

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Damion Pregitzer, P.E. PTOE, Traffic Engineer

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Subject: Next Steps for Utilizing the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan

As we transition into the implementation phase of the "Walk Bike Roll" Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, it is important to outline the next steps that staff will take to ensure the plan's recommendations are effectively incorporated into both local and regional planning efforts. The following key areas will guide the approach:

**1. Priority Rankings to Inform the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)**

The "Walk Bike Roll" plan has established a detailed set of priority rankings for trails, sidewalks, and crossings based on safety, connectivity, and equitable access. These rankings, outlined in Chapter 4, "Network Plan & Priorities," will be instrumental in guiding the City's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) development. By integrating these priorities, the City can address the most critical projects, aligning our infrastructure investments with the community's active transportation needs.

**2. Coordination with Public Works and Ames Bicycle Coalition (ABC)**

The proposed improvements will be closely coordinated with other Public Works projects to maximize efficiency. Additionally, the Ames Bicycle Coalition (ABC) will provide valuable feedback throughout the project development process. This collaboration will ensure that projects meet technical standards and align with community preferences and needs, as recommended in Chapter 5, "Implementation Strategies & Actions."

**3. Context-Sensitive Project Scoping**

It is essential that each project fits within the local context of the area where it will be implemented. Chapter 3, "Facility Selection & Guidelines," emphasizes the importance of designing for local conditions, including land use, traffic patterns, and community characteristics. Each project will be tailored to its specific location, ensuring the infrastructure is functional, context-sensitive, and beneficial for all users.

**4. Funding Allocation and City Council Targets**

The amount of funding available for implementing the "Walk Bike Roll" plan will be determined in collaboration with the City's Finance Department. Each year, projects are evaluated based on overall City of Ames funding priorities. However,

staff will strive to meet the City Council's investment targets for walking and biking improvements, as described in Chapter 5. Staff will also explore external funding opportunities and grants to support these projects and maximize the City's investment in active transportation infrastructure.

#### **5. Informing Ames Area MPO MTP Projects and Federal Funding**

The "Walk Bike Roll" plan will also inform the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) developed by the Ames Area MPO. This will help identify which projects are eligible for federal aid allocated to the region, ensuring that the City maximizes available funding for high-priority projects, including those in new growth areas. This coordinated approach will allow the City to leverage federal dollars for improvements that align with the City's and the region's long-term transportation goals.

By following these steps, we will ensure that the "Walk Bike Roll" plan is implemented strategically, efficiently, and in a context-sensitive manner, delivering significant benefits to the community and positioning Ames to achieve its active transportation goals.