

# Charter for the City of Fresno

## BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### **BACKGROUND**

The City recognizes that it is in the public interest to officially recognize the bicycle as a viable transportation option. The development and implementation of a strong bicycle policy, including: bikeways, secure parking, improved public access to public transit, inter-modal bicycle-carpool coordination, and educational programs for cyclists and drivers to promote the safe sharing of public roadways must be given a priority in transportation planning.

At both the state and national level, it has been recognized by the Legislature and Congress that the time has arrived to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Promoting more widespread and efficient pedestrian and bicycle travel and mass transit are central to balancing the country's inter-modal transportation system. The involvement of concerned and involved citizens to address these issues and advise local legislative and administrative bodies is required to meet our common objectives of creating more livable communities.

It is with this background that an Advisory Committee is established to advise the City Council, Office of the Mayor and city staff on non-motorized transportation matters.

#### **Objective -**

The City's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (hereinafter Advisory Committee) shall advise and recommend policies for the planning, development and maintenance of pedestrian and bikeway systems for safe and enjoyable circulation for both utilitarian commuting travel and recreation within the City.

The Advisory Committee's goal will be to ensure sensitivity to bicycle and pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public works projects which impact bicyclists and pedestrians.

#### **Specific Duties -**

The Advisory Committee is established to advise the City Council on bicycle and pedestrian matters and shall meet monthly and report no less than semi-annually to the City Council on its recommendations and pending works. This committee's advisory and review function on matters related to bicycling and walking shall include, but not be limited to:

#### **1. REVIEW OF THE GENERAL PLAN -**

- a. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the development and review of comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian goals, objectives and implementation policies in the general plan, community plans and area specific plans (e.g., the general plan bicycle/pedestrian sub-element including non-motorized transportation objectives, maps of existing and proposed bike routes—including supporting facilities such as

bicycle parking—and walkways within the city, as well as those connecting to surrounding jurisdictions).

- b. The Advisory Committee shall also review recommended changes to same bicycle/pedestrian sub-element of the general plan, community plans and area specific plans.
- c. The Advisory Committee shall work with the City to promote walking and utilitarian and recreational cycling.

## **2. EXISTING CONDITIONS -**

- a. The Advisory Committee shall review and comment on the functional classification and physical condition of existing bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and bicycle routes (Caltrans Class I, II & III facilities, respectively) within the City.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall identify all current road hazards, obstructions, site access restrictions, circulation impediments (e.g. to airports, transit stations, across freeways, bridges, etc.) as they affect cyclists and pedestrians.
- c. The Advisory Committee shall inventory the current provision of bicycle parking facilities within the city and recommend appropriate bicycle parking technology and locations which would increase use of bicycles for commuting and other utilitarian trips.

## **3. REVIEW ALL ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS -**

- a. The Advisory Committee shall review all (including state, county, and regional park district) projects that fall within the city's jurisdiction insofar as they relate to bicycling. Designs of these projects shall be reviewed for accommodation of cyclists and pedestrians' needs. Resurfacing projects will be examined to assess feasibility of incorporating improvements for bicycle safety and access. Improvements such as installing gates in fences, repairing pot-holes, controlling vegetation to increase sight distance, minimizing the use of raised markers and marking signal loop detectors will be considered.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall evaluate and make recommendations to the City Bicycle Committee (composed of staff from the Public Works and Development Departments) regarding safety issues for all types of bicycle and pedestrian facilities (e.g. proper signs, street markers, traffic calming and control devices to designate bikeways, regulate traffic, and improve safety and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians.)

## **4. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING -**

- a. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations on capital improvements to increase use and safety of bicycle/pedestrian facilities (e.g. bikeways, signage,

