



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 5

**Agenda Date:** January 30, 2025

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Transportation Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Catherine Hernandez

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Adoption of the Bike Network Plan

**SUMMARY:**

Adoption of the Bike Network Plan (BNP).

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In September 2011, the San Antonio City Council adopted the San Antonio Bike Plan + Implementation Strategy – an update of the Bicycle Master Plan, originally adopted by City Council in April 2005, as a component of the 1997 City Master Plan. In 2022, City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement to provide consultant services for the update and development of a Bike Network Plan (BNP). The development of the plan includes elements such as community engagement, recommended network, prioritization, typologies and policy action report.

The first phase of the update and development of the BNP was Public Engagement which lasted from May 1, 2023 to September 31, 2023. The goal of this phase was to gauge residents and visitors, both bike riders and non-bike riders, level of bike safety, their current issues regarding

our current bike system, and what they want to see from the BNP. The BNP Project Team conducted and collected almost 1,700 surveys and attended fifteen public events throughout all ten of council districts to disseminate the survey. This outreach included the first “Let’s Ride” biking engagement event, which occurred at two trailheads along the Salado Creek Greenway, Voelker Homestead and Walker Ranch. The BNP Project Team also hosted the meetings with each of the stakeholder groups which include: Health Impact Assessment Working Group (HIA), Internal Advisory Committee (IAC), Mobility Working Group (MWG) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Through the public outreach phase, the existing conditions, goals, and visions for the BNP were established. Lastly, the BNP Project Team created a BNP-dedicated website available to the public. This website includes the mission, press releases, informs visitors of upcoming events, allows users to submit an event, allows visitors to research outreach results, and illustrates San Antonio’s existing bike facilities ([www.sabikenetwork.com](http://www.sabikenetwork.com)).

The goal of the second phase of Public Engagement, which was held between October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, was to gather feedback from residents and visitors on the perceived opportunities to improve the bike network. This included educating residents and visitors on the different types of bike facilities that could be used, and observing how, when, and why they would travel by bike.

During this phase, the BNP Project Team conducted and compiled over 1,100 survey responses from residents and visitors at eleven public events in all ten of our council districts. This included the second “Let’s Ride” biking engagement event, this time at two Leon Creek trailheads, Cathedral Rock and O.P. Schnabel. The BNP Project Team also hosted additional meetings with HIA, IAC, MWG, and TAC. The BNP Project Team used these survey responses, and feedback from various committees and working groups, to help form the Existing Conditions Report and Health Impact Assessment, which was drafted through early 2024.

The final phase of Public Engagement lasted from April 1, 2024 to July 30, 2024. The goal of Phase three was to educate the public on bike infrastructure typologies, display the recommended bike network and introduce a phased approach to build the network. Transportation Department and BNP Project Team also wanted to identify the criteria needed to rank alternative routes, which would ensure that the Final Bike Network Plan would satisfy the communities’ needs. Also, the BNP Project Team released the third and final survey on April 7, 2024 at Siclovía, where the BNP Project Team also revealed the recommended bike network. Residents were able to select what type of cycling infrastructure they would like to see added to parts of the network and if protective barriers should be included on selected route, as well as recommend alternative routes or routes that should be removed. The survey was closed on July 30, 2024, signaling the end of the community engagement and the Bike Network Plan in totality. The Transportation Department and the BNP Project Team received 919 survey responses, which mentioned 483 roads that encompass the city’s, and surrounding areas, road network(s). These responses were used to finalize the recommended network, by adding recommended facility type to the map, tuning the Bike Network Plan into its final form.

During this last phase of engagement, the Transportation Department was also selected by the

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to be recipients for the Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) Demonstration & Implementation Grant. This grant will help us establish the quick build program, Quick Builds for Safe Communities. The Transportation Department received necessary buy-in from multiple internal departments, who see the quick build program as a necessary tool for our transportation system. This program will also allow for us to deploy bike facility applications prior to major road projects or in between bond cycles.

In Fall of 2024, the Transportation Department and the BNP Project Team presented the latest findings to the Health Impact Assessment Working Group, Internal Advisory Committee, Mobility Working Group, Technical Advisory Committee, and Planning Commission. The components of the plan can be found at the following link: [www.sabikenetwork.com](http://www.sabikenetwork.com). “Plan Updates” Tab includes Bike Facility Guidelines, Engagement Report, Existing Conditions, Needs Assessment and Inventory Report, Health Impact Assessment, and the link for the “Draft Network” is the proposed future network in a GIS format.

On October 14, 2024, the BNP was brought to the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Commission (PCTAC) for Briefing and Action. PCTAC approved the BNP for advancement to Planning Commission Consideration, which met on December 11, 2024. The Planning Commission voted to adopt the Bike Network Plan as part of the City’s Comprehensive Master Plan and advanced to City Council for final consideration.

On December 17, 2024, the Transportation and Infrastructure Council Committee was briefed on the status of the BNP and recommended the item move forward to City Council for consideration.

## **ISSUE:**

The 2011 Bike Plan, while holistic and widespread, was a 10-year implementation effort, did not address policy issues that created a barrier to cyclists of all ages and abilities and is out-of-date. The Bike Network Plan creates focused and safe corridors, addresses policy issues, that were not addressed through the 2011 Bike Plan, identifies funding opportunities, and provides guidance on phasing of building San Antonio’s bike network. The adoption of the 2025 Bike Network Plan will serve as an update to the 2011 plan. The Bike Network Plan provides the City of San Antonio with a thorough guidebook on how to fund, plan, and build bike facilities throughout the city as well as develop supportive policies and programs for safe biking in our communities.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council could choose to not adopt the Bike Network Plan in favor of keeping the 2011 Bike Plan as the current bike plan for San Antonio.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the proposed Bike Network Plan. The FY 2025 Capital Budget includes \$3.5 million to begin implementation of the Bike Network Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the Adoption of the proposed Bike Network Plan.