5 Transportation

5.1 OVERVIEW

The Transportation Element (Element) is intended to provide guidance and specific actions to ensure that people and goods can safely and efficiently move within Concord and connect to the regional transportation system. The Element is based on a fundamental philosophy that efficient transportation that reduces the impacts of transportation on the region’s environment and provides a variety of travel options for residents and visitors is best provided through a comprehensive program of transportation planning, land use planning, and growth management strategies. This Element includes provisions for passenger vehicle, transit, freight, aviation, maritime, pedestrian, and bicycle transportation modes.

State law recognizes that transportation and land use are closely related and requires that policies in this Element and the Land Use Element be linked. Careful integration of the City’s transportation policies with its land use policies will ensure that the transportation network is designed to accommodate the travel needs of current and future users. At the core of this Element is the City’s vision for a transportation system that encourages healthy, active living; provides a range of transportation options; reduces the impacts of transportation on climate change; supports environmentally-friendly transportation options; and provides safe, comfortable transportation options for all residents, persons patronizing local businesses, employees of Concord businesses, and other system users.

The people who will be traveling around Concord include pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, public transportation passengers, people moving freight, and emergency service providers. This reality underlies the entire Element and is consistent with the concept of “complete streets,” which State law requires be incorporated throughout this Element. Complete streets are designed to meet the needs of multiple users, including motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and persons of different physical capabilities.

In Concord, complete streets will be created over time by retrofitting existing streets so they become more pedestrian-friendly and by designing new streets with continuous sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle lanes, and other features which make them safer and more comfortable for non-motorized travel. On the Concord Reuse Project (CRP) site, the complete streets philosophy is an integral part of community design and transportation. The Reuse Project has been designed to make walking, bicycling, and transit use the preferred modes of travel, and to make driving an option rather than a necessity.

5.2 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Concord’s Transportation Element incorporates three broad strategies. First, transportation programs are based on the integration of transportation system planning and land use planning. Second, the City’s transportation planning efforts are integrated with those of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and Caltrans in a cooperative, regional planning effort. Third, state of the art traffic engineering and transportation systems management programs are used.
to manage traffic, reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled, and bring planned improvements to reality. Through the development and implementation of all these strategies the City can achieve its commitment to a balanced, efficient circulation system.

**Roadway Network**

At the core of Concord’s transportation network is the roadway system. Most modes of transportation in the City depend to some degree upon it. Concord’s system is based on a traditional grid pattern in the downtown surrounded by a radial pattern of major roadways. Although the major roadways provide strong connections to the downtown, relatively recently-built subdivisions have less local connectivity because of many cul-de-sacs and longer blocks. Regional access is provided by Interstate 680 and SR 242, and SR 4 provides access on the west and north. Concord's roadway system is integrated with the systems of Pittsburg on the northeast, Martinez and Pleasant Hill on the west, Walnut Creek on the south, and Clayton on the east.

**Street System**

This element defines a complete street network designed to serve multi-modal travel demand and the land uses and desired future character as expressed in the Land Use Element and throughout this plan. The types of streets that together make up the City's street network are described in Table 5-1. Their physical locations are shown in Figure 5-1. Model cross-sections of the street types showing desired characteristics for each type are shown in Figure 5-2. Many streets are not currently consistent with these sections, which represent the City's future vision for the streets. As improvements are made to the streets, they will be guided by these model sections. In some cases, there will not be sufficient room for all of the facilities shown in the model sections. In those cases, the City will apply land use policies and policy guidance in this element to prioritize among the features shown in the model sections that will best accommodate all users. That prioritization will take place when new facilities are created, and when existing facilities are improved. Complete streets modifications to transportation improvement projects can often be accomplished without significant increases to the project cost, as long as they are considered early on in the process.

The following features are common to all complete streets:

- Travel lane width ranging from 10’\(^1\) on low-traffic volume streets to 12’ on high-traffic volume streets.
- Continuous sidewalks on both sides of the street, with a minimum clear width of 5’.
- Bicycle lanes with minimum width of 5’.
- Where street trees are provided, 5’ diameter minimum tree wells.

These features will be achieved over time, using the policies established in this element to guide their implementation.

\(^1\) In some situations, 9’ travel lanes may be appropriate where traffic volumes are very low, right-of-way is limited or other conditions warrant.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description (Function and Context)</th>
<th>Bicycle Infrastructure</th>
<th>Pedestrian Infrastructure</th>
<th>Auto Infrastructure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Quiet neighborhood streets serving walkers, cyclists, and drivers with low traffic volumes and slow speeds.</td>
<td>Signed routes or bicycle boulevards where appropriate</td>
<td>Sidewalks, street trees, neighborhood traffic management</td>
<td>2 lanes, on-street parallel parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>Streets that provide access to or directly serve the downtown core; includes the surrounding mixed use and residential areas that transition to the downtown; medium to high volume of traffic and slow speeds; high mix of modes with a priority on pedestrian, bike and transit convenience.</td>
<td>On-street striped lanes, bicycle boulevards, off-street separated path, routes or sharrows</td>
<td>Wide sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, special crosswalk treatments; mid-block crosswalks; pedestrian buffer from street traffic</td>
<td>2-4 lanes parallel or (reverse) diagonal and off-street parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>Streets serving and connecting to residential areas with destinations such as homes, schools, parks, and neighborhood retail; medium volume of traffic with slow to moderate speeds; significant walking and biking uses, in addition to autos.</td>
<td>On-street striped lanes, bicycle boulevards, routes or sharrows</td>
<td>Sidewalks, clearly marked crosswalks or special crosswalk treatments, pedestrian buffer from street traffic</td>
<td>2-4 lanes, on-street parallel parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Streets serving and connecting to work, regional shopping, downtown, office, and civic destinations that are accessed by people coming from throughout Concord; medium to high volume of traffic with slow to moderate speeds; extensive vehicle and transit use, as well as extensive bicycle and pedestrian uses.</td>
<td>On-street striped lanes or alternative route</td>
<td>Sidewalks; clearly marked crosswalks, pedestrian buffer from street traffic</td>
<td>4-6 lanes, often with medians, on-street parallel parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Street Connection</td>
<td>Trails and greenways serving regional destinations for recreation and commuting purposes; primarily serving pedestrians and bikes. Some equestrian facilities.</td>
<td>Off-street separated path connecting to on street bike lanes, residential streets, or trailhead parking</td>
<td>Off-street separated path connecting to sidewalks or residential streets</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>High volume corridors with moderate to higher speeds serving vehicles traveling through Concord and beyond.</td>
<td>Off-street separated path or on-street striped lanes or alternative route</td>
<td>Sidewalks; clearly marked crosswalks; pedestrian buffer from street traffic*</td>
<td>4-6 lanes, often with medians, parallel parking as appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Description (Function and Context)</td>
<td>Bicycle Infrastructure</td>
<td>Pedestrian Infrastructure</td>
<td>Auto Infrastructure</td>
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<td>------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Streets accessing office, service, and industrial uses; low to medium volume streets with slow to moderate speeds carrying truck traffic, in addition to passenger vehicles and low bicycle and pedestrian traffic.</td>
<td>Signed routes or on-street striped lanes</td>
<td>Sidewalks; clearly marked crosswalks; pedestrian buffer from street traffic</td>
<td>2-4 lanes, on-street parallel or diagonal parking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As streets are updated, right-of-way may limit the City’s ability to provide all of the features described in Table 1. In cases where there is not enough space for all features, the following priorities (combined with proper safety review) will guide the City in determining which features to include in new or improved streets. The focus on pedestrian facilities and safety is due, in part, to the City’s ongoing commitment to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

1. Pedestrian facilities prioritized above dedicated bicycle facilities
2. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities prioritized above street trees.
3. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities over street parking except on residential streets.
4. Travel lanes over street parking, except on Downtown streets.
5. Bicycle facilities in conjunction with 10’ travel lanes on low-traffic volume streets and 11’ to 12’ travel lanes on high-traffic volume streets.

**Service Objectives**

The adopted Central County Action Plan defines Multi-Modal Transportation Service Objectives (MTSOs) for Routes of Regional Significance (RRS). RRS are major roadway and freeway corridors serving regional traffic and are further defined in the Growth Management Element. The routes were identified in Action Plans adopted by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) as part of the countywide Measure J Growth Management Program. The regional routes within Concord include the freeways, the Kirker Pass Road/Ygnacio Valley Road corridor, Treat Boulevard, and Clayton Road between Treat Boulevard and Kirker Pass Road. The MTSO is used to measure the performance of the roadway using multiple variables as specified in the adopted Central County Action Plan.

Service objectives for local roadways are defined in the Growth Management Element. On streets that are not formally designated as Routes of Regional Significance by CCTA, these objectives are to be used as *benchmarks* rather than absolute standards. This means the City will determine on a case-by-case basis how best to use them to determine traffic mitigation measures. In some instances, road improvements (or impact fees) may be required to maintain or achieve a LOS benchmark. In other cases, increases in congestion may be acceptable in order to achieve other General Plan goals.
Figure 5-2a

Model Street Sections

Residential Model Section

Downtown Model Section A

Note: Trees in parking lanes to be separated from parked vehicles in tree wells or bulbouts.
**Figure 5-2b**

**Model Street Sections**

Downtown Model Section B: wide sidewalks

Neighborhood Model Section A: Separate bicycle lanes
Figure 5-2c

Model Street Sections

Neighborhood Model Section B: Shared bicycle lanes and center turn lane

Community Model Section A: No median

Notes: Parking lanes could alternate sides of the street from block to block; where bicycle lanes are between sidewalk and on-street parking a painted or physical buffer separating bicycles from autos should be included.
Figure 5-2d

Model Street Sections

Community Model Section B: Median

Notes: Parking lanes could alternate sides of the street from block to block; where bicycle lanes are between sidewalk and on-street parking a painted or physical buffer separating bicycles from autos should be included.

Off-Street Connection

Note: Trail designs will vary based on the anticipated users.
Figure 5-2e

Model Street Sections

Regional Model Section A

Regional Model Section B
Figure 5-2f

Model Street Sections

Service Model Section A: On-street parking; no bicycle lanes

Service Model Section B: Multimodal
The Level of Service (LOS) concept is generally used to measure the amount of traffic that a roadway or intersection can accommodate, which is based on maneuverability and delay. LOS ranges from LOS A (free-flow conditions) to LOS F (jammed conditions). These conditions are generally described in Table 5-2. The table also lists the maximum ratio of traffic volumes to the capacity for signalized intersections for each level of service. LOS thresholds established in the latest Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) for the automobile and non-automobile modes shall be used at signalized intersections as applicable. For the automobile mode, LOS designations from A to F are based on average delay per vehicle at the intersection. For non-automobile modes, LOS designations from A to F are based on quality of service associated with a trip through the intersection, as perceived by the traveler. LOS measures and thresholds established in the HCM may be refined over time as the HCM is periodically updated.

The concept of LOS was initially developed to maximize automobile speed and convenience. As indicated above, this is not the primary goal in all settings. For example, the goal in Downtown Concord is not only to ensure smooth traffic flow, but also to create a safe and welcoming pedestrian environment. Similarly, the goal around the Downtown and North Concord - Martinez BART Stations is to promote transit ridership and easy multimodal access to the station. On the Concord Reuse Project site, the goal is to create a multi-modal system where residents can walk, bicycle, or take a shuttle bus as easily as they can use their own vehicle. Thus, the LOS benchmarks expressed in the General Plan do not apply equally to all parts of the City.

Unless otherwise specified, the benchmark for the evaluation of roadway segments is LOS D. In the Downtown area, the benchmark is LOS E, recognizing the more urban, pedestrian-oriented character of this area. The Downtown is defined as the area served by streets designated “Downtown” in this element. The LOS E benchmark also applies in the Concord BART Station vicinity, the North Concord - Martinez BART Station vicinity, and along the City’s transit routes. Transit routes are generally defined as roads with two or more bus transit lines, such as Concord Avenue, Clayton Road, and Treat Boulevard.

Traffic Conditions (Existing and Forecast Volumes)

In 2007, most roadways in Concord operated within the levels of service benchmarks. This finding reflects existing traffic conditions as of 2007. The following locations are the exceptions compared to current HCM roadway capacities based on generalized daily service volumes for urban street facilities:

- Ygnacio Valley Road operated at LOS F east of Cowell Road, where the traffic demand exceeds the four-lane roadway’s capacity of 31,300 vehicles per day.
- Cowell Road between Monument Boulevard and Babel Lane operated at LOS F due to the limited capacity of the two-lane roadway, which is 16,400 vehicles per day.
- Meadow Lane operated at LOS F due to the limited capacity of the two-lane roadway, which is 16,400 vehicles per day.
- Willow Pass Road north of Landana Drive operated at LOS F due to the limited capacity of the two-lane roadway, which is 16,400 vehicles per day.
Table 5-2: Level of Service Definition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Service</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Max. Volume/Capacity Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Free Flow or Insignificant Delays: Vehicles are completely unimpeded in their ability to maneuver within the traffic stream. Control delay at signalized intersection is minimal.</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Stable Operations or Minimal Delays: The ability to maneuver within the traffic stream is only slightly restricted and control delay at signalized intersections is not significant.</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Stable Operations or Acceptable Delays: The ability to maneuver and change lanes is somewhat restricted and average travel speeds may be about 50 percent of the free flow speed.</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Approaching Unstable or Tolerable Delays: Small increases in flow may cause substantial increases in delay and decreases in travel speed.</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Unstable Operations or Significant Delays: Significant delays may occur and average travel speeds may be 33 percent or less of the free flow speed.</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Forced Flow or Excessive Delays: Congestion, high delays, and extensive queuing occur at critical signalized intersections with urban street flow at extremely low speeds.</td>
<td>&gt;1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


(*) The LOS measures cited here are benchmarks, not absolute standards. They provide a tool for quantifying projected traffic conditions and determining where improvements and mitigation measures may be needed.
Congestion on these roadway segments typically occurs in the peak commute direction during peak travel periods. In the non-peak direction during the peak periods and at other times of the day, there may be little or no congestion along these routes.

All of the roadways that failed to operate within the levels of service benchmarks in 2007 are proposed to have future improvements in roadway capacity.

When the City initially adopted the 2030 General Plan in 2007, no development was assumed on the former Naval Weapons Station (i.e., the CRP site). As part of the CRP Area Plan and its related General Plan Amendment, the City updated its traffic forecasts to test the impacts of adding approximately 12,200 homes and 26,300 jobs on the site. As amended, the General Plan now reflects the higher forecasts associated with this growth. Numerous design strategies and transportation demand management programs are included in the CRP Area Plan to reduce the effect of additional development on traffic.

**Planned Improvements to Accommodate Buildout**

Buildout of Concord consistent with the Land Use Element will require improvements in the transportation system.

The following major street improvements planned or programmed for Concord or on the adjacent freeway network are shown in Figure 5-3. They were developed to accommodate motor vehicle traffic anticipated with buildout of this Plan. In some cases the right-of-way needed for the improvements would have to be acquired by the City in order to construct them. They should be implemented in conjunction with the Complete Streets concepts included in this Element to ensure they are providing the best possible mobility options for residents and visitors in Concord.

1. Ygnacio Valley Road – widen to six lanes between Cowell Road and Michigan Boulevard
2. Cowell Road - widen to four lanes between Monument Boulevard and Treat Boulevard
3. Denkinger Road - widen to four lanes between Clayton Road and Concord Boulevard
4. Farm Bureau Road - widen to four lanes between Willow Pass Road and Clayton Road
5. Meadow Lane - widen to four lanes between Monument Boulevard and Clayton Road
6. Willow Pass Road - widen to four lanes between Landana Drive and SR 4
7. Commerce Avenue Extension - extend existing two lane arterial
8. Waterworld Parkway bridge over Walnut Creek - construct a two-lane bridge over the Walnut Creek channel connecting Waterworld Parkway with Meridian Park Boulevard
9. Bates Avenue - widen to four lanes from Industrial Way to Mason Circle
10. Port Chicago Highway - widen to four lanes from Bates Avenue north to the UPRR crossing
11. Monument Boulevard - widen to six lanes from Systron Drive to Cowell Road
12. Concord Boulevard - widen to four lanes from 6th Street to Farm Bureau Road
13. Clayton Road/SR 242 Interchange - new northbound on-ramp and new southbound off-ramp
14. Evora Road - Widen from Willow Pass Road to the vicinity of Pomo Street and extend west into CRP Project Area; continue west to connect to Arnold Industrial Way at Port Chicago Highway

15. Avila Road widening and extension to City limit (and onward to Bay Point)

16. State Route 4 additional lane eastbound and westbound between SR 242 and I-680, as part of the I-680/SR 4 Interchange Improvement Project
Figure 5-3

Planned Improvements

- Proposed Roadway
- Widened Roadway
- Proposed Bridge
- Proposed Ramp Improvement
- Listed Identification Number
  Not all listed improvements are shown.

- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence
- Planning Area

Source: Dowling Associates, 2006; City of Concord, 2011.
In addition to the improvements listed above, a new network of “complete” streets is included in the Community Reuse Project as illustrated and described in the CRP Area Plan. The network includes a new through-street extending from the North Concord - Martinez BART Station vicinity southeastward to Bailey Road, providing access to new “village neighborhoods.” Another major through-street will extend from the BART Station to Willow Pass Road (at Avila Road) along an alignment that roughly parallels Route 242 and Highway 4. A network of community streets will link the villages and employment districts to one another, to BART, and to established Concord neighborhoods. New neighborhood streets will provide access to new homes, businesses, and other land uses. Alleys may be incorporated into neighborhoods to provide rear yard garage access, which can create a more pedestrian-friendly street environment.

**Connectivity**

The roadway system in Concord has been shaped in part by the presence of creeks running through the City. Walnut Creek and Pine Creek have created barriers to the connectivity of the roadway system between I-680 and SR 242.

Traditional grid street designs allow for through movement and good connections between and within neighborhoods. Short blocks offer a choice of routes and enable more direct connections. Variations from the traditional grid can allow for diagonal and curvilinear streets as well as larger or smaller blocks for maximum flexibility and improved connectivity.

Some neighborhoods in Concord have been built using many cul-de-sacs. This type of design promotes circuitous travel and results in traffic being distributed along fewer streets where heavy traffic concentrates. More desirable is a grid-based development that balances a sense of proximity and ease of access with the quieter environments of neighborhoods. In order to ensure that street layout in all future development incorporates the need for neighborhood connectivity and the comfort and safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, it is essential that:

- All new development be “connected” to the surroundings with an increased number of access points and pedestrian and bicycle connections to the neighborhood network;
- Blocks be short to allow for more direct connections;
- Neighborhood streets be designed at a human-scale, without excessively wide streets; and
- Traffic controls be incorporated including speed limits, signage and truck routes to restrict commercial traffic in neighborhoods.

Careful integration of land use and transportation systems will be especially critical in planning for infill sites within the urban area because of access limitations and expected future congestion on the regional highway system. There is tremendous potential within the City to foster development that supports transit; however, simply requiring higher density development without regard to use mix, dispersion and connections with the transportation system will not be enough. Attention to the design and location of pedestrian and bicycle networks, the design of linkages, the location of parking, and provisions for local transit providing feeder service to BART will be essential.

The CRP exemplifies the practical application of many of these principles. Standards in the CRP Area Plan include maximum block sizes to maintain connectivity and create a more walkable
community. The Area Plan also includes standards for sidewalks and bicycle lanes, transit-only and mixed flow (transit plus auto) lanes, parking lanes, and street trees. As in the rest of Concord, roads will be designed to establish a clear hierarchy of through-streets, community, and neighborhood streets. Extensions of Salvio Street, West Street, and Denkinger Road will maintain continuity with the larger Concord street network.

**Truck Routes**

In addition to moving people, the roadway system in Concord carries a substantial number of trucks moving goods. Specific truck routes have been designated throughout the City and are shown on Figure 5-4. These routes are designed to allow truck traffic to pass through the City with minimal impact on residential neighborhoods as well as local vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Additional truck routes could be identified on the CRP site as more detailed planning is conducted.

**Public Transit**

An extensive public transit system is an important component of the Transportation Element. The transit system is well developed in the City. To accommodate future development in North Concord and the Concord Reuse Project area, it will be essential to develop good transit linkages to the North Concord - Martinez BART Station, the Downtown Concord BART Station, and between employment and housing areas.

**Services and Facilities**

Transit services in Concord include BART trains, County Connection buses, Tri-Delta Transit Buses, and BART shuttles.

BART provides rail service from two locations in Concord. The Concord BART station is located on Oakland Avenue near the historic downtown. The North Concord – Martinez BART station is located on Port Chicago Highway near the SR 4/SR 242 interchange. Both stations are along the line from Pittsburg/Bay Point to Millbrae with direct service to Downtown Oakland, Downtown San Francisco, and the San Francisco International Airport. Service to Richmond, Fremont, and the Oakland International Airport is available by transfer. Park and Ride facilities, bicycle lockers, and County Connection bus feeder services are provided at both stations. The Concord station also offers shuttles to California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) and Sleep Train Pavilion, as well as Tri-Delta.

Most bus service in Concord is provided by the County Connection, which is operated by the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA). In addition to local service and BART feeder service, the County Connection bus lines link Concord with Walnut Creek, Martinez, Lafayette, Orinda, Clayton, Alamo, and San Ramon. The network of transit routes is shown in Figure 5-5.

Tri-Delta Transit primarily serves eastern Contra Costa County including the communities of Antioch, Pittsburg, Brentwood, Oakley, Bay Point, and Discovery Bay. Connections to these communities are provided via a route serving the Concord BART station.

Additional transit services are planned for the Concord Reuse Project site. Buses will provide access from the BART station to neighborhoods and employment centers on the site. These additional planned transit services will connect the site to Downtown Concord and other Concord neighborhoods including a high-frequency bus that will travel in a dedicated bus lane along the new east-west road and will extend across the site. In addition to conventional transit vehicles, shuttle buses may also serve the site.
Bicycles, Trails, and Pedestrian Circulation

Given the topography of Concord, bicycling and walking are viable alternatives to auto use for both recreational and non-recreational trips. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are an important component of the transportation network in Concord. As illustrated on the Bikeways map (Figure 5-6), opportunities exist to improve the convenience and safety of existing facilities and to increase the extent of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout developed areas. Improvements to existing facilities and new development accompanied by attractive, well-connected facilities will be conducive to increased walking and biking.

The Concord Reuse Project site presents a particularly important opportunity for bicycle and pedestrian travel because of the size of the site and the planned internal circulation system comprising on- and off-street facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. The bicycle network will connect shopping, school, recreational, and visitor trips on a combination of off-road bike trails and routes that are within street rights-of-way. Support facilities such as bike racks will be an integral part of streetscape design. Likewise, the pedestrian system will be designed to ensure safe travel for persons of all ages and physical capabilities by providing sidewalks, cross-walks, and off-road trails with easy access to village centers, schools, workplaces, and the North Concord / Martinez BART Station.

A quality environment for pedestrian travel is essential for mobility overall and for the independence of children and many seniors. Furthermore, walking is a basic part of a healthy lifestyle. Most transit trips and many passenger car trips are linked to walking trips on one end or the other, so adequate pedestrian facilities are in the interest of the whole community. High quality pedestrian environments include attractive and well-maintained facilities that are interconnected and linked to other modes of transportation and to high use destinations.

The City of Concord employs three bicycle facility designations created by the California Department of Transportation, with some modifications. These designations consist of the Class I bike path, Class II bike lane, and Class III bike route.

In Concord, Class 1 bicycle trails, like Caltrans Class I bike paths, are physically separate from streets except at crossings. Concord’s Class 3A bicycle facilities, like Caltrans Class III bike routes, consist of signed routes on residential streets where bicycles share the road with motor vehicles. Concord’s Class 3B bike routes consist of signed routes with edge lines along community and arterial streets. The edge lines employed on Class 3B routes demark a variable width from 3 to 4 feet for travel by bicycles. This provides more space for bicycle travel than Class 3A but allows less than the Class II designation employed by Caltrans, which requires a minimum bicycle lane width of 5 feet. Because of the typical width of streets in Concord, as well as a historical emphasis on automobile transportation, there are a limited number of Caltrans Class II bike lanes in the City. Additional lanes are planned as part of the bike network to be constructed on the Concord Reuse Project site.

The Concord Trails Master Plan designates the location of existing and proposed trails and bicycle routes as well as existing and proposed grade separated over/undercrossings and trail staging areas.

Existing and proposed bicycle paths are also shown for Concord and the surrounding area in the “Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.” The Concord Transportation Element accommodates the Countywide Plan within the City limits to the extent feasible and shows how the City’s bike system links to the countywide system. Future amendments or updates to the Countywide Plan and the City’s Trails Plan may be needed to reflect proposals for the Concord Reuse Project site throughout Concord.