



SANDY CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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MEMORANDUM

November 19, 2020

To: Planning Commission
From: Community Development Department
Subject: General Plan Amendment – Active Transportation Plan GPA-11-20-5938
Adding the first Active Transportation Plan

HEARING NOTICE: *This item has been noticed on public websites, in the newspaper, and mailed to affected entities.*

REQUEST

The Community Development Department, at the request of the Public Works Department, is proposing an amendment to the Sandy City General Plan by adding an active transportation plan.

BACKGROUND

Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for coordinating the transportation planning process with transportation funding along the Wasatch Front. The Federal government requires that WFRC adopt a regional transportation plan (RTP) every four years. The RTP determines the funding amount and timing of transportation projects in the region. To guide the preparation of each RTP, so that regional infrastructure aligns with desired goals, and following a significant amount of public engagement, WFRC adopted the Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision. The Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision includes the following goals:

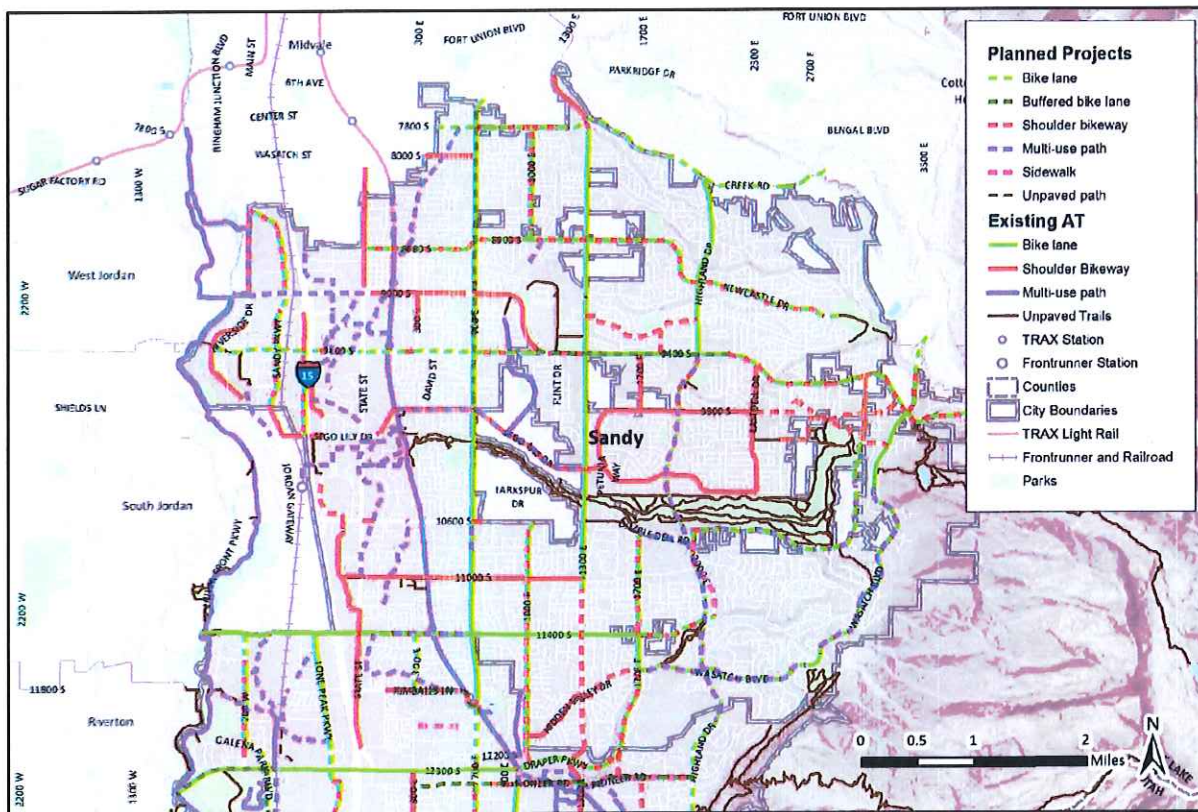
- Livable and healthy communities
- Access to economic and educational opportunities
- Management and reliable traffic conditions
- Quality transportation choices
- Safe, user friendly streets
- Clean air
- Housing choices and affordable living expenses
- Fiscally responsible communities and infrastructure
- Sustainable environment, including water, agricultural, and other natural resources

- Ample parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities

In order to accomplish the goals of the Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision, active transportation has become a fundamental component of the Regional Transportation Plan. In general, active transportation is any form of self-propelled or human-powered transportation or mobility.

In 2018, the City formed a group of City staff tasked with increasing bicycle use in Sandy City. The group recognized the relationship of biking to other forms of transportation, and the need for a plan to better coordinate different forms of transportation. The City applied for a grant from WFRC to hire a consultant team to help prepare an active transportation plan. As Sandy City and Draper City were two of the only cities in the County without city-specific active transportation plans, WFRC awarded a grant in 2019 for Sandy City and Draper City to work together on a joint process that resulted in separate plans for each city.

A team of staff from WFRM, Draper City, and Sandy City selected a consultant team led by Parametrix and Avenue Consultants. A steering committee was created, and a kick-off meeting was held on November 19, 2019. The process included public engagement events, studies, and expert analysis over the subsequent months, all of which is explained in the proposed active transportation plan. The proposed plan concludes with an Implementation Section that includes a recommended list of projects that, when completed, would form a comprehensive active transportation network.



FACTS AND FINDINGS

- Local input was essential to creating WFRC's current regional transportation plan (2019-2050 RTP). "The preferred active transportation scenario was arrived at through coordination with local municipalities." (2019-2030 RTP, page 54) The 2019-2050 RTP identifies 633 active transportation projects across the region totaling an estimated \$462 million dollars (2019 dollars). (2019-2050 RTP, page 13)
- Public engagement for the proposed Sandy City Active Transportation Plan included a project website (2,200 visits), "pop-up" events, a community survey (835 Sandy responses), and online feedback (141 Sandy comments). Strava data, Lime data, pedestrian signal actuations, and UDOT crash data were also used.
- The consultant team analyzed existing facilities, conditions, and plans. The consultants conducted studies such as a walk-shed analysis, levels of traffic stress, and safety trends and patterns.
- The Sandy City General Plan includes the following goals:
 - Growth Principles
 - Goal 2.0 Provide regional mobility through a variety of interconnected transportation choices.
 - Goal 3.0 Integrate local land-use with regional transportation systems
 - Transportation.
 - Goal 3.0 Increase transportation mode share and convenience of transit service within the City.
 - Goal 4.0 Make walking and bicycling a viable, convenient, and safe mode of transportation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission forward a positive recommendation to the City Council to adopt the proposed Sandy City Active Transportation Plan as an amendment to the Sandy City General Plan.

ALTERNATIVES


- Forward a positive recommendation of the proposed amendment to the City Council
- Forward a negative recommendation of the proposed amendment to the City Council
- Forward a recommendation proposing a modified amendment to the City Council
- Table the decision

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