

# Staff Report City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** David N. Carmany, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development

Nhung Madrid, Management Analyst

Jack Rydell, Traffic Engineer

**DATE:** February 7, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Designating Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue as Bicycle Friendly Streets

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve designating Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue as Bicycle Friendly Streets.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

Bike Route signs and installation could be funded through the existing Public Works Department operating budget. Other future improvements such as signal modifications, bicycle detection devices, and traffic calming devices will require funding through the Capital Improvement Plan.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On November 15, 2011, City Council adopted the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan. This plan is the region's first multi-jurisdictional bike plan which serves as a guiding document for increasing the City's bikeability as well as providing connectivity throughout the South Bay. Specifically, the Plan proposes to expand the bikeway network an additional 213.8 miles across the seven cities of El Segundo, Lawndale, Gardena, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Torrance over the next 20 years. Currently, Manhattan Beach has 3.2 miles of bikeway (The Strand Bike Path 2.1 miles and Valley Drive Bike Route 1.1 miles), and the Master Plan proposes to increase it by 27.8 miles for a total of 31 miles of bikeway.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The South Bay Bicycle Master Plan identifies many roadways throughout the City targeted for modifications to create bicycle facilities. The new facilities can take the form of bike paths (a completely separated, paved right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians), bike lanes (a restricted right-of-way striped on a street and designated for the exclusive use of bicycles, with cross flows by pedestrians and motorists permitted), bike routes (an on-street right-of-way designated by signs or pavement markings to be shared between bicyclists and motorists), or Bicycle Friendly Streets (local roadways that have been enhanced with treatments that prioritize bicycle travel, including signage, pavement markings and traffic

calming). Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue are proposed for improvements that would allow them to become "Bicycle Friendly Streets". By turning these two roadways into Bicycle Friendly Streets, this would add approximately 2.9 miles of bicycle facilities to the 3.2 miles of existing bicycle network within the City, essentially doubling the bicycle network.

The improvements planned for Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue are based on four premises identified below:

- Follow the goals and objectives in the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan
- Immediately pursue easily implementable items
- Identify items that require additional discussion, approval and funding
- Adhere to the standards and guidelines in the current California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD)

Staff reviewed the two roadways and developed a series of recommendations as contained in this report. Staff recommends installing "BIKE ROUTE" signage at the beginning of each of the two roadways and at each location where Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue intersect another roadway identified in the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan as a bike facility. This will clearly identify to bicyclists as well as motorists that the roadways are intended for bicycle use. It will also provide consistent guidance to bicyclists that they are on a designated bicycle route. All signage will be installed on existing poles, except for one sign which will require the installation of a new pole at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Following the installation of only the Bike Route signage, staff will pursue installation of "shared

roadway bicycle markings" also known as "sharrows" as part of an upcoming Capital Improvement Plan project. Included are examples of a sharrow roadway marking on Hermosa Avenue in Hermosa Beach as well as one showing their use on a two-lane roadway.

These markings perform several functions including advising bicyclists where to ride to avoid impacting opening doors of parked



vehicles, reinforcing to bicyclists that



Typical Sharrows on

they are on a roadway intended for bicycle use and alerting motorists to the potential for encountering bicyclists. We propose placing these markings adjacent to the Bike Route signs at a later date. This delay is intended to allow Staff to conduct community outreach meetings to advise residents of the purpose of the markings and what they mean.

Additional improvements that Staff will pursue with a separate funding source through the Capital Improvement Plan includes the modification of three (3) traffic signals along both roadways (at Manhattan Beach Boulevard for both Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue and at Marine Avenue

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for Redondo Avenue) in order to install bicycle detection at these intersections. This will provide increased convenience for bicyclists by allowing them to easily activate a green phase when they are present. Bicycle detection can take the form of either loops in the roadway or video detection.

After the initial phase of installing the Bike Route signs, staff will conduct community outreach meetings to determine the level of support for potential traffic calming devices on these roadways that would enhance bicycle mobility. The exact type and number of traffic calming devices cannot be identified at this time since traffic calming is a highly controversial issue and requires strong consensus among the community for it to be successful and well received. Therefore, staff does not recommend pursuing specific items at this time prior to conducting community outreach meetings.

### **CONCLUSION:**

By enhancing and expanding bicycle opportunities in Manhattan Beach and the South Bay, this will provide a cohesive network with connectivity between the Cities. Staff recommends that the City Council approve designating Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue as Bike Friendly Streets, thus meeting the Mayor's goal of doubling the bikeway mileage in Manhattan Beach by May 2012.

Attachment: A. Signage Plan for Pacific Avenue and Redondo Avenue

B. Current Bicycle Facilities

cc. Jim Arndt, Director of Public Works

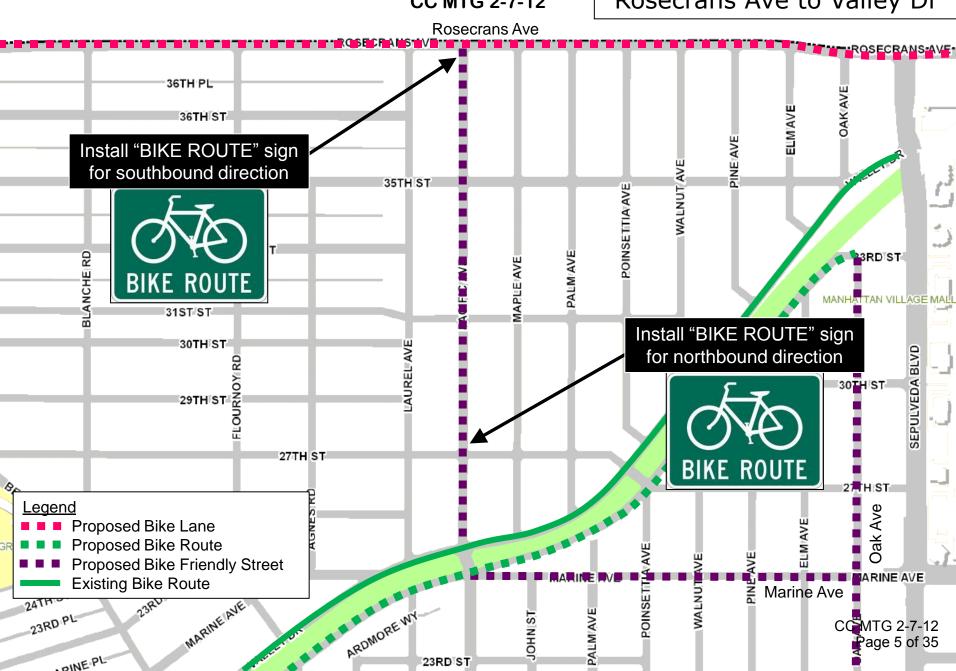
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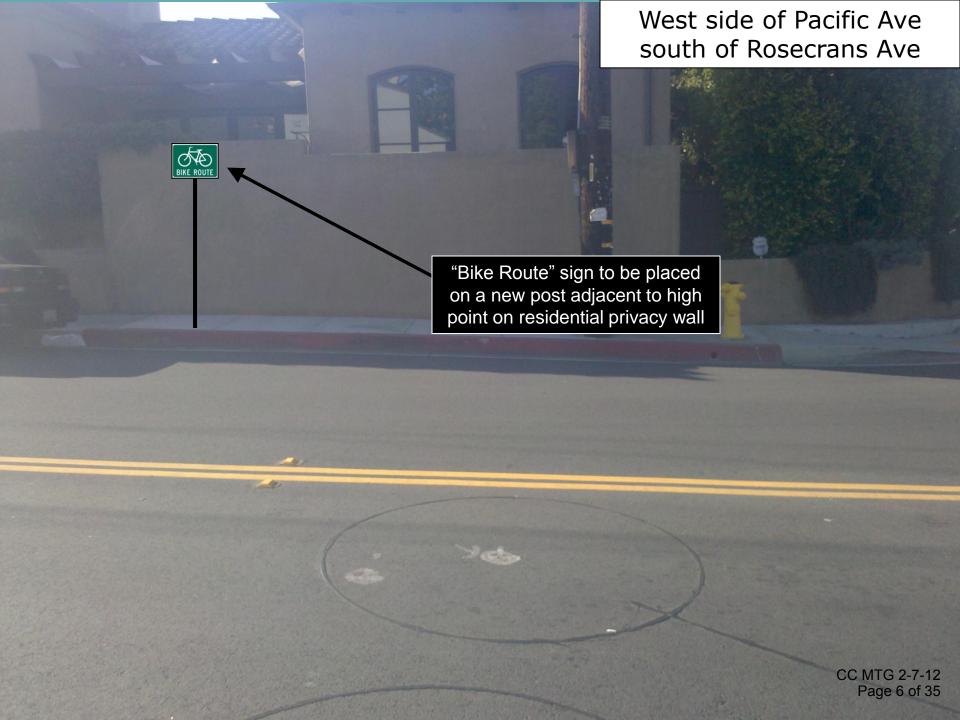
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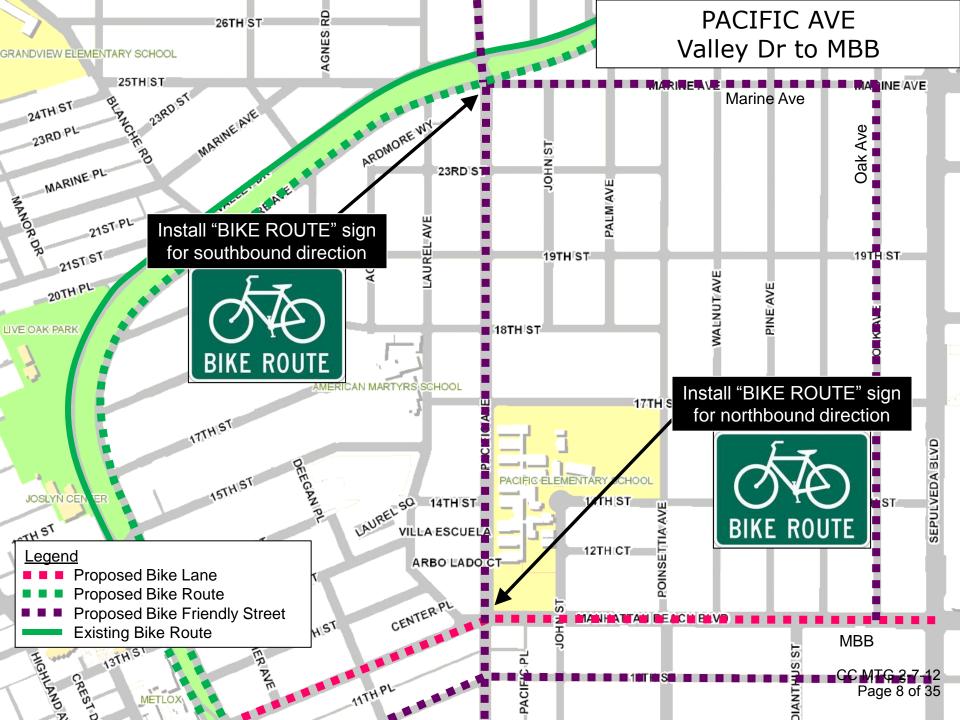
### EXHIBIT A CC MTG 2-7-12

PACIFIC AVE Rosecrans Ave to Valley Dr



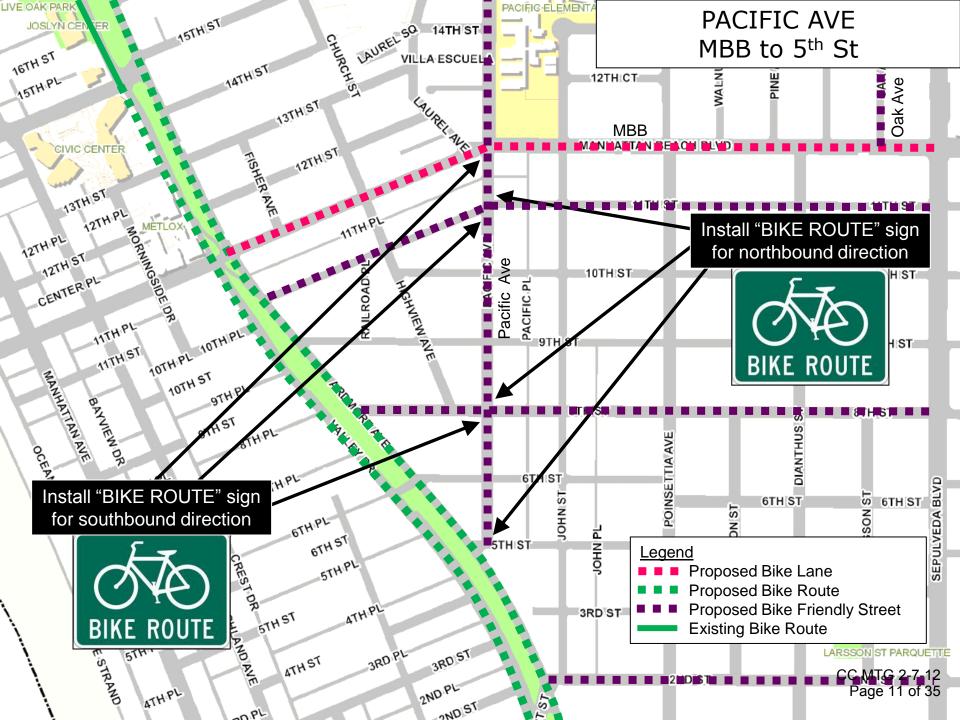








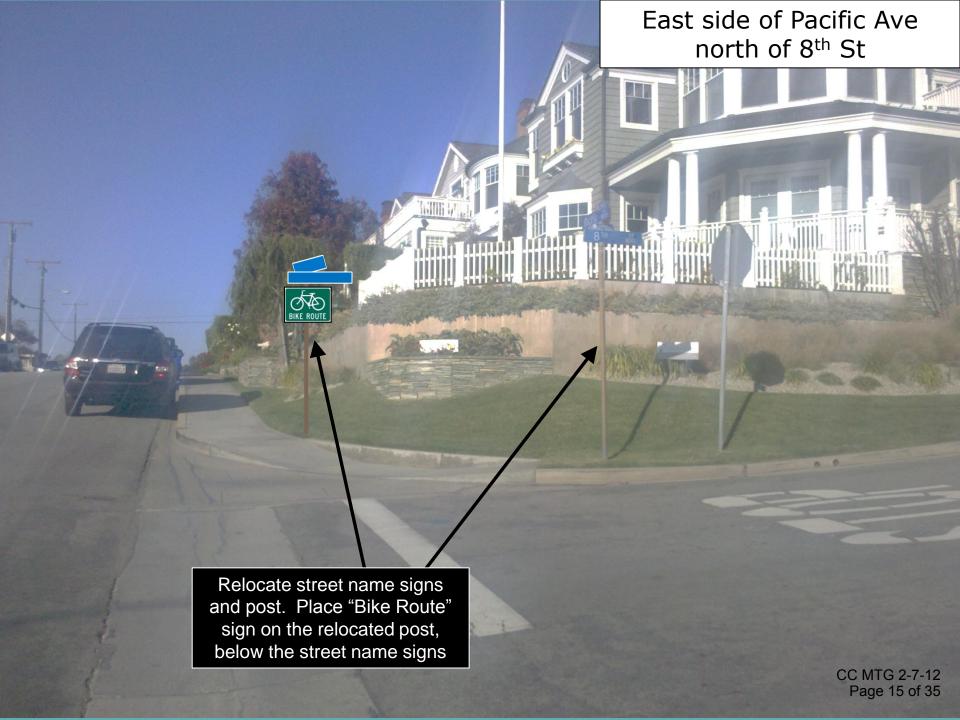






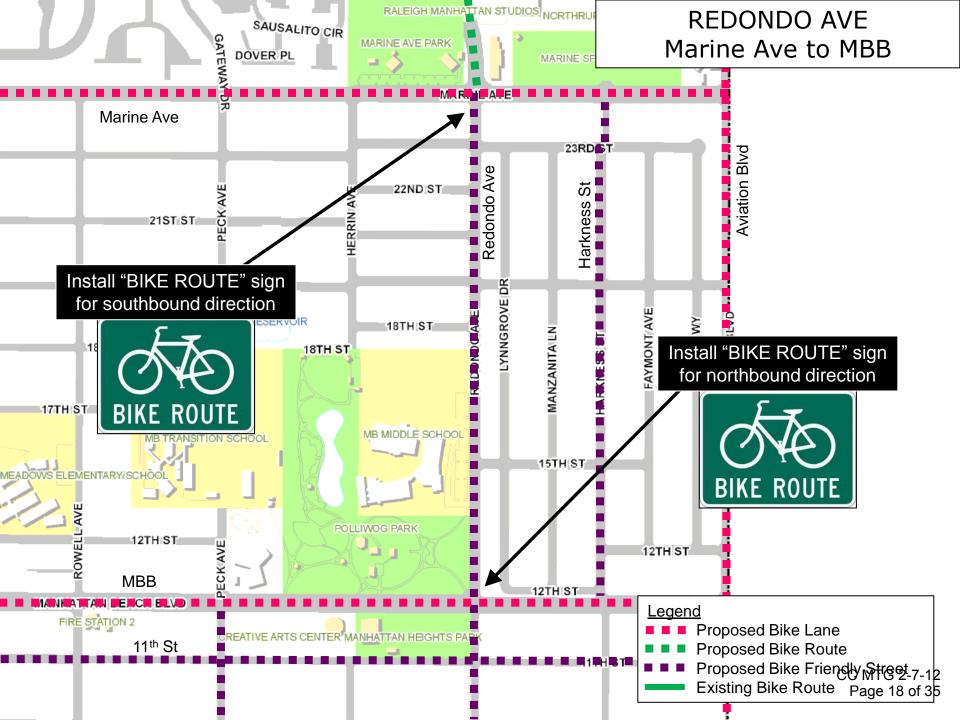






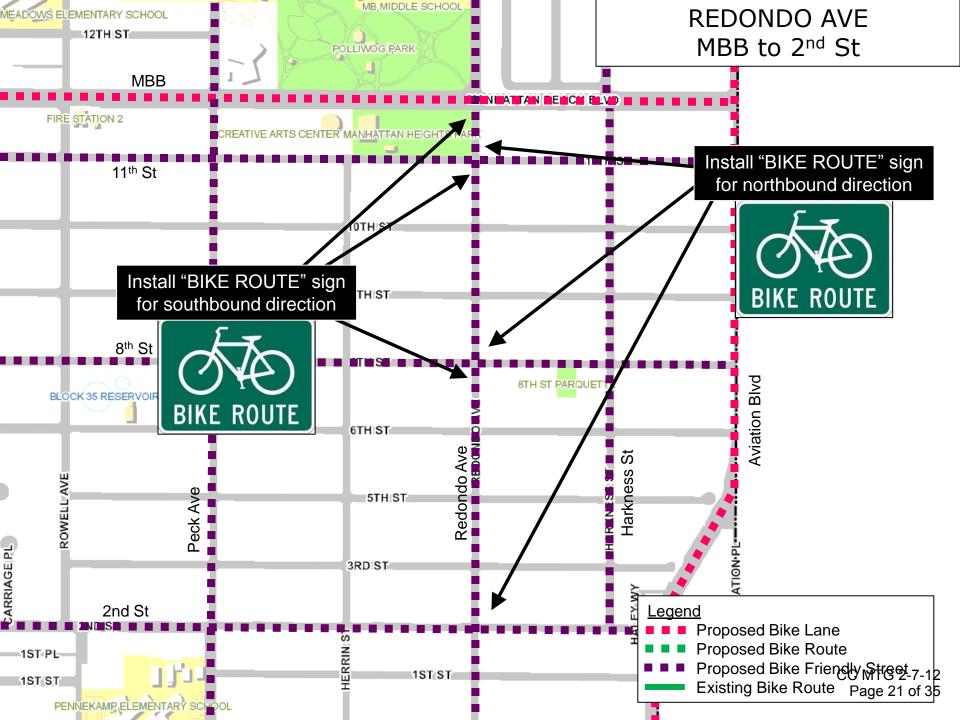














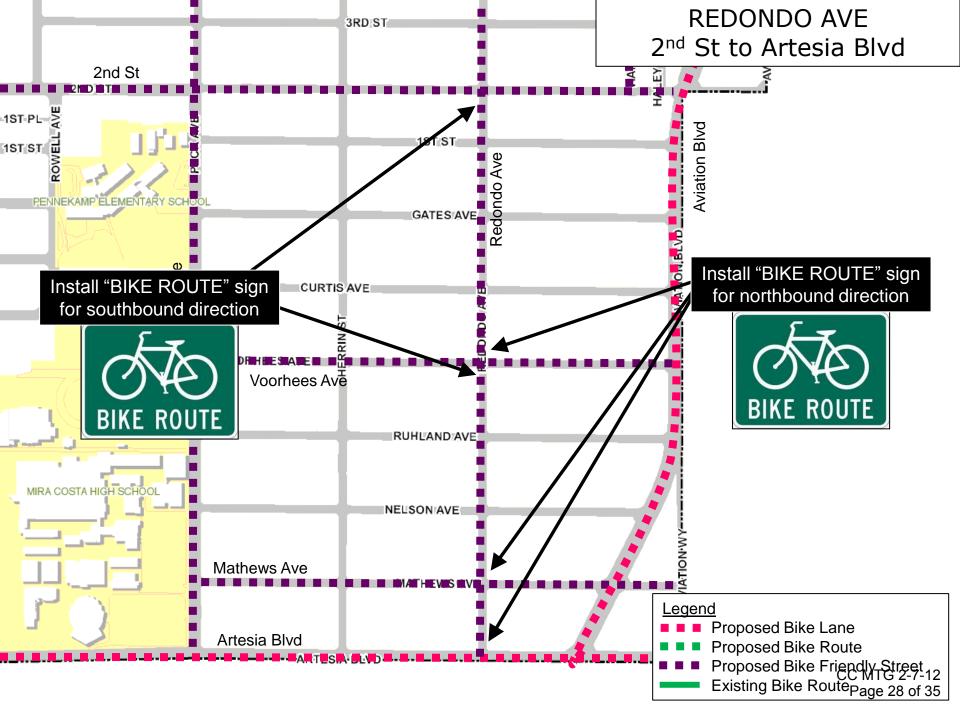






















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