TO:       HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM:     CITY MANAGER        DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

DATE:     OCTOBER 4, 2004    CMR:432:04

SUBJECT:  FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN, INCLUDING SYSTEM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, PROJECT PRIORITIZATION, AND COST FUNDING REPORT

RECOMMENDATION
The Finance Committee recommends that Council adopt the proposed Transportation Strategic Plan, including Transportation System Performance Indicators (Attachment A) and Project Prioritization (Attachment B).

DISCUSSION
On October 8, 2003, the Finance Committee reviewed, revised and recommended Council adoption of the Transportation Strategic Plan, including the performance indicators, project prioritization, and cost and funding report. The Finance Committee suggested that staff group the proposed strategic performance indicators and project prioritization into functional categories and revise them as indicated below.

Categorization of Strategic Performance Indicators: Travel Safety, Vehicles, Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, and Public Transportation.

Revisions to Strategic Indicators:
1. Add a travel safety objective to read “Promote a healthy and safe school commute” and a strategic indicator to read “Percent of students traveling to Palo Alto schools by foot, bicycle, transit, and carpool.”

2. Add a vehicles objective to read “Reduce the proportion of vehicles on arterials traveling 10 miles or more above the posted speed limit” and a strategic indicator to read “Percentage of vehicles on arterials traveling 10 or more miles above the posted speed limit.”
3. Add a public transportation objective to read “Enhance accessibility to public transit” and a strategic indicator to read “Percentage of Palo Alto population within one-quarter mile of a public transit stop.”

The Committee also expressed a desire that the Transportation Division undertake a truck route study next fiscal year to evaluate possible changes in routing and regulation of goods movement within Palo Alto, and expressed an interest in staff providing Council with a report on Palo Alto truck movement data.

**Categorization of Project Prioritization System:** Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, Public Transportation, Traffic Management, and Other Transportation.

**Revisions to Project Prioritization:**
1. Under bicycle and pedestrian transportation, revise the “Bike and pedestrian facilities that prioritize critical links” project to include two formerly separate projects: “Bay-to-Foothills path” and “Downtown alleyways for bikes and pedestrians.” Retain this revised project in the High Priority category.

2. Under Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, retain the “Bike and pedestrian paths under Alma Street and Caltrain” in the High Priority category, but add the notation that “the location(s) of which would depend on results of future feasibility studies and Council decisions.”


The Finance Committee further recommends that the Transportation Strategic Plan Priorities be translated into individual Capital Improvement Plan and Program projects with implementation dates, cost estimates, and funding sources. Prior to identification of funding sources and securing of funds, projects would be listed in an unfunded section of the Capital Improvement Plan.
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
The Transportation Strategic Plan orders and prioritizes transportation projects and programs called for in the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan and one of its derivatives, the Palo Alto Bicycle Transportation Plan. As each individual transportation project and program is brought forward for approval, each will receive appropriate review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

ATTACHMENTS
A. Recommended Transportation Strategic Performance Indicators
B. Recommended Transportation Implementation Plan Project Prioritization
C. Palo Alto Transportation Strategic Plan
D. October 7, 2003 Memorandum to the Finance Committee with CMR:378:03 appended
E. Minutes of the October 8, 2003 Finance Committee meeting

PREPARED BY: ____________________________________________

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DEPARTMENT HEAD: ________________________________

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CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _____________________________

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cc: Planning and Transportation Commission
Recommended Transportation Strategic Performance Indicators

Travel Safety –

Objective: Promote a healthy and safe school commute
Strategic Performance Indicator: Percent of students traveling to Palo Alto schools by foot, bicycle, transit, and carpool.

Objective: Improve travel safety
Strategic Performance Indicator: Injuries and fatalities

Vehicles –

Objective: Reduce vehicle trips
Strategic Performance Indicator: Annual vehicle trips

Objective: Reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles
Strategic Performance Indicator: Single occupancy mode or market share of Palo Alto travel

Objective: Avoid increased automobile congestion
Strategic Performance Indicator: Vehicular level of service ratings

Objective: Reduce the proportion of vehicles on arterials traveling 10 miles or more above the posted speed limit.  
Strategic Performance Indicator: Percentage of vehicles on arterials traveling 10 or more miles above the posted speed limit.

Pedestrian and Pedestrian Transportation –

Objective: Improve conditions for bicyclists
Strategic Performance Indicator: Bicycle level of service ratings

Objective: Improve conditions for pedestrians
Strategic Performance Indicator: Pedestrian level of service ratings

Public Transportation –

Objective: Enhance accessibility to public transit
Strategic Performance Indicator: Percentage of Palo Alto population within ¼ mile of a public transit stop.

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\(^1\) the Finance Committee added this Objective and requested that staff suggest a suitable performance measure.
Palo Alto Projects –

High Priority:

Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation –

- Bike Boulevards
- Bike and pedestrian facilities that prioritize critical links
- Bike and pedestrian paths under Alma Street and Caltrain

Public Transportation –

- Palo Alto Shuttle enhancements and improvements
- University Avenue Intermodal Transit Center

Traffic Management –

- Citywide transportation demand management
- Computerized traffic management
- Feasibility study of new vehicular grade separations of Caltrain
- Neighborhood traffic calming

Medium Priority:

Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation –

- Bike/ped path adjacent to Embarcadero Road
- Connecting paths through dead-end streets
- Easements for bicycle and pedestrian paths through new private developments
- Off-road paths
- Sidewalks and bike facilities in Stanford Research Park and other employment areas
- Urban design to encourage walking and cycling
- Wide outside lanes for motorists and bicyclists

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1 The Finance Committee recommends folding in two formerly separate projects, “Bay-to-Foothills path and “Downtown alleyways for bikes and pedestrians”, into this larger project.
2 The location(s) of which would depend on results of future feasibility studies and Council decisions.
Traffic Management –

• Remove through traffic lanes in commercial areas
• Residential arterials

Low Priority:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation -

• Secure bike parking

Traffic Management –

• “Gateways” where roads transition from freeway
• Homer and Channing 2-way
• Transportation information kiosks
• Vertical curbs (Stand-alone project)

Regional Projects –

High Priority:

Public Transportation –

• Better public transit to regional destinations
• Bus service improvements in major bus corridors
• Caltrain Baby Bullet
• Caltrain electrification/downtown extension

Medium Priority:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation -

• Regional bicycle plans

Public Transportation –

• Amtrak between San Francisco, Salinas, and Monterey
• Bus rapid transit on El Camino Real
• California High Speed Rail
• Extend Caltrain to Monterey
• Rail around the Bay, intra-county and transbay transit
• Light rail from Mountain View – Palo Alto/Menlo Park
Low Priority:

Public Transportation –

• Amtrak Coast Starlight
• Bus stop amenities

Traffic Management –

• Freeway information/monitoring/control systems
• HOV lanes on freeways and expressways

Other Transportation –

• Relocate airport terminal building