocery stores, pharmacies, libraries, medical centers and places of employment. These Desire Lines should be the shortest distance routes, as well as the safest route alternative so that disparities can be identified, prioritized, and rectified through infrastructure changes. Identifying barriers along these routes is critical as well.

Our most vulnerable road users are children, seniors, and people with disabilities who walk and roll. Bike Tri-Cities advocates for cyclists, but other vulnerable road users lack an organized advocacy group. Pedestrians—in particular those with mobility issues and children walking unaccompanied to school—require direct routes that do not expose them to vehicles traveling in excess of 20 mph or to high volumes of vehicles. We encourage local governments to prioritize *pedestrian* accessibility, safety, and comfort..

We appreciate the recent physical infrastructure improvements that support active transportation, such as improved crossings on George Washington Way, Jadwin Ave, and the planned facility over SR 240 in Kennewick. We would like to see local governments consider other strategies to enhance active transportation such as those

in recent publications from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), including:

- [City Limits: Setting Safe Speed Limits on Urban Streets](#)
- [Designing Streets for Kids](#)
- <https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/designing-ages-abilities-s-new/choosing-ages-abilities-bicycle-facility/>
- [Streets for Pandemic Response & Recovery](#)
- [Don't Give Up at the Intersection](#)

“NACTO recommends the following speed limits for urban areas: main streets 25 mph, neighborhood streets 20 mph, shared streets (pedestrians and others in street, mixing with cars) 10 mph.” – City Limits: Setting Safe Speed Limits on Urban Streets (NACTO, 2020)

We greatly appreciate BFCOG’s support of active transportation as a form of transportation for people of all ages and abilities. eBikes are expanding access to bicycling for people with disabilities (who may use eBikes as mobility assistive devices), the elderly, and families with young children who use cargo bikes. We would like to see eBikes and cargo bikes included in the range of bicycles considered by the plan as they have additional needs regarding lane width and secure parking. Mobility equity improves the quality of life in our community.

When considering all members of the community, we also encourage BFCOG to recognize the socioeconomic and racial inequities relating to active transportation while addressing transportation needs. We recognize that there is a large disparity in access and would like to see this disparity addressed.

We encourage BFCOG to be generous in its allotment towards active transportation projects, and consider our suggestions in your recommendations to local governments.

Sincerely,

Bike Tri-Cities Board of Directors