

## ***CIRCULATION AND MOBILITY ELEMENT***

### **2.3.1 INTRODUCTION**

Circulation and mobility consider how people and goods move through and around the City. The Circulation and Mobility Element addresses how a comprehensive, integrated transportation network can be planned to maximize individual mobility in a manner consistent with community character and environmental protection. The City is committed to providing a complete, connected, multimodal transportation network. California law requires that transportation and land use policies be closely correlated. The Arcata General Plan accomplishes this correlation in two ways. First, travel demand has been forecasted based on the amount and distribution of growth anticipated by the land use plan. Second, the Transportation, Land Use and Air Quality policies are linked to balance land uses and the transportation facilities that serve them. The overall theme of this element is achieving a balanced transportation system that is safe, accessible, comfortable, accommodating, and welcoming to all users. Transportation and mobility planning and policies in Arcata will put the safety of people first, both outside of vehicles and in them, recognizing that mobility goes beyond vehicular circulation patterns. Protecting and improving safety must come first in our transportation, circulation, and mobility policies and planning decisions. This is in line with a “Vision Zero” approach to transportation planning that strives to eliminate traffic-related death and injury as the highest priority in transportation planning, above and beyond speed, convenience, and financial cost.

#### **Guiding principles and goals.**

- A. Provide a connected multimodal transportation and mobility system that contributes directly to the safety, health, economic vitality, and quality of life of all people in Arcata.
- B. Create a transportation system that incentivizes a choice of travel modes and is safe, accessible, comfortable, accommodating, and welcoming to all users. Put safety first in all mobility planning, policies, and projects.
- C. Provide for increased use of active and shared transportation modes as alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle, including walking, rolling, bicycling, public transit, carpooling/vanpooling, and ridesharing.
- D. Prioritize investment and transportation planning that shifts the City's transportation system from being car-centric to one in which transit and active transportation are competitive or superior to single-occupancy vehicles in terms of convenience, perceived and actual safety, and accessibility for all residents.
- E. Manage the street and highway system to promote more efficient use of existing facilities rather than increase the number of travel lanes or make other capacity enhancements.
- F. Create an accessible multimodal transportation system for people of all mobility levels that will improve the livability of residential neighborhoods, including use of methods to calm or slow traffic and reduce through-traffic on local neighborhood streets.
- G. Educate residents, employees, and students about the importance of using alternative forms of transportation and mobility instead of the single-occupant automobile.

- H. Promote land use patterns that encourage walking, rolling, bicycling, and public transit use.
- I. Establish a set of fee-based parking prices that are high enough to drive more active and shared transportation.
- J. The City recognizes that safe mobility is a right of all people in Arcata.

**Existing roadway system.** Arcata's pattern of highways and streets is like that of many small and rural communities. The central business district has a traditional grid pattern of streets with a one-way couplet system comprising the primary arterial. A non-grid series of arterial and collector streets surrounds the central business district and serves outlying residential subdivisions, neighborhood shopping centers, Cal Poly Humboldt, and industrial areas. On the outer edges of Arcata, the transportation system is comprised of rural roads and highways serving isolated farms and residences. Arcata is bisected by the US 101 freeway, the main highway serving the North Coast of California from San Francisco to Oregon.



**Functional classifications of the street system.** Arcata's existing and planned primary streets and their functional classifications are shown in Figure CM-a. The functional classification system is described in the following paragraphs. All streets within Arcata city limits, except for access-controlled segments of Highways 101 and 299 and certain rural roads, are lined with homes and businesses and will be managed primarily to provide safe access and high-quality public space regardless of functional classification. Slow speeds and traffic calming will be prioritized on all city streets.

Freeways and highways are high speed facilities with restricted access that move traffic on an intercity or regional basis. Access to freeways is limited to grade-separated interchanges. Routes 101 and 299 are designated as freeways. Highways are also high-speed facilities but have fewer restrictions on access and at-grade intersections. Route 255 is designated as a highway.

Arterial streets provide intracity mobility as efficiently as possible. In addition to interconnecting the various parts of the City, arterial streets provide some access to abutting lands. Arterials in Arcata have fewer traffic control devices at intersections compared to those in other communities. Every traffic signal in Arcata is located on Samoa Boulevard, which is State Route 255. Examples of arterials include the "G" and "H" Street one-way couplet, Alliance Road, Samoa Boulevard and L.K. Wood Boulevard.

Minor arterials provide access to development on adjacent lands, primarily provide mobility between arterial and collector streets. Examples include Buttermilk Lane and West End Road within City limits, and Jacoby Creek Road and Upper Bay Road (within the Sphere of Influence).

Collector streets provide both mobility and access to land in about equal proportions. These roadways move vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic within and between residential,

commercial, and industrial areas. As the name implies, collector streets are intended to collect traffic from local streets and channel it to the arterial street system. Examples of collector streets include 7th Street, 14th Street, Union Street, Buttermilk Lane, and Fickle Hill Road.

Local streets mainly serve to provide access to development on abutting parcels of land. These low-speed roadways provide access between land uses and collector streets. Local streets serve various land uses including residential, commercial, and industrial. Often, local streets in residential areas are utilized by through traffic, resulting in complaints from residents about speeding and high traffic volumes.



Rural roads are generally two-lane unimproved facilities located on the outer edges of the community, not within the City. Their primary function is to provide connection and access to farms, isolated residential areas, and industrial uses. Rural roads usually do not have typical urban improvements such as underground drainage, lighting, sidewalks, or curb and gutters. Examples of rural roads in the Arcata area include Mad River Road, Upper Bay Road, Jackson Ranch Road, the western portion of Foster Avenue, and Jacoby Creek Road.

**Existing transit.** The Arcata & Mad River Transit System (A&MRTS), operated by the City, offers public bus service to the City. Fixed service routes include the Red, Gold, Green and Gold, and Orange Route(s) running along major streets in the City to destinations including City Hall, Uniontown Shopping Center, and Mad River Hospital and to major inter-route transfer points including the Arcata Transit Center and Cal Poly Humboldt (Figure CM-b). The Willow Creek route offers travel between the communities of Arcata and Willow Creek, located east of Arcata. Humboldt Transit Authority (Transit Authority) also provides regional public transportation for Humboldt County, including service through Arcata via the Redwood Transit System, a fixed route system serving cities along the Highway 101 corridor from Trinidad to Scotia. The Redwood Transit System has four stops in Arcata including Cal Poly Humboldt and the Arcata Transit Center. The Arcata Transit Center, located on "F" Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, provides a centralized transit facility for buses operated by A&MRTS, Transit Authority, Greyhound, and Amtrak. The Transit Center provides a park-and-ride lot and secure bicycle facilities.

Cal Poly Humboldt student ridership is significant during the school season. Cal Poly Humboldt provides unlimited free ride access on several Transit Authority routes, including A&MRTS, through the Jack Pass program. The Jack Pass program aims to encourage mass transit and reduced student travel via single-occupant vehicles.

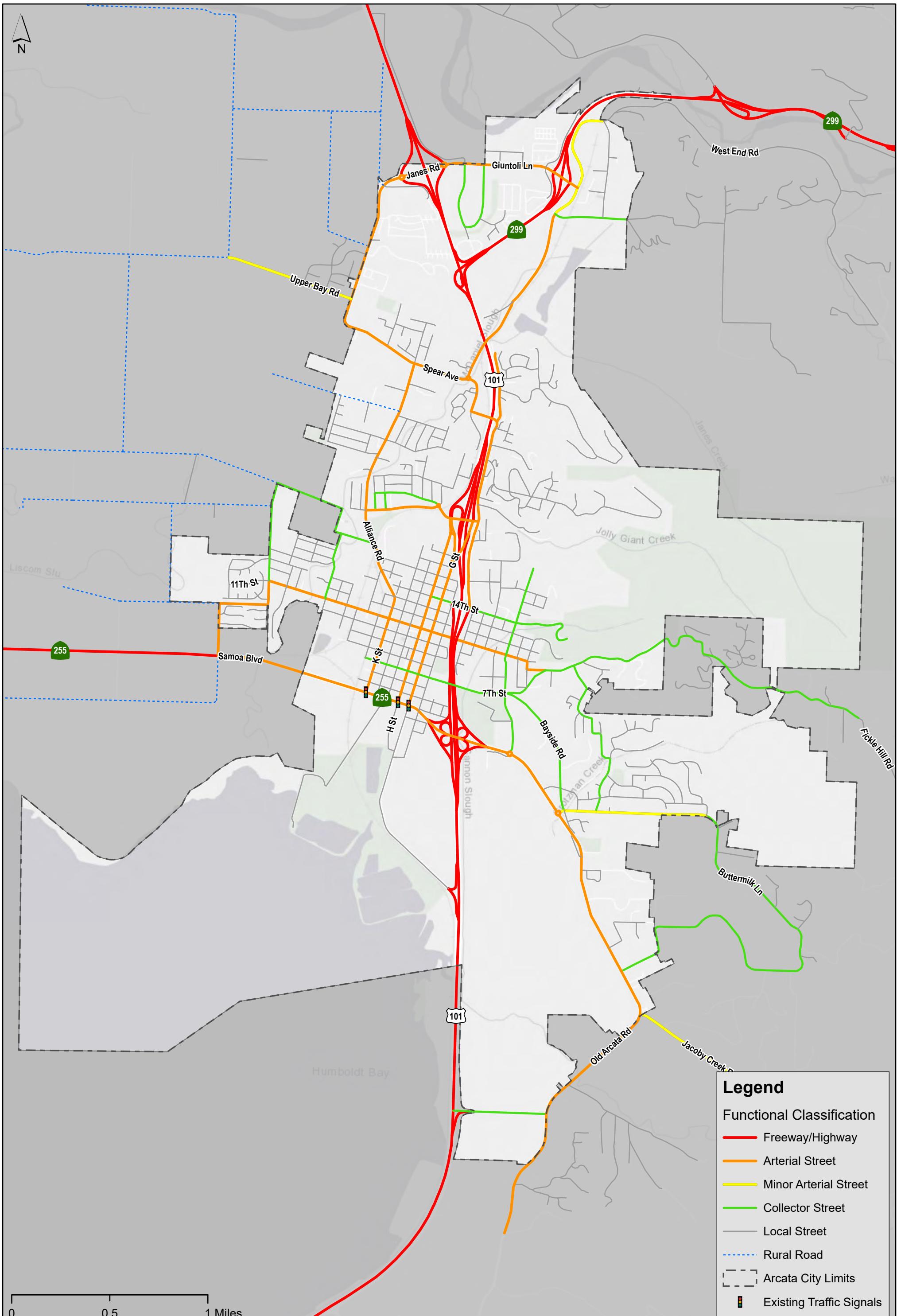
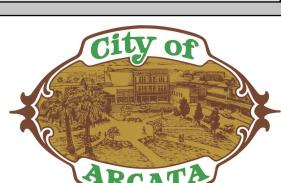


Figure CM-a

## City of Arcata General Plan: Street Functional Classifications

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Map Date: 9/2/2022



The Humboldt County Transit Development Plan (Transit Plan), prepared for the Humboldt County Association of Governments, provides guidance to local agencies on service programs, capital improvements, and financial strategies to improve the public transit services in Humboldt County over a five-year period. The City will review and consider adopting the recommendations in the updated Transit Plan as they become available. Recommended alternatives in the Transit Plan include the following.

- *Adjust Schedule to Better Match University Class Schedules / Increase Trip Choices.* The Transit Plan found that adjustments to transit schedules that allowed more time for students to get to class from campus stops would encourage more transit use.
- *Make the Community Center an “On Demand” Stop.* Due to low ridership, the Community Center stop was identified and recommended for “on demand” service. On demand service procedures include passengers telling operators on boarding to be dropped off and calling a service helpline in advance to be picked up.
- *Extend Transit Service to South G Street.* Higher density housing and commercial activities are identified south of Samoa Boulevard on H and G Streets and potentially capture additional ridership for the Red Route.
- *A&MRTS Services Recommended Contingent on Funding: Provide a High Frequency Shuttle between Cal Poly Humboldt and Downtown in Peak Periods.* The Transit Plan also recommended considering a new shuttle service during peak periods so that students and university staff would be better served as the highest transit demand was noted between Downtown Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt.

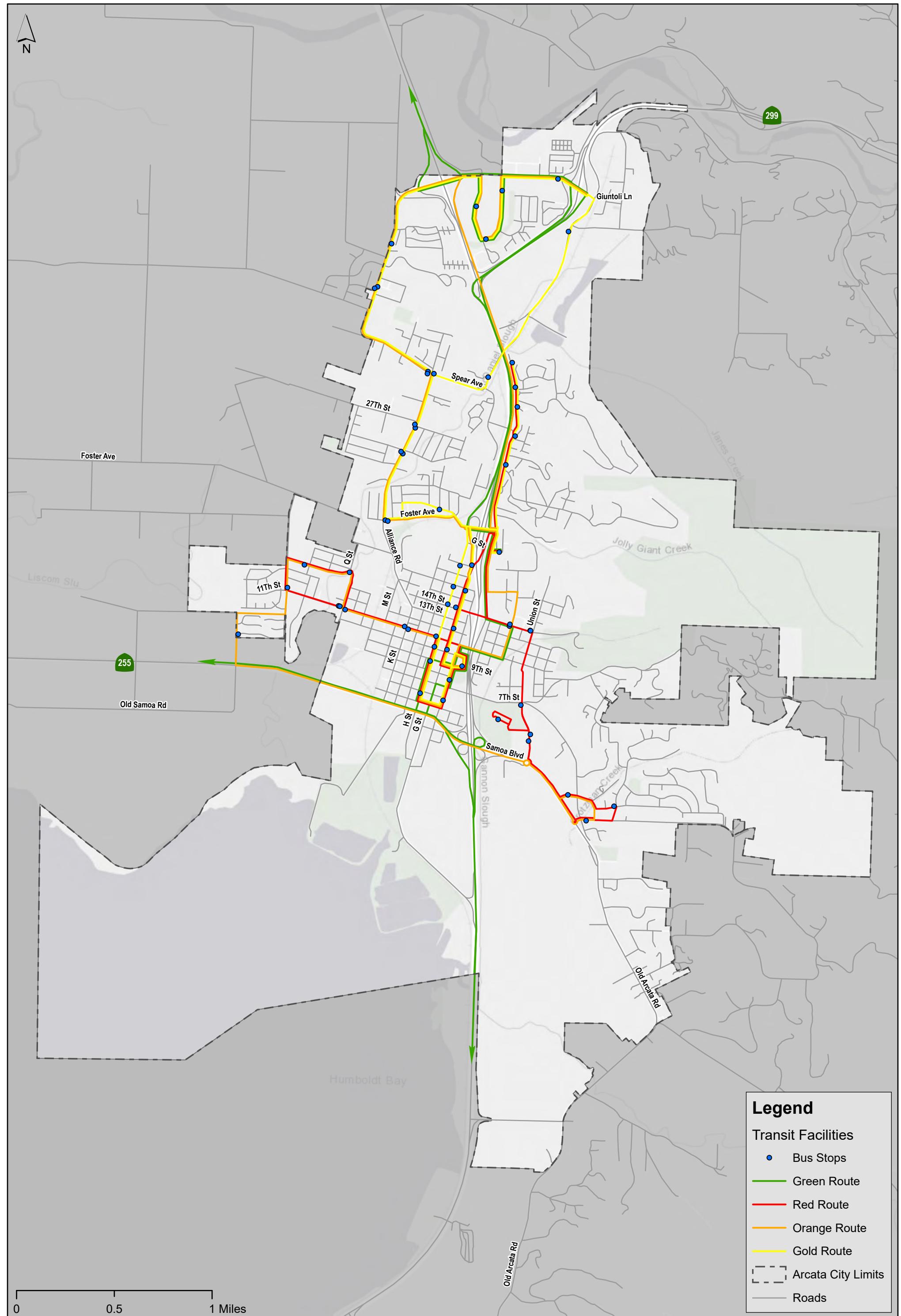
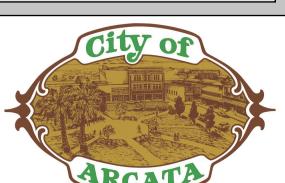


Figure CM-b City of Arcata General Plan:  
Transit Routes 2024

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Map Date: 9/2/2022



**Existing Bicycle and pedestrian facilities.** Arcata's bicycle transportation system consists of Class I off-street shared use paths, Class II bike lanes, Class III bike routes, and bicycle boulevards on public streets. Class I facilities are multi-use paths that provide a completely separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with cross flows of motorized traffic minimized. Class II bike lanes provide a striped and signed lane for one-way bicycle travel on a street or highway within the paved area of a roadway. Class III bike routes are specially designated corridors in which the travel lanes are shared by motor vehicles and bicycles and are usually marked with on-street pavement stencils. Research has shown that Class III bike routes do not provide adequate safety or comfort for bicyclists unless significant additional design features are included. Bicycle boulevards are a type of Class III facility on low-volume roadways that prioritize the use of bicycles with traffic controls, signage, roadway markings, and traffic calming measures, including bicyclists having the right-of-way. Class IV bike lanes are protected from traffic by a vertical barrier. Arcata does not currently have any Class IV bike lanes, but research has shown that most people will not bike on busy streets without them.

Arcata presently provides a bikeway network connecting most major areas of the City on primary arterial streets, but many of the current facilities do not provide adequate protection for the comfort and safety of bicyclists. The primary Class I shared use path along the L Street rail alignment provides a north-south connection from the southern City limits and to the Humboldt Bay Trail south to Eureka, connecting to Alliance Road north of the Gateway area and Foster Avenue at Sunset Avenue. Additional Class I facilities provide brief connections between existing roadways and on-street bicycle facilities. Most Class II bike lanes are located on north-south streets, while Class III bike routes provide east-west connection on key streets. The western portion of the City (west of Alliance Road) is least served by bike lanes, providing an opportunity to expand the bike lane system to encompass more residential areas. Figure CM-c presents the existing bicycle and trail facilities. The City of Arcata adopted a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, last updated in 2010 that identifies pedestrian and bicycle conditions and various proposed improvements. Regional trail needs are assessed when Humboldt County Association of Governments updates the Regional Bike Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan. The 2018 Regional Bike Plan identifies the following proposed bikeways for short-term regional priority projects (not yet completed):

- 11th Street Corridor (Janes Road to Bayview Street) – Class II / Class III
- F Street (7th Street to 14th Street) – Class I / II
- Sunset Avenue east (L.K. Wood Boulevard to Jay Street) – Class I

**Improvements since 2020 General Plan.** Below is a list of bikeway and trail improvements that have been implemented since the last update of the General Plan and since the 2010 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan:

- Class I Shared-Use Paths/Trails:
  - Humboldt Bay Trail – Arcata Segment, Arcata Skate Park to Bracut Marsh
- Class II Bike Lanes:
  - Foster Avenue Extension (east) – from Alliance Road to Sunset Avenue (also includes adjacent Class I trail)
  - G and H Streets

- Old Arcata Road – Hyland Street south city limit
- Samoa Boulevard – Union Street to Crescent Way
- Class III Bicycle Boulevards:
  - Q Street – 11<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>
- Class III Bicycle Routes:
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Street – B Street to Union Street
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Street – K Street to L.K. Wood Boulevard
  - Baldwin Street – Cahill Park to Sunset Avenue
  - Union Street – Samoa Boulevard to 14<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Westside Corridor (includes Janes Road, Vaissade Road, V St.) from Foster Avenue to Samoa Boulevard

Pedestrian facilities are provided throughout Arcata in the form of sidewalks on public streets and along Class I shared use paths that also accommodate bicyclists. Refer to the City's design standards for sidewalk widths and right-of-way. Many streets, particularly local, collector, and rural roads, do not have curbs and gutters or sidewalks – forcing pedestrians to walk on unpaved shoulders or within the travel lanes. While the downtown and areas surrounding Cal Poly Humboldt provide a continuous sidewalk system in other areas of the City, there are many gaps in the sidewalk system. The City's standard sidewalk meets the minimum Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, but wider sidewalks are desirable for high-traffic pedestrian locations and to encourage walking. Narrow sidewalks are often obstructed with utility poles, signs, and street furniture, further reducing their effectiveness. In addition, the City's street standards lack sufficient width for planting strips or street trees, which are important elements in promoting walking as an alternative mode of transportation. Opportunities exist, however, within the standard fifty-foot wide right-of-way to provide street trees in planter boxes located in the parking lane, or to add a planting strip between the sidewalk and travel lanes when new development projects are considered.

**Existing Freight Transportation Systems.** Arcata has designated truck routes on several key arterial and collector streets including Giuntoli Lane, Valley West/Valley East Boulevard, West End Road, Alliance Road, "K" Street, Spear Avenue, L. K. Wood Boulevard, 11th Street, Fickle Hill Road, Union Street, Old Arcata Road, Vaissade Road, Heindon Road, South G Street, Janes Road, and Samoa Boulevard. These streets provide intracity connections for freight travel and serve most of the industrial areas of the City. All state facilities including Routes 101, 299, and 255 are designated truck routes. US Highway 101 is considered an STAA Terminal Access Route within Humboldt County, apart from Richardson Grove at the southern border with Mendocino County where access is limited as a California Legal Truck Route. SR 299 is considered an STAA Terminal Access Route between US Highway 101 in Arcata and Interstate 5 in Redding, and SR 255 is considered a California Legal Truck Route between Eureka and Arcata.

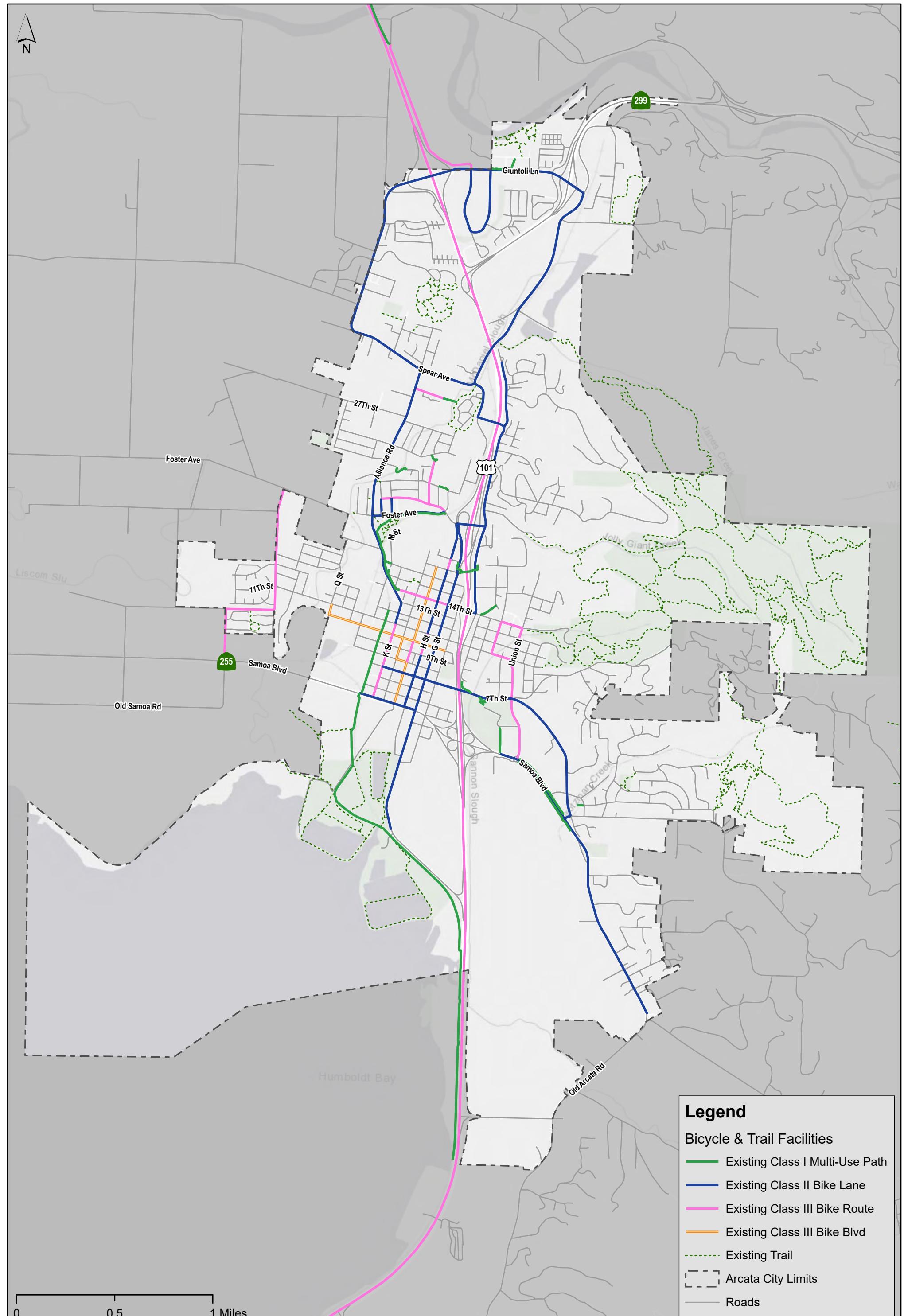
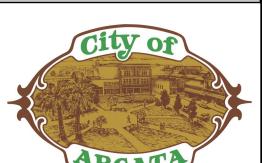


Figure CM-c

## City of Arcata General Plan: Bicycle and Trail Facilities 2024

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Map Date: 9/2/2022



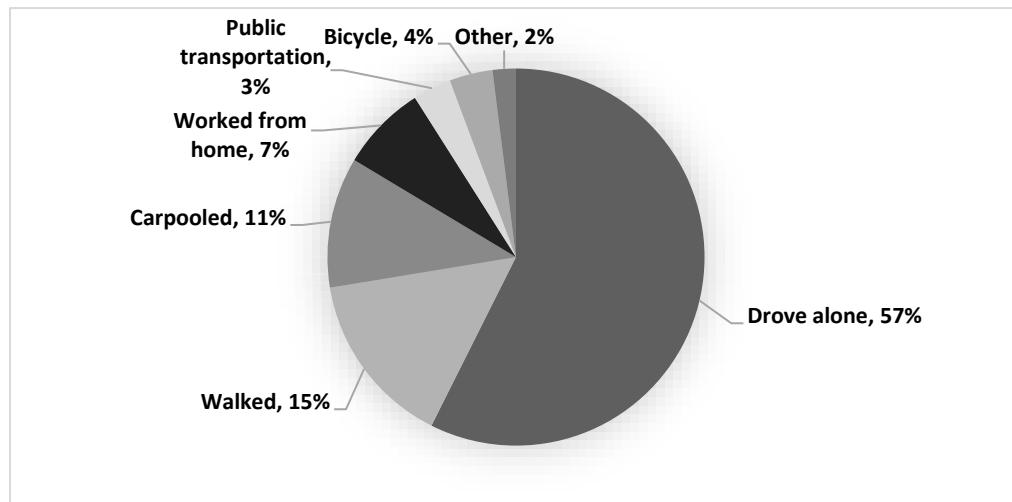
**Railroad Right-of-way Transportation Systems.** Arcata has railroad right-of-way managed by the Great Redwood Trail Agency (Trail Agency), with spurs into several industrial properties. Although most rail service was suspended following damage to tracks caused by storms in 1997, the mainline and many spurs in Arcata were active prior to that time. They served several industrial uses in the northeast and southwest areas of the City and were used to move freight between Arcata and Eureka. The Trail Agency was established in March 2022. The Great Redwood Trail is a proposed multi-use rail-to-trail project connecting San Francisco to the Humboldt Bay area.

Several rail corridors in Arcata have already been converted into Class I trails with others planned. The Arcata Rails with Trails Project was completed connecting Foster Avenue and Alliance Road south to SR 255 along the L Street rail alignment (Phase 1 of the Humboldt Bay Trail).

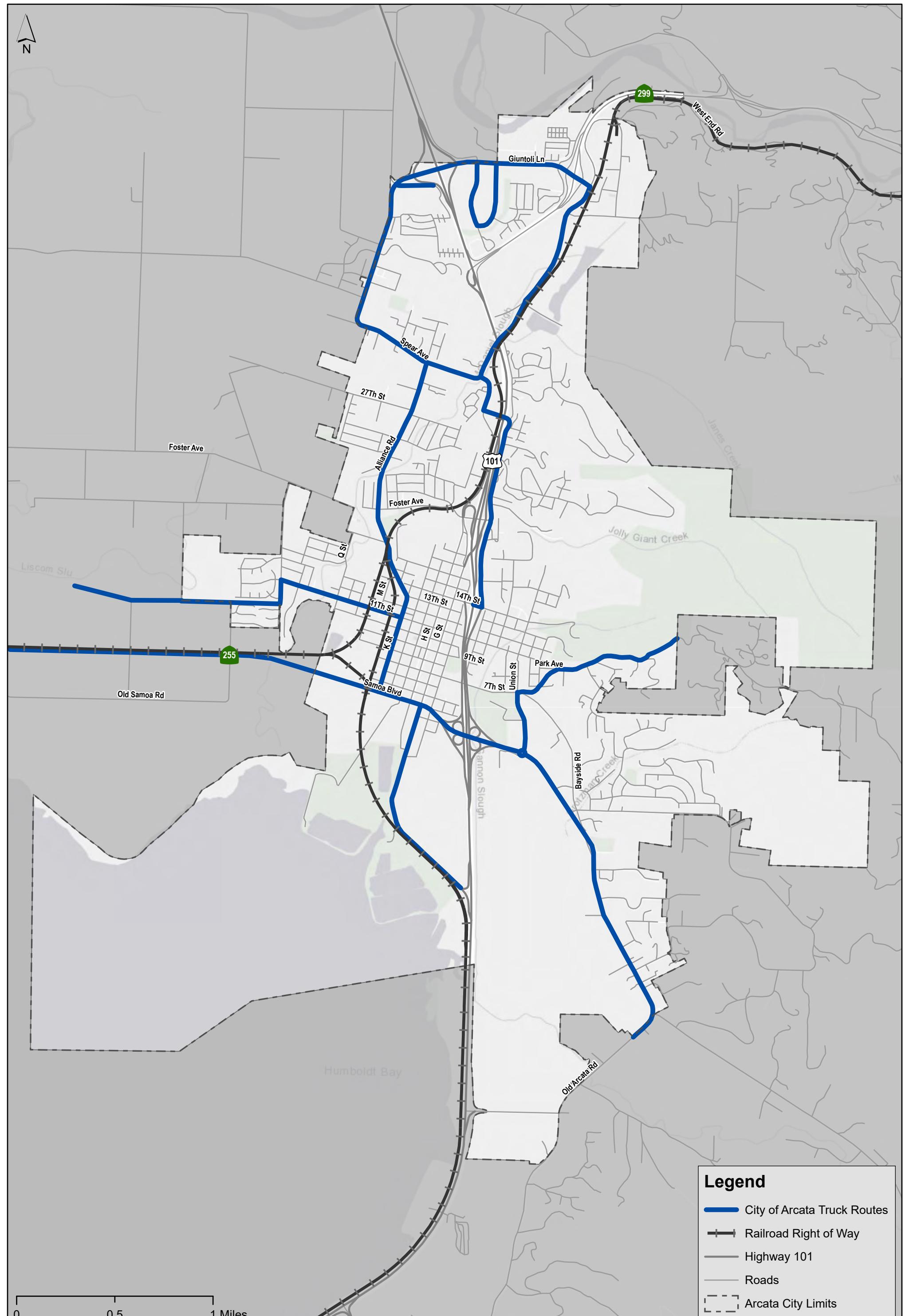
The rail to trail corridor south of SR 255 at this location to US 101/Bracut has also been constructed (City of Arcata Rail with Trail Connectivity Project) and is part of the Humboldt Bay Trail connecting to Eureka. The Annie and Mary Rail Trail and Trail Connectivity Project are planned trails that will connect Sunset Avenue to the Aldergrove Industrial Park along West End Road in Arcata, and then continue east to the City of Blue Lake along the inactive rail corridor.

**Existing Modes of Travel.** Based on 2020 census data, the majority of Arcata residents drive alone to work (57%) as shown in the accompanying graph. Walking and bicycling modes make up 15% and 4% respectively. About 7% of Arcatans work at home and 3% commute via public transportation. While low on a citywide basis, public transit usage is higher in some areas of the City when examined at the census block level using Replica. In the downtown area, the split for walking increases to up to 37%.

#### Existing Modal Split

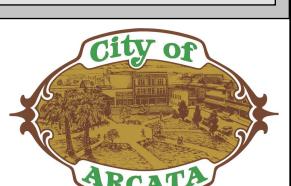


Source: US Census, 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates.



**Figure CM-d City of Arcata General Plan:  
Truck Routes and Rail 2024**

Created by GHD  
Map Date: 9/2/2022



**Existing Travel Demand Management.** The most comprehensive use of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures is by the City's largest employer, Cal Poly Humboldt, which has the following programs offered by the University:

- *Jack Pass* – utilizes student ID cards and reduced rates for staff and faculty to ride local bus system.
- *Zipcar* – car-sharing program offered to students as alternative to car ownership or rental with two cars on campus.
- *Humboldt Bikeshare* – bike-sharing program with stations on campus and in and around Downtown Arcata.
- *Bicycle Learning Center* -campus bike shop run by students offering parts, tools and instruction on bike repair, maintenance, and safety.
- *Carpool Preferential Parking* - allows commuters by car with additional passengers between designated hours (7am and 11am) to receive permission to park in preferred locations for the day.
- *Homeward Bound Bus Charter* – Program offered during school year that provides students discounted round-trip fare for travel between Arcata and San Francisco or Los Angeles. (Note program offered for free during 2022 school year supported by funding to meet students with basic needs, subject to funding availability in the future.)

**Proposed Circulation Network.** Arterial, collector, and local roads will provide access to new and established residential, commercial, and industrial areas, connecting those areas with the existing local and regional transportation system. Buildout of the General Plan land uses to year 2045 will increase multimodal access demands and will result in areas already under stress to exceed acceptable limits for safety.

To accommodate the existing and planned land uses within the City, a robust network of multimodal safety improvements will be needed. At the US 101/Sunset Avenue interchange, the City proposes to install two roundabouts at the interchange including pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Additionally, implementation of the mobility improvements within the Gateway Area Plan, including the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street couplets extension, will ensure all transportation modes remain comfortable, convenient, safe, and attractive to residents, workers, students, and visitors, with an emphasis on mode shift away from single-occupancy vehicles. The City should fully investigate and publicly assess detailed alternatives to provide access to the west side of the Gateway Area.

Table CM-5 presents the proposed circulation improvements identified to meet City goals. Figure CM-e presents the proposed Vehicular Circulation Plan on the following page.



**Table CM-5 Proposed Vehicular Circulation Improvements**

Location	Improvement	Notes
Sunset Avenue Interchange	Dual Roundabouts at both ramp termini. The easternmost roundabout will be 5-legged combined with ramps and L.K. Wood Boulevard.  Class I path on south side of overpass.	Travel Demand Management. Safety improvements for all modes, with bicycle and pedestrian safety addressed through design phase.
Samoa Boulevard (SR 255) at US 101 Interchange	Full Interchange redesign with two roundabouts via “diamond” ramp configuration.	Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections across US 101 overpass. Improve interchange access.
14 <sup>th</sup> Street at L.K. Wood Boulevard	Roundabout	Large intersection, will provide safer access for all modes. Entry feature for campus and City at US 101.
14 <sup>th</sup> Street at H Street	Restripe southbound left lane to be dedicated left turn lane. Also provide improved bicycle access.	Travel Demand Management.
Alliance Road at M Street/15 <sup>th</sup> Street	Intersection improvements including channelization.	Travel Demand Management. Ensure bicycles and pedestrians are a priority in design.
Alliance Road at Foster Avenue	Roundabout (or mini roundabout)	Travel Demand Management.
Foster Avenue Connection	Connect Foster Avenue west of Alliance	Circulation improvement. Traffic will be diverted from 17 <sup>th</sup> Street and some from M Street at Alliance Road.
Giuntoli Lane / SR 299 Interchange	Dual Roundabouts at both ramp termini	Travel Demand Management. Safety improvements for all modes.
Giuntoli Lane at Valley West Boulevard	Roundabout	Travel Demand Management. Safety improvements for all modes.

Location	Improvement	Notes
K Street between Samoa and Alliance	Consider bike lane, sidewalk, bulb outs, crosswalk improvements, and other features to improve safety.	Safety improvements to better accommodate all modes.
Gateway Area Plan Improvements	Improvement	Notes
Barrell District Roadways	New roadway connection through Barrell District.  New emergency access roads along southern end of Q Street and between N Street and O Street west of 9 <sup>th</sup> Street.	
8 <sup>th</sup> Street and 9 <sup>th</sup> Street One-Way Couplet	Extend existing couplets west to N Street.	

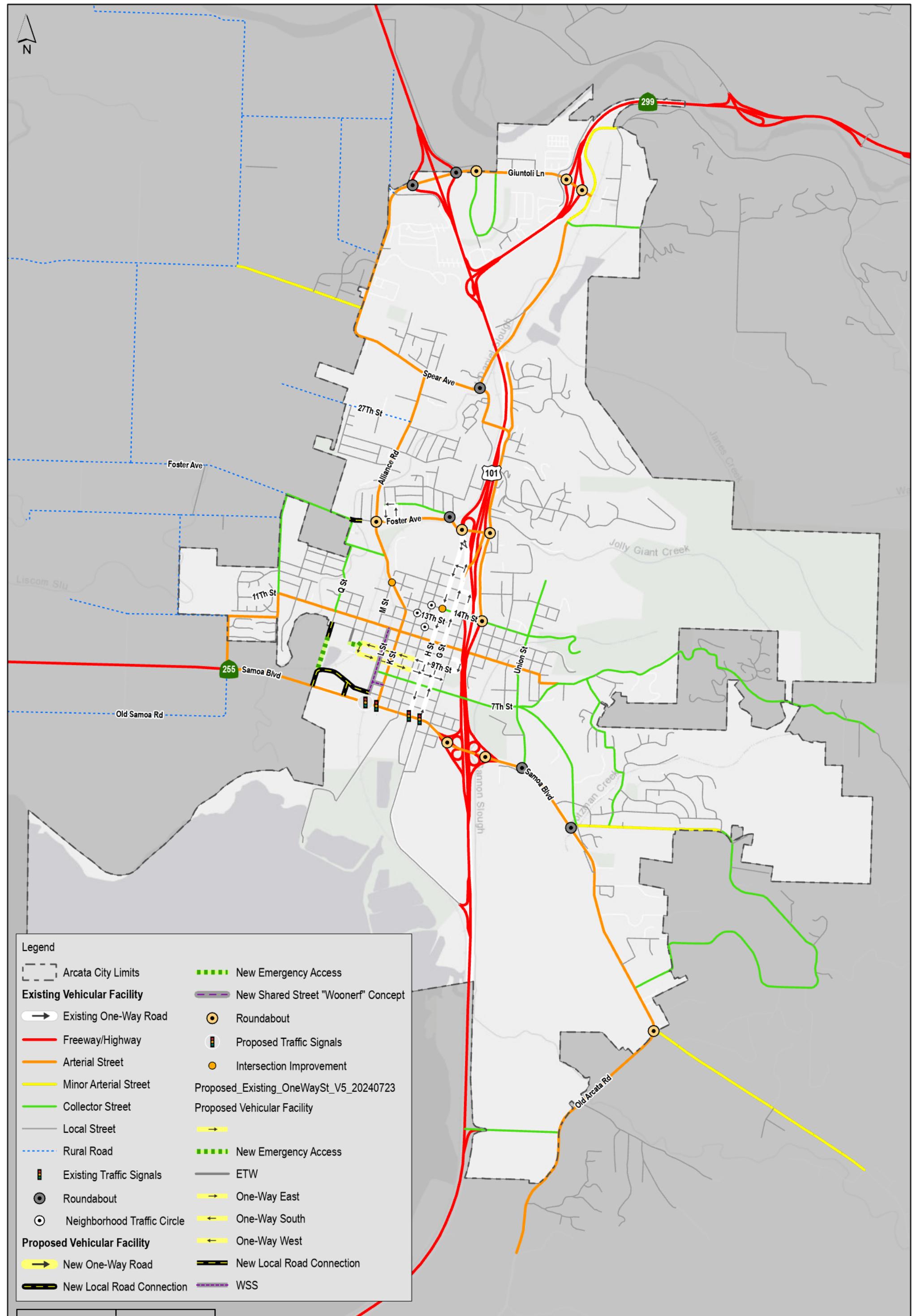
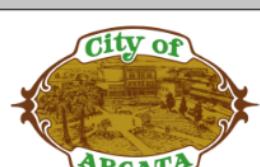


Figure CM-e

## City of Arcata General Plan: Vehicular Circulation



Active Transportation ideas included in the Gateway Area Plan include the Shared Street, “Woonerf” concept proposed on 6<sup>th</sup> Street between K Street and L Street. A woonerf is a low-flow, slow-speed, local traffic only street that is designed to safely accommodate bikes, pedestrians, and play, as well as limited use for vehicles. Through this concept walking and bicycling are the primary modes emphasized and vehicle traffic is de-emphasized. Through traffic calming, lowered speed limits and enhanced streetscapes, Shared Streets allow more public space opportunities that prioritize people over vehicles. The potential to apply these concepts outside of the Gateway Area depends on context but the City should consider context-specific implementation via Policy.

Table CM-6 presents the proposed bikeway improvements identified to meet City goals and are consistent with the Gateway Area Plan and the City of Arcata Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (2010). This list may be superseded based on subsequent updates of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan or a similar planning document. Since this list is shown for illustrative purposes, any future updates that add or remove facilities that accomplish the overarching goals of active transportation will not be considered in conflict with the General Plan simply because the projects differ from Table CM-6. Figure CM-f presents the proposed Active Transportation Circulation Plan on the following page.

Table CM-6 Proposed Bikeway and Trail Improvements

Bicycle Facility	Roadway/Name	Location
Class I Trail / Shared-Use Path		
	Annie & Mary Rail Trail	West End Road to Arcata Skate Park
	Hammond Trail	Arcata Bottoms to west of Foster Avenue Extension
	Sunset Avenue	L.K. Wood Blvd to Jay Street (south side of 101 overpass)
	Giuntoli Lane	West End Road to Janes Road
	Samoa Blvd.	Union to G street K Street to V Street (and eventually to Manila)
	10 <sup>th</sup> and/or 11 <sup>th</sup> Streets	Bayview to Janes Road
	Spear and St. Louis	Janes Road to L.K. Wood Blvd.
	Class I Paths in Gateway Area Plan:	South of Q Street alignment to Barrell District Roadway Along Barrell District Roadway Along rail line southwest of 9th Street Along N Street alignment from 9th St to Alliance Road

Bicycle Facility	Roadway/Name	Location
		Along L Street north along rail line to M Street then north to Alliance Road  14th Street west of M Street to proposed trail along N Street alignment  Pedestrian path along 12 <sup>th</sup> Street west of M Street to proposed Class I path  Pedestrian path south of O Street to proposed Class I path
<b>Class II Bike Lanes</b>		
	11 <sup>th</sup> Street	Janes Road to B Street
	7 <sup>th</sup> Street	Between L Street and K Street
	8 <sup>th</sup> Street	N Street to J Street (Gateway Area Plan)
	9 <sup>th</sup> Street	J Street to N Street (Gateway Area Plan)
	F Street	7th to 11th Streets
	Foster Avenue Extension (west)	West of Alliance Road to Foster Avenue
	K Street	Samoa Blvd to 11th Street (Gateway Area Plan)
	N Street	9th Street to 8th Street
	Sunset Avenue	Jay Street to G/H Streets
<b>Class III Bicycle Route</b>		
	11 <sup>th</sup> Street	Union Street to Bayview Road
	14 <sup>th</sup> Street	L.K. Wood Blvd to B Street, then Union Street
	16th Street	M Street to G Street
	Alder Grove Road	West End Road to Ericson Way
	Bayview Street	13th Street to 11th Street
	Boyd Road	Giuntoli Ln to Sierra Way
	Buttermilk Lane	Samoa Blvd east to Arcata city limit
	D Street	11th Street to ped. trail south of 9th
	Ericson Way	West End Road to Aldergrove Road
	Foster Avenue	Janes Road to Alliance Road

Bicycle Facility	Roadway/Name	Location
	Q Street	17th Street to 11th Street
	Stromberg Ave/Maple Ln	Alliance Rd to Janes Creek Linear Trail
	South G Street	Arcata Corp. to Yard Highway 101
	Union Street	14th Street to 17th Street
	West End Road	Giuntoli Ln to Ericson Way
	Wyatt Lane	27th Street to Stewart Avenue
Shared Street	6 <sup>th</sup> Street	Between L Street and K Street

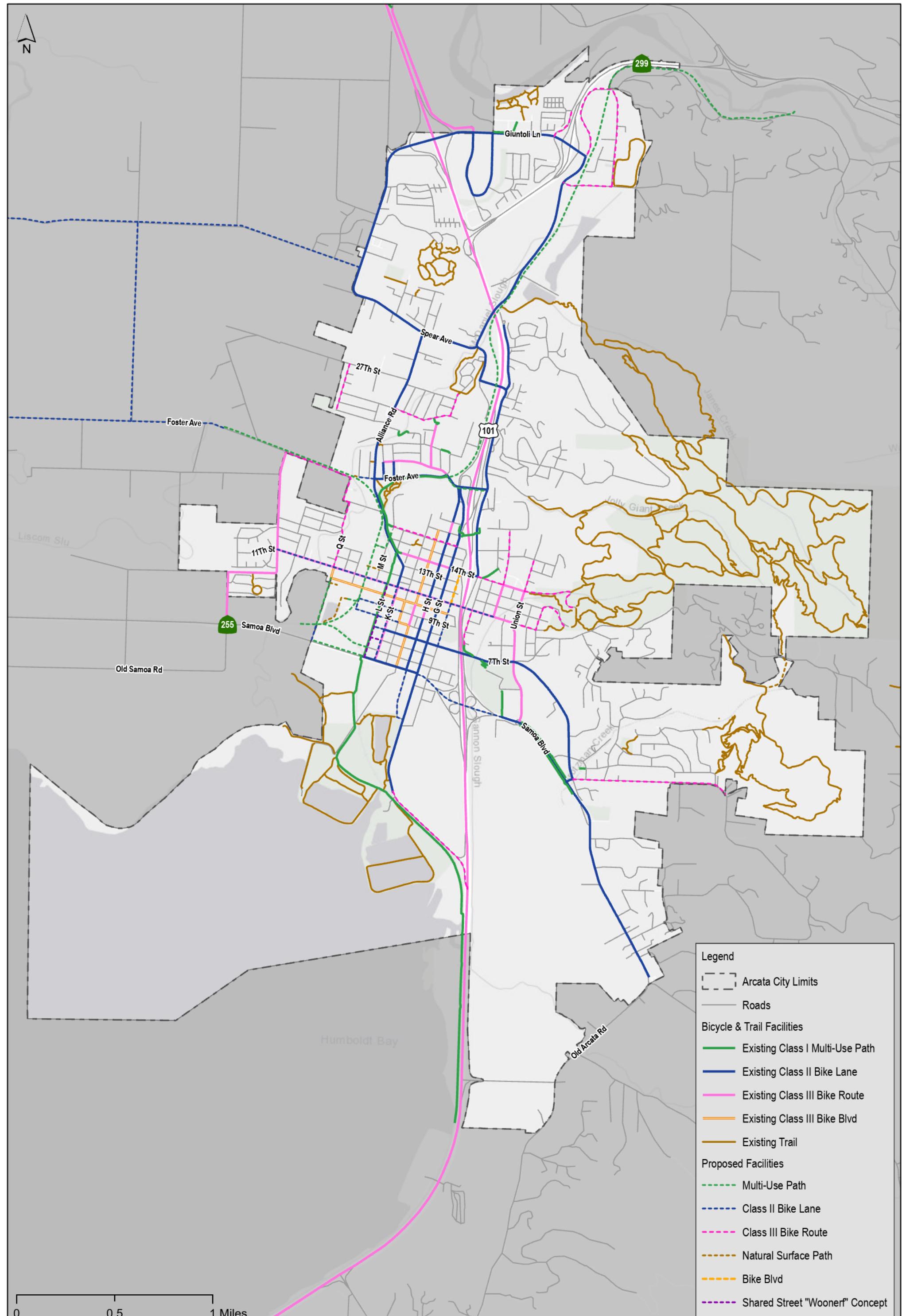
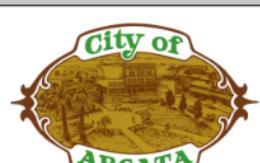


Figure CM-f

## City of Arcata General Plan: Active Transportation Circulation

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Map Date: 5/09/2024



## 2.8 POLICIES

The Circulation and Mobility Element includes the following policies:

- CM-1 Balanced Transportation System with Choice of Modes
- CM-2 Travel Demand Management
- CM-3 Bus Transit System
- CM-4 Circulation Maps and Context Sensitive Street Design
- CM-5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
- CM-6 Parking Supply and Parking Management
- CM-7 Freight Transportation
- CM-8 Financing Transportation Improvements

### POLICY CM-1 BALANCED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITH CHOICE OF MODES

**Objective.** Create and maintain a balanced transportation system with choice of bus transit, bicycle, and pedestrian as well as private automobile modes. Reduce the percentage of trips that are made by automobile and provide the opportunity and facilities to divert trips from automobiles to other modes. In planning for improvements to the overall circulation system, design the system to accommodate the planned amount of growth outlined in other policies. Ensure the circulation system supports a functioning, safe, sustainable multi-modal network. Support increased demands for all efficient forms of mobility emphasizing alternative modes, pedestrians, bicycles, and other non-motorized or shared transit options, then vehicles and trucks, to induce demand of multimodal transit alternatives and implement transportation demand management strategies, in keeping with citywide Circulation Element policies.

- CM-1a **Complete streets.** The City shall direct the design, construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance efforts on the City's streets, bridges, pathways, and sidewalks, creating a comprehensive, integrated transportation network that is safe, accessible, comfortable, accommodating, and welcoming to users of all ages, races, ethnicities, incomes, and physical abilities, and all modes of transportation, particularly those walking, rolling, biking, and using transit, and in doing so the City shall apply a Complete Streets framework in all applicable and feasible transportation projects to allow the safe, comfortable, convenient and accessible use of streets for all street users. Throughout the City, design sidewalks and street crossings for maximum accessibility. Accessibility features may include but are not limited to widening sidewalks, requiring high-visibility/striped crosswalks, installing bulb-outs, pedestrian activated crossing signals, and aligning ramps with path-of-travel. Where the urban grid pattern is interrupted or incomplete, evaluate opportunities to continue the circulation block patterns with new connections that consist of entirely non-vehicular active transportation facilities.
- CM-1b **Investment in alternative modes.** To provide a realistic and cost-effective balance between travel modes, the City shall emphasize investment in alternative modes

(bikeways, etc.) as a priority over increasing vehicular capacities of streets. Support ride-share in various modes (car, bike, etc.) through public and private infrastructure, and encourage systems designed to provide access to shared facilities. Improvements and programs should include public options, such as bike share racks or carpool parking, public-private partnerships for vehicle share, and private facilities or programs, such as project-based car share.

CM-1c **Interconnections and transfers between travel modes.** The City shall provide and maintain a Transit Center to facilitate interconnection and transfers between bus routes and systems. As funding permits, Transit Center facilities shall be improved to encourage its use as a multi-modal transfer point. Pedestrian and bicycle amenities shall be provided at other locations that serve as modal transfer points such as bus stops and park-and-ride lots.

CM-1d **Intercity travel.** The City shall coordinate with Humboldt County and Caltrans to provide adequate facilities for vehicles, buses, and bicycles to serve intercity demand. Joint efforts may include transportation improvements outside of Arcata that serve intercity travel, such as bicycle links, timed-transfer bus stops, park-and-ride lots, and regional transit service and development of park-and-ride lots in Arcata to reduce intercity vehicular travel.

CM-1e **Critical transportation facilities.** Critical transportation facilities for emergency vehicle access and emergency evacuation shall be maintained and improved as a priority need. However, when determining needed improvements, ease and speed of emergency vehicle access shall be weighed against safe design for all street users. Critical transportation facilities include the major routes into and out of the City such as Highways 101, 299, and 255, their interchanges with City streets and primary intra-city street connections including Samoa Boulevard, 11th Street, "G" and "H" Streets, Sunset Avenue, L.K. Wood Boulevard, Alliance Road, Janes Road, and Giuntoli Lane. Due to the potential for structural failure of these facilities in a seismic emergency, alternative routes and procedures for their use shall be identified.

CM-1f **Parking and public transit service study.** The City shall undertake a comprehensive study of parking and public transit service options for the downtown/uptown area and Cal Poly Humboldt, with cost/revenue implications presented for each option. This study shall be undertaken jointly with Cal Poly Humboldt.

CM-1g **Mobility equity.** The City will adopt policies, pursue plans, and implement programs and projects that further transportation and mobility equity. Safe mobility is a right for everyone in Arcata. Recognize and work to address the systemic barriers that many Arcatans, specifically persons with disabilities, families with children, and lower-income Arcatans, face accessing both active transportation and public transit.

CM-1h **Transportation network that promotes wellbeing.** Create a transportation network that promotes physical, social, and mental wellbeing. Transportation networks consist of the routes that connect places and shape how people move around their

communities. Prioritize the design of transportation infrastructure projects to support convenient and safe active transportation and affordable public transit.

CM-1i **Balanced transportation system.** Create and maintain a balanced transportation system with choice of bus transit, bicycle, and pedestrian as well as car sharing and private automobile modes. Reduce the percentage of trips that are made by automobile and provide the opportunity, incentives, and facilities to divert trips from automobiles to other modes. Provide negative incentives, such as parking meters, permit parking, time limited parking, carpool incentives, and other targeted parking measures that encourage alternative modes utilizing “induced demand” strategies.

CM-1j **Mobility infrastructure that supports a car-free lifestyle.** Plan and implement the mobility and circulation infrastructure to support a car-free lifestyle, increase pedestrian safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and minimize vehicle miles traveled.

## **POLICY CM-2 TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT**

**Objective.** Reduce the percentage of automobile trips and reduce the annual vehicle-miles of travel.

CM-2a **Land use development patterns.** The City encourages and supports travel demand management efforts. The City shall promote land use and development patterns that encourage walking, bicycling and transit use. In recognition of the link between land use and transportation, the land use plan shall discourage low density, homogenous land-use patterns that foster automobile travel and are impractical to serve with transit. Land use planning shall emphasize high density and mixed land-use patterns that translate into higher transit and pedestrian travel in the downtown and neighborhood commercial areas. Infill, redevelopment, and reuse of underutilized property at higher densities shall be encouraged prior to outward expansion of City boundaries. The following land use measures are emphasized:

1. Mixed-use neighborhood centers within transit corridors that include housing and commercial services near employment.
2. Land use patterns that maximize linking trip opportunities by assembling uses, thus allowing people to take care of a variety of daily needs with a single trip.
3. Clustering of higher density housing and incorporation of residential units on upper floors of commercial buildings.
4. Integration of new housing into neighborhood shopping centers, including Sunny Brae, Westwood, and Valley West.
5. Pedestrian-oriented land use and urban design, including the following elements:
  - a. Pedestrian-scale block patterns.
  - b. Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle amenities into public and private projects.
  - c. Design streets for multi-modal use.
  - d. Integrate transit stop facilities into public and private projects.

- e. Orient buildings and houses to the street.
- f. Provide attractively landscaped streets and buffers.
- g. Preserve existing and historic urban fabric.
- h. Eliminate blank wall facades.
- i. Incorporate bicycle routes and enhancements in public and private projects.

4. A fixed urban services boundary to reduce sprawl and infrastructure costs.
5. Focused growth along existing or planned transit corridors rather than extension of transit to serve new isolated development.
6. Prevention of large areas of single uses. Isolated single-use developments at the edge of the City could encourage automobile travel for commuting and errands.
7. Provision of convenience retail and services in ground floor space downtown to accommodate the needs of employees and reduce the need for mid-day automobile trips.
8. Adopt and maintain zoning regulations that allow for a mix of land uses to reduce vehicle trips and the overall need for automobile use.

CM-2b **Consider Non-motorized Campus Layouts.** For areas that have incomplete block patterns and/or are currently lacking in vehicular roadways, consider providing limited to no new facilities for motorized vehicles. Instead, consider creating a campus layout with vehicular access on the perimeter and robust non-motorized facilities throughout the interior. Plan for the infrastructure that would be required for these areas to serve as key park and ride/transit hubs. Where new vehicular roadways are constructed within currently roadless areas, provide for a wide right-of-way whose cross section includes ample on-street parking, narrow vehicle lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks more than six feet, street trees, and enhanced pedestrian crossings at least every 300 feet.

### **POLICY CM-3 BUS TRANSIT POLICY**

**Objective.** Maintain a bus transit system that connects and serves major commercial and employment areas within Arcata, Cal Poly Humboldt, public schools, and higher density residential areas. Increase average citywide transit mode share of daily person trips to 12% from the 2020 level of 3% by 2040.

CM-3a **5-year transit plans.** The City shall improve the existing A&MRTS routes (as shown in Figure CM-b), frequency, as recommended in the latest Transit Development Plan and level of service as funding permits.

CM-3b **Regional transit service.** Short- and long-range transit plans shall be coordinated with the regional transit service provided by the Redwood Transit System. The City supports regional transit plans that improve service and timed transfers, and reduce headways for intercity travel. In the interest of enhanced coordination and efficiency for local and regional service, the City shall



continually evaluate alternatives to existing services including potential mergers with the Humboldt Transit Authority or other service providers.

CM-3c **Bus route system.** Public transportation is both a civil right and a critical climate solution and should be designed to provide service competitive with automobile travel in terms of access and rider safety, convenience and comfort. Potential improvements to the transit system should be assessed according to the best available evidence of both need and existing and induced demand. To increase safety and access to basic needs, work with relevant transit agencies, major employers, key user groups, and area schools to plan for enhanced public transit and school bus lines and new stops to both accommodate the new growth and serve existing community needs.

CM-3d **Transfers between routes and systems.** The public transit system shall provide convenient transfers between routes, other transit services, and other modes of travel such as bike share locations with racks for one-way trip use. The Arcata Transit Center shall serve as the primary multi-modal transfer station. Bus stops should be located near municipal parking lots or future park-and-ride lots. The A&MRTS and Redwood Transit System schedules shall be coordinated to provide a timed-transfer system at key stops.

CM-3e **Bus stops.** Existing bus stops should be improved, and new bus stops on future routes should be designed with appropriate amenities and features. Design elements include either bus stop lanes or bus turnouts. Bus stop design amenities that increase rider comfort and feeling of safety and encourage walking and bicycling are emphasized, including shelters, benches, lighting, shade trees, signs, information kiosks, waste receptacles, paved surfaces, facilities for disabled and alter-abled riders, and secure bicycle parking. Prioritize covered seating at all bus stop locations wherever feasible. Bus stop areas should be consistently maintained and cleaned, including vandalism repair and graffiti removal. Developers shall be required to provide bus stops and amenities on their frontage if the property is located on an existing or future bus route and is an appropriate location for a stop. Pedestrian, bicycle, and handicapped rider access should be provided to neighborhood bus stops.

CM-3f **Transit subsidies for Cal Poly Humboldt.** The City supports continued A&MRTS contract services with Cal Poly Humboldt to provide subsidized fares to its students and employees. This revenue source, which allows these users to ride without cost to the individual, is the single most important Transportation Demand Management strategy for Arcata.



CM-3g **Transit implications of new development.** The engineering department and A&MRTS shall evaluate proposed new development projects and make recommendations prior to project approval regarding transit improvements and road designs.

CM-3h **Use of Micro-transit.** The City shall study investigate the possibility of pairing its traditional fixed-route bus system with an on-demand micro-transit system that could serve lower density areas and feed into the fixed route system to increase transit mode share.

CM-3i **Increase transportation safety and accessibility.** Plan a transportation network that is accessible to persons with disabilities and Arcatans of all ages and income levels. Prioritize public transit in planning for Arcata's transportation network.

#### **POLICY CM-4 CIRCULATION MAPS AND CONTEXT SENSITIVE STREET DESIGN POLICY**

**Objectives.** Plan the circulation network consistent with Figure CM-e and Figure CM-f to create Complete Streets solutions that are appropriate to individual contexts; that best serve the needs of all people using streets and that support the land-use, climate, safety, and environmental quality targets and policies of the City and that: 1) efficiently utilizes existing facilities and reduces need for investment in new or expanded street and highway facilities or capacities; 2) improves connectivity of streets to provide for direct routes between origins and destinations; and 3) has a high quality of regular maintenance and repair.

CM-4a **Freeways and highways.** The following standards shall apply to US 101 and State Routes 299 and 255:

1. No additional travel lanes. The City does not support development of any additional through-travel lanes to US 101 and State Routes 299 and 255 in Arcata or nearby areas. Existing and projected traffic volumes do not warrant additional lanes on these facilities.
2. Auxiliary lanes. The City does not support construction of auxiliary lanes between existing interchanges, or any new interchanges, on US 101.
3. Interchange improvements. The City supports interchange improvements that increase safety and reduce potential conflicts created by unrestricted access from freeway off-ramps.
4. Landscaping. The City encourages Caltrans to maintain and improve landscaping along freeway corridors in Arcata and surrounding areas to improve aesthetics, and provide a visual and noise buffer.
5. Undesignated right-of-way. All public rights of way with no land use designation (i.e. freeways, highways and associated interchanges) should be used for transportation purposes, including multi-modal use. Land uses within these rights of way should be prioritized for transportation or related (i.e. lighting, drainage, utilities, pedestrian and bicycle) purposes.

CM-4b **Vehicular Circulation.** The following shall apply to vehicular circulation routes:

1. Alternative street cross-sections. The Engineering Department shall prepare alternative cross-sections for existing and proposed new arterial, collector, and local streets utilizing a smaller roadway and that reduces traffic speed and shall be designed to allow the safe, comfortable, convenient and accessible use of streets for all roadway users.
2. No additional vehicular travel lanes. Street projects shall not be designed to improve vehicular traffic flow. If congestion occurs, it shall be managed using alternative methods such as diversion of trips to other travel modes or intersection improvements. Construction of additional vehicle travel lanes shall not be considered unless it supports the land-use, climate, safety, and environmental quality targets and policies of the City.
3. Improvements at intersections. Improvements at intersections shall be designed to allow the safe, comfortable, convenient and accessible use of streets and walkways for all roadway users.
  - a. Minor improvements at intersections. Minor projects to improve traffic safety include redistributing lane allocations and coordination of traffic signals. The City shall consider developing traffic signals and signalized pedestrian crossings to accommodate new or denser land uses, traffic patterns, and safety concerns, especially in the Downtown, Gateway Area, and the Giuntoli/Valley West neighborhood.
  - b. Minimize the installation of new traffic signals. New traffic signals shall be provided only in instances where there is no feasible alternative to relieve a demonstrated safety problem at an intersection and based on California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices warrants. Alternatives that shall be studied prior to signals include roundabouts or installation and monitoring of all-way stop signs.

CM-4c **Slowing traffic.** The City should employ a range of measures to reduce speeds and “calm” traffic throughout the City to improve safety and comfort for those walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit:

1. The Transportation Safety Committee holds regular public meetings and reviews matters related to traffic safety in Arcata and make recommendations to the Council, Commissions, or City staff as appropriate. Measures requested by residents or property owners, or initiated by City staff, that are intended to slow traffic shall be presented to the Transportation Safety Committee for recommendations. The Transportation Safety Committee shall make recommendations after a public meeting where any public comments are heard.
2. Measures should be context sensitive and may include the installation of physical infrastructure, such as street trees, speed bumps, speed humps, narrowing streets, mid-block crossings, and bulb outs, while ensuring that the techniques employed have the effect of slowing traffic without compromising emergency access consistent with Policy CM-1e.

3. The installation of speed tables, humps and lumps should adhere to the then current City of Arcata policy regarding installation of speed tables, humps and lumps for residential and local streets administered by the Engineering Department.
4. All neighborhood streets should remain open to through vehicle travel unless there is a demonstrated warranted application of safe streets policy that cannot be adequately addressed through the measures identified above, as determined by the City Engineer, or to create a woonerf.

**TABLE CM-7 PASSIVE AND RESTRICTIVE TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

PASSIVE MEASURES	RESTRICTIVE MEASURES
Neighborhood campaigns for traffic safety or speed watch reporting	Traffic circles or roundabouts
Textured crosswalks	Medians
Parking restrictions or modifications	Raised intersections and raised crosswalks
Active police enforcement	Speed humps/speed tables
Pavement markings and signage	Curb extensions at intersections or midblock
Neighborhood gateway features	Chicanes or slow points
Visual cues at neighborhood entries	Narrowing travel lanes
Emphasis on visual rather than physical deterrent	Reduced curb radii

CM-4d **Street maintenance.** The Pavement Management System shall be maintained to identify and prioritize street maintenance projects in the City's Capital Improvement Program (Capital Program). The maintenance program shall include regular street cleaning and repair of pavement, sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bicycle lanes, and pay particular attention to conditions that discourage bike usage.

#### **POLICY CM-5 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

**Objective.** Create a complete, interconnected bikeway system and pedestrian network. Increase the percentages of person trips via walking and bicycling, which serves the full range of mobility needs.

CM-5a **Overall bicycle route system and connectivity.** Bicycle trails and facilities are shown in Figure CM-c. The bikeway system shall be improved and expanded consistent with the City of Arcata Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan and applicable Regional Transportation Plans prepared by the Humboldt County Association of Governments to serve new development and activity centers. Routes that provide access to and between major destinations including public facilities, schools, parks and open space,

employment, and shopping, shall be the highest priority. Future improvements may be made that upgrade bike routes to a higher class. The City shall:

1. Regularly (at least every five years) update the City of Arcata Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan and coordinate planning efforts with Caltrans and the Humboldt County Association of Government's bicycle plans and advocacy groups to provide continuous bicycle routes.
2. Maintain existing bicycle routes and provide additional routes where feasible connecting the various neighborhoods with Cal Poly Humboldt. Class IV bike lanes shall be provided on routes with the highest bicycle demand, where destinations should be better linked by bike and trail infrastructure, and where heavy traffic discourages alternative modes. Where there is insufficient right-of-way, Class II lanes shall be considered if right-of-way acquisition is not an option.
3. Improve and maintain bicycle infrastructure including removal of height differences between pavement and gutter pans, smooth pavement on street edges, drainage inlet grates, and street cleaning to remove debris from street shoulders.
4. Continue to implement Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan bicycle boulevard project, including the public awareness campaign about the form, functions, and routes of the bicycle boulevards, with messages that bicycle boulevards are preferred routes for bicyclists and pedestrians and do not exclude motor vehicle traffic.
5. Emphasize Class IV bike lanes where greatest benefit, and not in conflict with other community values or amenities where warranted.
6. The presence of on-street parking may be eliminated in favor of adding or enhancing non-motorized facilities, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping, Class I trails, etc.
7. Class II bicycle facilities (i.e., standard bike lanes) may be converted to Class IV bicycle facilities (i.e., protected bike lanes), which may necessitate adjustments to the dimensions of other features.

**CM-5b Bikeway system and pedestrian network standards.** The City of Arcata Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan and Humboldt County Association of Governments (Association of Governments) Humboldt Regional Bicycle Plan contain appropriate design standards and guidelines for the proposed bikeway system and pedestrian network improvements in the City of Arcata. Continue to work with regional partners and Association of Governments to plan improvements to the bikeway system and pedestrian network.

1. Right-of-way opportunities. As opportunities arise, the City shall utilize



existing or acquire new easements or right-of-way for Class I bikeways. Such opportunities may include connecting dead-end streets in new developments with existing neighborhoods, along streets with excess width and unpaved right-of-way, along drainage channels or creeks, or along abandoned railroad rights of way.

CM-5c **Bicycle parking facilities.** Secure bicycle parking facilities shall be provided at important activity centers, civic facilities, apartment complexes, employment centers, shopping centers, major bus stops, and schools. Bicycle parking facilities include racks, and lockers.

Developers shall be required to provide a minimum number of bicycle parking devices at convenient and visible ground-floor locations within the development. Bicycle parking should be in an interior location near an entrance whenever feasible. The required number of bicycle parking spaces shall be calculated as a proportion of the number of users.

Designate locations for public, outdoor bike lockers coordinated with public transit stops accessible in the public right-of-way.

CM-5d **Pedestrian network enhancements.** Prioritize implementation of improved pedestrian facilities and enhancements linking residential areas with important destinations such as health care, education, employment, shopping, and recreation with priority given to neighborhoods with the greatest need (e.g., disadvantaged communities). The following pedestrian improvements and safety enhancements should be considered in future planning for these areas:

1. Close sidewalk gaps.
2. Install vertical curbs to keep vehicles from parking on sidewalks.
3. Reduce street crossing distance with curb extensions and smaller curb radii.
4. Use on-street parking as a pedestrian buffer.
5. Install textured crosswalks.
6. Provide adequate street lighting focused on crossings.
7. Restrict parking near crosswalks to improve sight distance.
8. Install rumble strips on approaches to crosswalks.
9. Plant street trees or place street trees in planters in the parking lane.
10. Relocate intersection stop bars five feet back from crosswalks to improve driver and pedestrian visibility.
11. Install wayfinding signage where appropriate.
12. In all newly created roadways, incorporate curb extensions (“bump outs”) or other design features to increase pedestrian visibility and safety at crosswalks, calm traffic speeds, and provide space for rain gardens, tree planting, street furnishings, and other amenities.
13. Connect the City to the Downtown/Plaza core with safe and attractive pedestrian friendly walking routes that incorporate art and street lighting.
14. Provide high visibility crossings.

CM-5e **Pedestrian pathways and multi-use trails.** Pedestrian pathways or multi-use trails for the exclusive use of non-motorized transportation modes and non-auto motorized vehicles, such as electric bikes with appropriate limitations should be provided. Pathways may be long facilities located along corridors or short facilities providing direct access through development projects or connecting areas not directly accessible by streets. Pathways should be planned to serve the full range of mobility needs for people of all ages, races, ethnicities, incomes, and physical abilities. The following shall apply to pedestrian pathways or multi-use trails:

1. Easement or right-of-way dedication. Dedication of easements or rights of way for pathways through new private developments may be required.
2. Cooperation with local and regional agencies and jurisdictions. The City shall cooperate with other agencies to establish and maintain off-street pathways and trails utilizing creek, utility, and railroad right-of-way.
3. Other potential locations for multi-use paths are within the Great Redwood Trail Agency right-of-way from Giuntoli Lane to Samoa Boulevard, along the west side of Samoa Boulevard/Old Arcata Road east of US 101, and along the perimeter of Arcata Bay towards Manila.
4. Create separated walk/bike lanes in multi-use trails with explanatory signage on placement and how to safely pass, as deemed necessary based on increased use in future.
5. Provide sidewalks or multi-modal trails on both sides of all streets.
6. Support ride-share in various modes (car, bike, etc.) through public and private infrastructure, and encourage systems designed to provide access to shared facilities. Improvements and programs should include public options, such as bike share racks or carpool parking, public-private partnerships for vehicle share, and private facilities or programs, such as project-based car share.
7. Retain and expand the current total linear feet of Class I trails within the City, including the L Street segment of the Bay Trail North/Annie Mary Trail. If current facilities must be realigned or relocated to other routes, ensure no net loss of trail length and connectivity. In limited circumstances, the City Council shall retain the discretion to allow removal or relocation of Class I Trail sections if such approval would improve active transportation access and connectivity. Collaborate with the Great Redwood Trail Agency and other landowners and agencies to retain and expand the Class I trail and Class 4 bikeways throughout the City.
8. Reduce vehicle trips from other parts of the City by creating pedestrian and bicycle-friendly corridors that draw residents and visitors to enter the various neighborhoods via means other than motorized vehicles. Fulfill the potential of the existing and planned Class I trails by planning for expanded connections that will draw bikes/peds from between activity centers.

CM-5f **Sidewalks.** A continuous and interconnected system of sidewalks shall be provided throughout the City. The existing standard right-of-way of most arterials, collectors, and local streets (fifty feet) permits a five-foot sidewalk in each direction, the

minimum width to comply with ADA requirements. Some commercial areas in downtown Arcata should have wider sidewalks to accommodate higher levels of pedestrian traffic and window-shopping. The following standards shall apply to sidewalks:

1. Sidewalk continuity. Gaps in existing sidewalks should be closed to provide a continuous pathway. Cul-de-sacs should be discouraged because they disrupt pedestrian connectivity.
2. Sidewalk widths. New development projects shall be required to construct or reconstruct sidewalks along the property frontage in accordance with adopted City standards. Explore sidewalk widening strategies that include land dedication or easements to create unobstructed accessible pedestrian pathways.
3. Sidewalk Requirements. Where adequate width exists to maintain ADA clearance, sidewalk pedestrian amenities should be provided in the downtown commercial area. These include benches, bicycle parking, pedestrian-scale lighting, street trees, flower boxes, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, and awnings. Private development projects shall be required to include sidewalk improvements; other landowners are encouraged to provide improvements.
4. Sidewalk Maintenance. Sidewalk facilities shall be systematically inspected and maintained to clean and repair damaged surfaces and remove impediments such as poles, newspaper racks, and other obstructions that interfere with pedestrian flow.

CM-5g **Retention of railroad right-of-way.** The Great Redwood Trail Agency, as the holder of the former North Coast Railroad Authority right-of-way, is encouraged to maintain railroad rights-of-way through railbanking for interim use as a multi-purpose trail. The City may consider purchase of right-of-way should the Authority decide to sell. Railroad right-of-way may potentially be used for creation of multi-use trails. Long range potential uses of railroad right-of-way include an exclusive bus transitway or passenger rail service.

CM-5h **Rails to trails conversions.** The City supports plans to convert abandoned railroad rights-of-way to provide multi-use trails. Planning efforts shall be coordinated with federal, state, and regional agencies to obtain funds to purchase, or lease abandoned lines if the railroad authority selects not to dedicate the right-of-way. If feasible, non-abandoned railroad lines should also be explored for multi-use trail purposes.

CM-5i **Pedestrian-friendly streetscapes.** Ensure that streetscape design and improvements prioritize pedestrian circulation that promote walkability and support a car-free lifestyle and accessibility for all ambulatory modes.

## **POLICY CM-6 PARKING SUPPLY AND PARKING MANAGEMENT**

**Objective.** Manage parking to reduce the incentive for single occupancy vehicle use.

CM-6a **Downtown parking.** The following shall apply to parking within the Downtown area:

1. Smart Meter System. The City shall implement a smart parking meter system in the Downtown area to manage parking demand while generating revenue to support public transit and/or active transportation.
2. On-site parking standards. The City shall eliminate the parking standards applicable within the downtown area. Any on-site parking in the downtown should be located to the rear or side of buildings. Park and ride, car shares, downtown parking benefits districts, and other measures to encourage alternative transportation shall be considered.

CM-6b **Parking in neighborhoods impacted by Cal Poly Humboldt.** The City shall employ the following measures to reduce the impacts of university related parking on the surrounding neighborhoods:

1. Management of on-street parking. Metered on-street parking shall continue to be provided along local streets in the neighborhoods south of Cal Poly Humboldt to prevent all-day parking by students.
2. Preferential parking zones. The restrictive residential permit parking program shall be maintained for neighborhoods severely impacted by Cal Poly Humboldt to provide residents and their visitors more on-street parking and to discourage students from driving to campus.
3. Other parking management approaches. Alternative parking management approaches shall be considered if the student population and parking demand increases. Alternative approaches include time limit parking without meters, increasing no-parking zones to decrease supply of spaces, and implementing a strictly enforced tow-away policy. The City encourages Cal Poly Humboldt to reduce parking impacts on the City.

CM-6c **Parking standards for new development.** The City's should continue to specify maximum parking requirements for new development and eliminate minimum parking requirements. Parking lots should be located, where feasible, to the rear or side of commercial and multi-family residential buildings.

## **POLICY CM-7 FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION**

**Objective.** Provide a transportation system that adequately serves the freight shipment needs of the City's industrial and commercial uses. Recognize that freight transportation via truck is an essential element of the area's economic base.

CM-7a **Truck routes.** The circulation system shall be planned to provide truck mobility to serve all commercial and industrial land uses in Arcata. Specific truck routes are designated in Figure CM-d, although other highways, arterials, and collector streets may be designated in the future. The City shall actively enforce truck routes and speed limits.

## POLICY CM-8 FINANCING TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**Objective.** Ensure that adequate funding is available to implement transportation improvements required to adequately serve the amount of growth allowed by the land use plan and that financing is distributed equitably based on activity density and need. Ensure that private development provides on-site transportation improvements and contributes an appropriate share of funding for off-site improvements.

CM-8a **Developer responsibilities and exactions.** Developers shall be required to construct transportation improvements along their property frontages. Where appropriate, a traffic impact study shall be required that identifies on-site and off-site impacts and mitigation measures.

The developer shall be required to provide all necessary access and circulation facilities within the property and such facilities shall be designed to meet City standards. The following improvements may be required, based on the individual context and the needs of all people using streets and the right-of-way; and that support the land-use, climate, safety, and environmental quality targets and Complete Streets policies of the City:

1. If development is located on an existing street:
  - a. dedication of right-of-way;
  - b. bicycle lane and parking lane;
  - c. reconstruction of curb, gutter and sidewalk;
  - d. transit facilities and landscaping within the right-of-way.
2. If development is in a new growth area not served by streets:
  - a. dedication of right-of-way to construct a street to connect the project site to a public street, which accommodates all modes of transportation, particularly those walking, rolling, biking, and using transit;
  - b. construction of the street and connecting intersection(s) to City standards;
  - c. after the dedication is accepted, the City will maintain the street.
3. In all instances, the developer shall be responsible for mitigating any off-site mobility impacts of the proposed development in a manner consistent with the policies of this plan. Measures may include installation of additional pedestrian, bicycle and transit amenities to encourage alternative travel modes; or implementation of Transportation Demand Management measures.

CM-8b **Subdivision improvements.** All on-site transportation infrastructure shall be constructed using standards approved by the City. Developers are required to establish mechanisms, such as homeowners associations, to provide future maintenance of on-site streets and intersections that are not dedicated. The City may elect to require streets connecting to a public street to be dedicated to the City.

CM-8c **Traffic/vehicle miles traveled impact fees.** The City may adopt a citywide traffic impact fee to fund transportation improvements to mitigate the mobility impacts of

new development based on a Vehicle Miles Traveled or similar analysis. The traffic impact fee may substitute in whole or in part for the off-site mitigation requirements described in Policy CM-8a but would be in addition to the developer's responsibility for on-site and frontage improvements. The traffic impact fee may be used to fund roadway extensions, intersection improvements, safety improvements, transit facility improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities or amenities.

CM-8d **Transit finance.** A&MRTS should continue to fund capital and operating expenses through fare box revenue, Cal Poly Humboldt, and state and federal subsidies. The City will explore the possibility of new development contributing a one-time fee towards A&MRTS capital expenses through the citywide traffic mitigation fee ordinance and funding transit through parking meter revenues where feasible.

CM-8e **Equitable transportation investments.** The City will pursue funding for projects that further transportation and mobility equity, acknowledging safe mobility is a right of all people in Arcata and that lower-income Arcatans face disproportionate challenges in accessing both active transportation and public transit.

## 2.9 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
CM-1	<p><b>Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled</b></p> <p>Consider application of Vehicle Miles Traveled as a metric for evaluating impacts of new development at such time as a methodology is available that is suitable for use in Arcata. Work with Humboldt County Association of Governments when evaluating potential regional applications both to evaluate and to reduce vehicle miles traveled.</p>	Community Development/Engineering Dept.	Ongoing
CM - 2	<p><b>Pavement Management Program</b></p> <p>A pavement management program will evaluate roadway conditions, and schedule and complete needed maintenance and repair in a timely manner.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Ongoing
CM - 3	<p><b>Capital Improvements Program</b></p> <p>Include transportation improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, in the City's Capital Program.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Annually

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
CM -4	<p><b>Adoption of Traffic Impact Fee Program</b></p> <p>The City shall consider the adoption of a citywide traffic impact fee to mitigate traffic impacts. Assess an equitable share of costs associated with cumulative traffic impacts on all development projects on facilities for all modes of travel.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Year 5
CM -5	<p><b>Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Priorities</b></p> <p>Periodically review and update Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan priorities including collaborating with Humboldt County Association of Governments on Humboldt Regional Bicycle Plan updates. Seek funding to implement priority projects.</p>	Engineering Dept. and Transportation Safety Committee	Ongoing
CM-6	<p><b>Bicycle Boulevards</b></p> <p>Provide primary bicycle corridors between major activity centers. Clearly sign all bicycle boulevards and include traffic calming measures to discourage automobiles.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Year 1
CM-7	<p><b>Rail Right-of-way Coordination with Great Redwood Trail Agency</b></p> <p>Coordinate with the Great Redwood Trail Agency in planning for use of the former Trail Agency rail right-of-way for a multi-use trail.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Ongoing
CM-8	<p><b>Weekend Transit Service</b></p> <p>Continue to monitor demand for weekend bus service to Eureka in coordination with HCOAG and transit providers and ensure that planning for weekend transit service from Arcata to Eureka is appropriately addressed in the Humboldt County Transit Development Plan.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Ongoing

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
CM-9	<p><b>Traffic Management Program and Slow Streets Program</b></p> <p>Create a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to install traffic calming devices and reduce hazards due to design features or incompatible land uses. The City shall additionally consider implementing a slow streets program.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Year 5
CM-10	<p><b>Improve accessibility and mobility.</b></p> <p>The City shall undertake a comprehensive program to assess and improve accessibility and mobility for people of varied physical abilities and disabilities.</p>	Engineering Dept.	Year 2

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
CM-11	<p><b>Safe, convenient, connected, and multi-modal transportation</b></p> <p>Ensure current versions of the Regional Transportation Plan, Humboldt Regional Bicycle Plan, ADA Transition Plan and Local Road Safety Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focus pedestrian and bicycle transportation infrastructure improvements near primary areas of activity, including schools, town centers, commercial clusters, and workplace districts.</li> <li>2. Ensure public health and equity considerations are included as part of transportation network improvement decisions, including accessibility and mobility considerations for people of diverse abilities and disabilities.</li> <li>3. Plan capital improvements that will ensure sidewalks and other pedestrian routes are continuous, creating a cohesive network. Continue to assess existing sidewalks and bike lanes (or existent lacks thereof) throughout the City and identify those most in need of construction or improvement as part of yearly Capital Program planning.</li> <li>4. Identify opportunities for the creation of a non-vehicular network of paved and/or unpaved trails, paths, or other travel-ways through blocks or open spaces to reduce travel distances and create safer routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.</li> </ol>	Engineering Department, Transportation Safety Committee	Ongoing

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
CM-12	<p><b>Increase transportation accessibility</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan capital improvements that will remove physical barriers to and/or build facilities for walking and biking along transportation routes—especially those with higher volumes of pedestrians and bicyclists, routes known to have concentrations of people without vehicles, and along routes that provide access to major destinations including local schools.</li> <li>2. Require new projects to build transportation network improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheelchairs on sites and along adjacent streets as part of new developments/improvements (and especially those in areas where there are clusters of activity and/or existing transit stops).</li> </ol>	Engineering Department, Transportation Safety Committee	Ongoing

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
C-13	<p><b>Targeted improvements to existing transportation network</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase street lighting around Arcata to increase safety of walking/biking during early mornings and evenings, especially those with higher volumes of pedestrians and bicyclists, routes known to have concentrations of people without vehicles, school zones, and along routes that provide access to major destinations.</li> <li>2. When designing new or improving existing streets, implement complete streets policy to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements. Ensure that facilities and design promote and support mobility by people whose mobility is impaired, who move slowly, or who need mobility assistance. Use cost-effective street improvements such as striping, cones, and temporary features to test improvements throughout the City in a cost-effective manner and address needs temporarily when funding does not permit a more permanent solution.</li> <li>3. When designing new or improving existing streets, use traffic-calming techniques (such as narrowing traffic lanes or adding flashing beacons/radar signs) to improve street safety and access (especially in residential neighborhoods, school zones and areas with high pedestrian traffic).</li> <li>4. Consider developing City-operated traffic lights with appropriate signals for people with impaired vision, hearing, or mobility.</li> </ol>	Engineering Department, Transportation Safety Committee	Ongoing

Appendix CM-A      City of Arcata Operational Analysis and Intersection Level of Service bound separately.