



*Promoting the bicycle for transportation and recreation*

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Eris Weaver

**OFFICE:**  
750 Mendocino Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**MAIL:**  
P.O. Box 3088  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

**PHONE:**  
707-545-0153

**FAX:**  
707-573-0147

**EMAIL:**  
General inquiries:  
[info@BikeSonoma.org](mailto:info@BikeSonoma.org)  
Events:  
[events@BikeSonoma.org](mailto:events@BikeSonoma.org)  
Safe Routes to School:  
[saferroutes@bikesonoma.org](mailto:saferroutes@bikesonoma.org)  
Street Skills Classes:  
[skills@BikeSonoma.org](mailto:skills@BikeSonoma.org)

**WEB:**  
[www.bikesonoma.org](http://www.bikesonoma.org)

March 6, 2020

Healdsburg City Council  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Dear Councilmembers:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your goals for 2020-2022.

Healdsburg is already engaging in many projects that demonstrate and foster your commitment to values like sustainability, equity, health and safety. SCBC heartily endorses the progress you've made on existing goals such as the Foss Creek path, closing Plaza Street to vehicular traffic, and the North Healdsburg Avenue plan.

While not mentioned specifically in the new goals, the encouragement of bicycling definitely fits into several of your Strategic Initiatives.

Several of your environmental stewardship goals focus on energy and electricity:

- Goal 2.1 -Develop City policies to promote fleet electrification
- Goal 2.2 -Exceed SB 100's timeline for providing carbon free and renewable energy sources
- Goal 2.3 -Prepare and design a City electric system for transportation electrification

It is an unfortunate reality in our car-centric world that many people interpret the words "fleet" and "transportation" to mean automobiles. Electric bicycles are the wave of the future – for individuals riding around town, for light hauling (e.g. cargo bikes), for law enforcement – they are less expensive and take less space to park than vehicles, and add mobility to many who may not be able to walk or use a regular bicycle easily. **I recommend adding specific language to Goals 2.1 and 2.3 that includes electric bicycles or other micromobility devices in the definitions of "fleet" and "transportation."**

**I would argue for upgrading Goal 2.6 (Review City's circulation and connectivity policies) from blue to red** for the following reasons:

- Making it easier for residents to travel about town without getting in a car furthers Goal 2.5 (Continue to develop programs for climate change), as transportation is the source of 40% of our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Making it easier for folks to walk or cycle also feeds Strategic Initiative #3 (Expand affordable housing opportunities) as low-income residents are less likely to own an automobile.
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and increasing active transportation also feeds Strategic Initiative #6 (Maintain and enhance

public health safety) by reducing the incidence of traffic collisions, injuries, and fatalities, and also improves individual health outcomes from increased exercise.

Strategic Initiative #4 (Maintain and improve infrastructure facilities) interconnects with all of these - improving infrastructure will allow/enhance circulation & connectivity. **Goal 4.5 (Improve local streets and roads) should be re-worded to include bicycle and pedestrian improvements.**

Healdsburg offers many outdoor recreation opportunities to both locals and tourists; **cycling facilities such as a pump track or bike park fit well with Goal 7.5** (Continue to develop & enhance community-based multi-generational recreation programs, services & special events) and offer opportunities for local youth.

We are always available to share information and resources on best practices and standards for any bicycle policy or infrastructure enhancements the Council decides to consider.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eris Weaver  
Executive Director