

BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2030 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES TO FUTURE BICYCLE FACILITIES DEPICTED ON THE GP 2030 BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS MAP AS SHOWN ON THE DRAFT BIKEWAY MASTER PLAN FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF BUTTE COUNTY

1. Proposed improvements shown on the Bicycle Improvements Map of the General Plan Transportation Alternatives depict (for the most part) the planned facilities shown in the Countywide Bikeway Master Plan developed by BCAG for the County in 1998.
2. Since the five local jurisdictions in Butte County have adopted their own bikeway master plans, Butte County Public Works Department, in conjunction with BCAG, began preparing an update of the Bikeway Master Plan in 2007 which narrows the focus of the plan to more practical improvements in the County's unincorporated area that are under the County's jurisdiction.
3. The master plan update for the unincorporated areas of the County includes emphasis on regional connectivity between the cities of Biggs, Chico, and Gridley, the Town of Paradise, Butte College, and the various rural communities and recreational opportunities that exist in Butte County. Any improvements within the local jurisdictions, national forests, and State facilities are only shown on the plan for the purpose of determining connectivity with the County bikeway improvements. The multi-use trails depicted are within other jurisdictions and are not currently included in the master plan update as proposed County facilities.
4. To facilitate the master plan update, existing and proposed bicycle and trail way facilities were evaluated and reviewed during work shops held in June 2007 with the staffs of Chico, Oroville, and Paradise, during which the public and known bicycle interest groups were invited.
5. Following the work shops, the draft plans were updated to reflect relevant comments received and further input from the Public Works staff. As part of the process for completing the draft update the goals and policies for bicycle transportation are being reviewed and practical projects to implement the network identified. A primary focus is to derive a practical plan that can be implemented and allow the County to eligible for funding under the guidelines of various grant programs.
6. The intent of the Public Works staff is to hold additional work shops and circulate the draft update for final comments this November before presenting it to the Board for adoption.

7. The map for the current master plan update depicts existing and future facilities as well as proposed changes to the facilities that were shown on the Countywide Bicycle Master Plan. Public Works requests the CAC to review and recommend the facilities shown on this plan for inclusion in the General Plan.

Some of the major differences between the plans are as follows:

- The future Class 1 bike path originally proposed on the abandoned railroad grade adjacent to Coutolenc Road has been revised to a proposed multi-use trail facility from the Skyway to Paradise Lake and eliminated from the Doon Grade. This area is under the jurisdiction of the Plumas and Lassen National Forests which has indicated to date that paved facilities would be prohibited. The fact that the railway line has been abandoned is not indicative that there is an existing right of way that can be utilized.
- The proposed plan depicts future Class 2 bike lane facilities along the Skyway as originally shown on the Countywide Plan. It does not currently reflect the Class 1 bike path which was the subject of a recent project study by Chico State students as part of their class curriculum. The proposal would require further feasibility analysis. If proposed, this should occur in conjunction with a bike facility analysis for the proposed Southgate Extension between SR-99 and Skyway.
- The Class 1 bike path facility proposed along the active UPRR right of way between Richvale and Gridley was eliminated in favor of a route of Class 2 bike lane facilities along the adjacent County roadways.
- The Class 1 bike path proposed on the east levee of the Feather River from East Oro Dam Blvd. to East Gridley Rd. has been revised to a possible future trail way in the State's jurisdiction.

If you would like further information about the proposed Bikeway Master Plan Update, please contact the Butte County Public Works Department, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville CA 95965; phone (530) 538-7681; email Mr. Paul Lundbom at Plundbom@ButteCounty.net or Mr. Ian Sanders at ISanders@buttecounty.net

The Existing Bike Plan can also be viewed under Special Programs at: <http://www.buttecounty.net/publicworks/>. Click on Countywide Bikeway in the items listed under the Special Programs column.