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Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
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AGENDA ITEM 8a
TAC Meeting
May 7, 2020

DATE: April 30, 2020
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Marcella May, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Short-Term Complete Street Transformations During Covid-19**

INFORMATIONAL STAFF REPORT

Colin Fiske, Executive Director of the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities, has initiated discussions with some jurisdictions to consider short-term actions to address the pandemic's impact on transportation. Both the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and Smart Growth America have websites dedicated to the discussion:

NACTO: <https://nacto.org/covid19-rapid-response-tools-for-cities/>

Smart Growth America: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/covid-19-how-is-your-community-responding/>

These websites highlight examples of how jurisdictions, including transit agencies, are taking action now to address the most critical impacts of the coronavirus and ensure that essential services operate in their communities. Just a few are listed below to aid in the discussion.

Pop Up Bike Lanes:

Where appropriate, create temporary protected bike lanes/sidewalk extensions by blocking off side lanes or parking lanes from car traffic using cones or other materials you have at hand. With dramatically reduced traffic (and parking demand in some areas), this would allow more sufficient space for pedestrian and bike social distancing without significantly impacting drivers. An alternative that some cities are pursuing is closing low-volume residential streets to through-traffic and allowing free pedestrian use. Or, at a minimum, provide some driver education about yielding to pedestrians.



Convert actuated to fixed signals where possible:

Convert pedestrian-actuated traffic signals to fixed signals so pedestrians would not be required to touch common surfaces in order to cross the street. Several cities in the US have already taken the step of reprogramming signals (no new hardware required) so that pedestrians get an automatic light and don't have to push a button.





Establish delivery/loading zones for restaurants and commercial businesses:

Install temporary customer pick-up zones or free temporary loading zones by converting some paid on-street parking spaces near restaurants. This will support access to restaurants and businesses that now offer take-out and delivery-only service while also promoting social distancing.



Close or limit through traffic on select streets or near recreational areas for social distancing:

Temporarily close select roads to thru-traffic to create more space for residents to go outside and get fresh air while practicing safe social distancing. Street closures are established in areas with high population densities and where adjacent parks are seeing significant use. On-street parking and local, essential, and emergency vehicles are still allowed.



Temporary Closure of Eastbound Lanes on Beach Ave.

