

I would like to comment on the Circulation Element of the General Plan Update.

I think it's great to see so much now about trails for bicycles and pedestrians however I think that trails need to be emphasized as a form of transportation and receive more funding from Transportation.

I would like to see more of a Regional Trail System added to the Circulation Element so that we can leave our subdivisions and go somewhere. In McKinleyville the plan states that new developments have a trail component but it doesn't state a required link between the developments to the Hammond which would allow for a safe commute.

As the next 20 years unfold we're going to see a greater need for a Regional Trail System that will actually link us to other communities and we can view trails as transportation: we are going to see a rise in oil prices which will stimulate the use of non-motorized forms of transportation, we are going to see an enforcement in the reduction in carbon emissions and with diabetes and obesity on the rise we are going to see a greater need for opportunities to move our bodies. Our county needs to be ready for this, we need to be ready to compete for state and federal funding by having plans and policies in place that support our Trail/transportation system.

I especially support CP 36: Encourage development of the Annie & Mary between the cities of Blue Lake and Arcata as a class I bike/pedestrian trail using the existing railroad right of way where feasible. This will allow for greater commute to Arcata and to a transit center to catch the bus north and south; it will also allow more trips to the grocery store in Glendale without a car and allow the children of Glendale a safe route to Blue Lake School.

I would also like to see bicycles have safe access to regional trailheads, I think that is CP 34.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Kosek
Friends of the Annie & Mary Rail-trail

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PLANNING DIVISION