

SUMMARY

Sebastopol received a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant that in turn funded a transportation study for the downtown by Fehr & Peers. Four resulting concepts for Sebastopol's urban and traffic planning were based on priorities gleaned from the community with the intention of bringing ideas together.

The Sebastopol Planning Commission recommendation of merging concepts "Alternate 3: Walkable One-way & Alternate 4: Total two-way", including the public survey favorite Alt 3, is a flexible solution securing walkability while enabling either traffic direction going forward.

ALT3 / WALKABLE

+

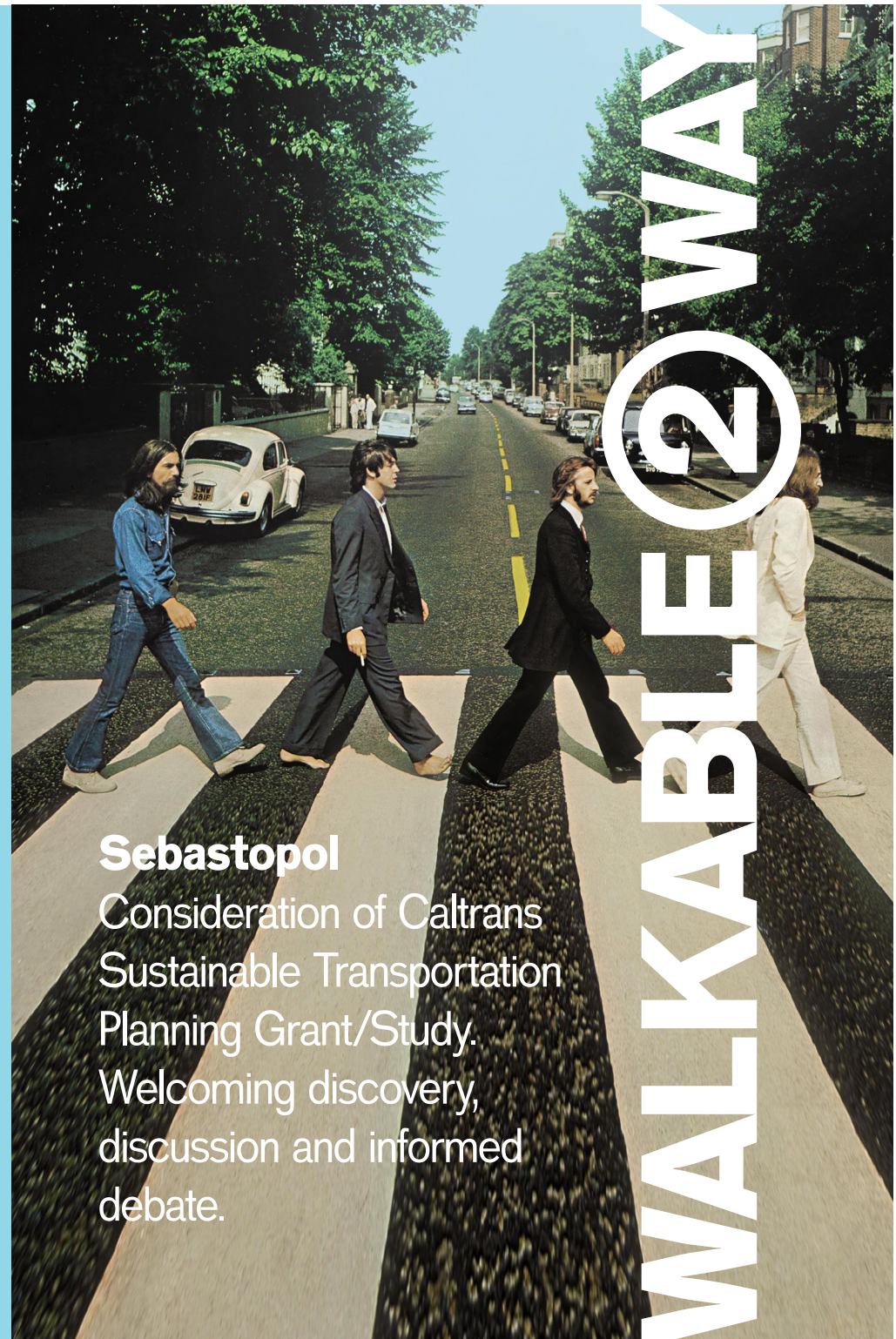
ALT4 / TWO-WAY

=

WALKABLE ② WAY

Research resources

QR code below contains some resource suggestions to learn more.
Thanks for participating in the future of Sebastopol.



Sebastopol

Consideration of Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant/Study.
Welcoming discovery, discussion and informed debate.

WALKABLE ②WAY BENEFITS

PROGRESSIVE PLANNING

The current national urban and traffic city planning trend prioritizes people and place over cars. A move to two-way streets reflects a broader shift from prioritizing maximum vehicle speed towards serving all users, boosting local economies and increasing the overall livability of city centers.

PAST - A place to “drive through”

- Priority: Congestion, Traffic, and Parking
- Responding to: Vehicle “level of service”
- Mid 20th century approach

FUTURE - A destination to “drive to”

- Priority: Livability, Equity, Safety, Prosperity.
- Responding to: Pedestrian and Bike safety
- Current national trend

A FLEXIBLE STREET NETWORK

- Offers several navigation options
- Equally distributes town focus by creating a larger town network
- Relieves stress at 116 and 12 intersection

SAFETY / SPEED

Studies have shown that two-way streets reduce vehicular speeds, which is a significant cause of crashes. Higher speeds are more dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists.

WALKABILITY / HEALTH

Encourages people to walk versus driving, also to “park and walk”, or to bike more. Creates more community interaction and more storefront business encounters on the way to destinations.

EQUITY

A full third of the community does not drive: the old, young, disabled, poor.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

Allows for potential temporary street closures for community building events on Main Street, around the Downtown Plaza or McKinley Avenue (connecting Main Street to The Barlow).

BUSINESS SUCCESS

Visual cues, while driving by brick and mortar storefronts, have become increasingly important in countering online purchasing. Two-way streets offer more drive-by opportunities – to and from. Downtown experiences as a “fun place to be” are more likely to compete with online retail.

EMISSIONS

A more direct route to your destination reduces VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) as well as travel time.

STATS & FACTS

SEBASTOPOL

Sebastopol is rated one of the most dangerous cities in California compared to those of similar size. Caltrans sites Sebastopol as an example of the challenges in balancing high-volume highway traffic with, pedestrian safety.

BEHAVIOR COMPARISON

Two-way with oncoming traffic / New

- 2 lanes North and 2 lanes South
- Most commonly anticipated traffic flow
- Shortest distance to destinations. Lower VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled).
- Most direct route for Emergency vehicles
- All city approaches are already two-way (on four sides)

One-way with side by side traffic / Existing

- 1 lane North, 2 lanes South
- Encourages higher average vehicle speeds leading directly to increased crash rates and increased crash severity.
- Frequent wrong way driver instances
- One-way drivers only look at approaching traffic at intersections, creating a hazard for pedestrians entering crosswalks from the opposite direction.
- Passing and changing lanes downtown causes distraction
- Aggressive acceleration while merging lanes

SUPPORT FOR WALKABLE TWO-WAY

From urban and traffic planning professionals.

- Sebastopol Planning Commission
- SDAT (Sustainable Design Assessment Team)