



## **Request for Proposals:**

### **Create a Quick-Build Bicycle Network Toolkit**

#### **A response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The California Bicycle Coalition seeks a consultant with a transportation planning and policy background to research and produce a toolkit to educate local policymakers, planners, and advocates on how to create quick-build bikeway networks. The changes to our economy and transportation patterns wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic make this an especially important and timely strategy. This toolkit will advise local elected officials and others on how best to serve communities through installation of quick-build bicycle infrastructure, and on how to pitch such bicycle infrastructure to their local planning and traffic engineering professionals.

#### **Scope of work:**

1. Research best practices for quick build (both infrastructure specifics as well as political obstacles to implementation)
2. Produce a high-quality, clear printed guide, as well as a website covering the same material and linking to additional resources; the guide will include information about best engineering practices, success stories, funding opportunities, suggestions for quick-build design materials, and a step-by-step implementation guide
3. Project management of design, printing, distribution, and web page production

**Timeline:** Now through July 15, 2020

**Compensation:** \$5,000-\$10,000 (excludes graphic design, web design, and printing and distribution hard costs)

**Proposal:** Your proposal should include an overview of your strategies and an argument as to why you are the best person to help us, including examples of past success, as well as a cost estimate. Please see below for more information on quick-build bike networks. Please email proposals to [jenn@calbike.org](mailto:jenn@calbike.org). We are looking to hire a consultant quickly, so we will review proposals as they come in.

**Background:** The coronavirus pandemic's impact on our transportation system and on Californians' transportation needs is a tragedy unfolding before our eyes. Though we are advocating for continued investment to preserve public transit, many systems will be unable to avoid severe service cuts, as riders stay away. Unemployment and poverty are

skyrocketing, which will disrupt many people's transportation habits. In response to these challenges, Californians are taking up bicycling in record numbers, with many bike shop owners reporting record sales. Bicycling is an affordable, safe, socially distanced transportation mode that can let essential workers commute safely, avoiding public transit; offer mobility solutions to those who have lost jobs and can no longer afford a car; and allow for exercise while maintaining social distance. If we are thoughtful about how we meet this challenge, policy and infrastructure changes can help us recover from the pandemic in a way that preserves a shift toward safer, healthier mobility for all communities.

CalBike can help communities respond to this changing situation by rapidly educating local policymakers and advocates about strategies for building bikeway networks. We will create an online and paper Quick-Build Bicycle Network Toolkit to go out to planners, mayors, advocates and others.

Great networks of connected low-stress bikeways are the key to getting more people riding at any time, and to making it safer. There are many temporary and quick-build methods for creating safe bicycling infrastructure quickly, easily, and cheaply, but often policymakers don't know how to implement these. This pandemic has already seen several cities around the world adopt bike infrastructure changes using inexpensive temporary or quick-build infrastructure solutions, and there is no reason why cities across California cannot do the same. And this kind of infrastructure leads to long-term shifts: often, once you have a temporary or quick-build solution in place, these end up replaced with permanent improvements, because people refuse to let go of these wins. They are usually demonstrated to have greater-than-predicted benefits and less-than-feared negative impacts.

The Quick-Build Bicycle Network Toolkit will be a comprehensive "How-To" guide to rapidly creating quick-build or temporary bike networks to enable people on bikes to safely get around as bicycling increases. We will deliver politically savvy, attractive, technically sound documents (via postal mail as well as online) to promote quick-build bike networks to city transportation staff and political leaders. (We successfully executed a similar strategy in 2015 to promote protected bike lanes to local policymakers). The goal is to give policymakers tools to counter the resistance of city staff who are often reluctant to do things fast. When staff tell their elected officials that bike infrastructure will take too long and be too expensive, officials will be able to answer "No, it won't. CalBike just sent me this guide to doing it quickly and cheaply. We can find the small amount of money it will take—and it's urgent to do it now."

Learn more about the California Bicycle Coalition at [calbike.org](http://calbike.org).