CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
MEMORANDUM FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2007

TO: Members, City Council
VIA: Jeff Foltz, City Administrator

FROM: Joe C. Heckel, Community Development Director
Tim Kiser, Public Works Director / City Engineer

SUBJECT: Review of Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan, July 2007

RECOMMENDATION: Allow for presentation from Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) and adopt the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan of July 2007, as amended, via resolution 07-- and provide direction to NCTC and City Staff to update any applicable NCTC/City policy documents to integrate the conclusions of this Plan and work in a collective effort to implement its recommendations

BACKGROUND: The Nevada County Transportation Commission on behalf of the County of Nevada, City of Grass Valley, City of Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee funded the update of the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan. The funding for this project consisted of $32,490 of Rural Planning Assistance funds. This planning effort was conducted by Alta Planning + Design in coordination with the County jurisdictions and included public outreach through an online user survey of bicycle conditions and needs, and three public workshops.

The Grass Valley 2020 General Plan contains a number of policies in its Circulation Element about the need for adopting a comprehensive bicycle master plan and working to enhance the bicycle routes of the community. Bicycle Master Plans are required for Counties and their jurisdictions to be eligible for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funding, which is a statewide competitive grant funding program that provides approximately five million dollars annually for Class I, II, and III bicycle transportation facilities. The Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan must be adopted by resolution by the jurisdiction in order for them to be eligible to apply for BTA grant funding.

Once the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan is adopted by resolution by the jurisdictions, NCTC as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County will submit the plan and adopting resolutions on behalf of the jurisdictions to the Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit for approval.

Funding, prioritizing, and implementing specific bicycle projects in the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan will be the responsibility of each jurisdiction. Applications for the FY 2008/09 BTA grant funding cycle are to be submitted to the Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit by December 2, 2007.

NCTC, Nevada County, Truckee and Nevada City have approved resolutions in support of the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan. During your November 13 meeting, Dan Landon, Executive Director of NCTC, will provide an overview of the Plan. Also, representatives
from the Sierra Express Bicycle Club (SEBC) have expressed an interest to provide input to the Council on the Plan.

If the Council is supportive of the recommendations of the Plan, direction can be provided to both NCTC and City staff to begin its implementation. A resolution is attached that would adopt the Bicycle Master Plan on behalf of the City of Grass Valley. The resolution contains Exhibit “A” which are amendments proposed by staff to the Master Plan. These amendments correct and clarify some of the existing and future bikeway designations.

Concerning the implementation of the proposed improvements listed in this Master Plan, the following items will need to be completed to implementation of the improvements:

1. Adoption of the Master Plan by the City of Grass Valley, as all of the other Nevada County jurisdictions have approved the Plan.
2. Completion of Preliminary Engineering (preferred design alternatives, environmental clearance, and accurate costs estimate for the proposed project). This activity has not been begun for any of the proposed Grass Valley Projects.
3. Approval of the project by the Grass Valley City Council, including normally allocating a 10% matching funds for any proposed improvement. This activity has not been begun for any of the proposed City of Grass Valley Projects.
4. Funding applied for and obtained for the project (Typically, all environmental documentation is approved and right of way has been obtained). This activity has not been begun for any of the proposed City of Grass Valley Projects.
5. Completion of bid/construction documents. This activity has not been begun for any of the proposed City of Grass Valley Projects.
6. Construction of the project. This activity has not been begun for any of the proposed City of Grass Valley Projects.

FISCAL IMPACT: The adoption of this study has no direct fiscal impacts. It is proposed that the City and NCTC work in a collective effort to identify and procure any state or federal grant sources that would fund the development of bike routes per the recommendations of this Master Plan.

Cc: Members, Planning Commission
    City Department Heads
    Members, Planning Division
    Dan Landon, NCTC

Attachments:
1) Resolution and Exhibit “A” adopting Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan
2) Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan, July 2007 (provided as separate attachment)
3) Staff Report to NCTC for July 6, 2007 Meeting on Bicycle Master Plan
4) Letter from Darwin S. Leek requesting to comment on Bicycle Master Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 07-____
A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
APPROVING THE NEVADA COUNTY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN, JULY 2007
AND PROVIDING DIRECTION TO INITIATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the
designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Nevada County, created
pursuant to Title 7.88, of the State of California Government Code, Section 67920; and

WHEREAS, the NCTC has acted as the lead agency on behalf of Nevada County,
Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee to contract with Alta Planning +
Design to prepare the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the NCTC accepted the Nevada County Bicycle Master – July 2007 as
complete at their meeting July 18, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Bicycle Master Plans are required to be adopted by Counties and their
jurisdictions to be eligible to apply for Bicycle Transportation Account funding; and

WHEREAS, adoption establishes eligibility for five consecutive Bicycle
Transportation Account funding cycles; and

WHEREAS, the NCTC as the RTPA for Nevada County will submit the Nevada
County Bicycle Master Plan and adopting resolutions on behalf of the jurisdictions to the
Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit for approval; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley will then be eligible to submit grant applications
for the FY 2008/09 Bicycle Transportation Account funding cycle.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Grass Valley adopts the
Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan - July 2007, as amended with Exhibit “A”, and
directs staff to forward a copy of the signed resolution to the Nevada County
Transportation Commission for their submittal to the Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the adoption of the Nevada County Bicycle Master Plan
by the City Council of the City of Grass Valley is categorically exempt from the California
Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15306.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the
City of Grass Valley held on November 13, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers
NOES: Councilmembers
ABSENT: Councilmembers
ABSTAIN: Councilmembers
APPROVED:

_________________________________
Mark Johnson, Mayor

ATTESTED:

________________________________
Kristi Bashor, City Clerk, City of Grass Valley

APPROVED AS TO FORM: ________________________
Ruthann Ziegler, City Attorney