



December 2, 2019

J.D. Hightower, Planning Manager
City of Manteca, Community Development Department
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Manteca, CA 95337
Phone: (209) 456-8505
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Re: City of Manteca General Plan Update

Dear Mr. Hightower:

On behalf of the Safe Routes Partnership, I am writing to provide some general, high-level comments on the general plan update. We have been a part of multiple meetings with members of your staff to discuss the plan. At these meetings we expressed the need for the city to expand the plan to more fully address walking, bicycling, Safe Routes to School, and Complete Streets.

We strongly support the paragraphs in C-1.4 that address creating more bicycling facilities, and enhancing sidewalks. However, there needs to be much greater specificity. While Safe Routes to School is mentioned as being addressed by the plan, there is not actual material in the plan that calls for assessing and improving pedestrian and bicycle access around schools. This must be incorporated into the plan. We appreciate that the bicycle master plan is referenced but there should ideally also be a city Safe Routes to School plan to be similarly referenced.

We also support the paragraphs in C-1g to support greater data collection and data sharing. However, there should be greater clarity that active transportation data must be prioritized and be among the data elements collected and shared.

We appreciate the plan mentioning Complete Streets as a goal in C-2b but there is not sufficient detail, with no measurable goals. A much stronger, clearer commitment to improving access on all streets for pedestrians and bicyclists must be made.

Finally, as I'm sure you are aware, state law under SB 1000 requires an environmental justice element to be incorporated in new general plan updates, and we hope to see this added in future drafts. Affordable transportation options--including biking, walking, and transit--are a critical component of environmental justice that we urge you to fully consider.

Please note that members of the coalition we closely partner with, the Healthy Neighborhoods Collaborative, will also be making comments in the future, and our feedback will be incorporated into those comments as well. We strongly support the city engaging with community stakeholders and local coalitions such as the Healthy Neighborhoods Collaborative, and taking their feedback.

Thank you very much for considering our recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact Margo Pedroso, Deputy Director, Safe Routes Partnership at margo@saferoutespartnership.org or 301-292-1043.

Sincerely,

Marty Martinez, MPP
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Safe Routes Partnership
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