



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 11a

MEETING DATE: November 3, 2025

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**Date: November 3, 2025**

**From: Syed Murtuza, Director of Public Works – (650) 558-7230**  
**Kevin Okada, Assistant Director of Public Works – (650) 558-7230**

**Subject: Update on City Thread's Accelerated Mobility Playbook Technical Assistance Program (AMP)**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council receive an update and presentation from City Thread regarding their assessment and recommendations pertaining to the Accelerated Mobility Playbook (AMP) Technical Assistance Program for Burlingame.

## **BACKGROUND**

City Thread is a national nonprofit technical consulting organization led by Kyle Wagenschutz, Sara Studdard, and Zoe Kircos. The organization is dedicated to accelerating projects that enable people to move safely, efficiently, and equitably within their communities. The City Thread AMP Technical Assistance Grant Program helps U.S. cities expedite the implementation of mobility networks. Through a competitive grant application process, City Thread selects participating cities and provides an assessment of each city's current practices, along with an action plan to strengthen partnerships, improve project delivery, and advance mobility initiatives.

In August 2024, former Traffic, Safety and Parking Commissioner (TSPC) Arleen Cauchi approached Mayor Stevenson and City Manager Goldman regarding her research into City Thread and its potential to help communities implement mobility network plans. Mayor Stevenson, City Manager Goldman, and Public Works Director Murtuza subsequently met with City Thread Partner Sara Studdard to learn more about the AMP program. According to City Thread, participation in the AMP program involves forming a dedicated collaborative community coalition group that operates independently and is not associated with the City in any capacity. This group differs from a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), or a City-appointed commission such as the TSPC.

On November 4, 2024, the City Council authorized staff to apply for the AMP grant with a local City funding match of \$15,000. Staff subsequently applied for and was awarded a grant to participate in the AMP Technical Assistance Program and attend the AMP Leadership Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 9 – 11, 2025.

In March 2025, City Thread began assessing Burlingame's mobility infrastructure, including recently completed bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as existing City programs such as the

Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. In April 2025, the City Thread team conducted a site visit to Burlingame, meeting with City staff and community members to gather feedback on ongoing and complete mobility initiatives.

In June 2025, City staff member Andrew Wong and Traffic Safety Commissioner Jennifer Johnson attended the Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City. During the event, they learned about the Salt Lake City Active Mobility Plan (AMP) and similar initiatives from other jurisdictions. The conference highlighted how collaborative partnerships are structured and how these models have successfully advanced mobility initiatives in cities such as Austin, Texas, and Denver, Colorado, among others.

## **DISCUSSION**

After gathering data and input from City staff and community members, the City Thread team provided recommendations to address key challenges in implementing mobility infrastructure projects in Burlingame. These challenges include lengthy implementation timelines and perceived disconnected project scopes, especially for phased projects; concerns regarding inconsistent messaging that can lead to confusion and strengthen opposition; and communication to sustain long-term momentum. Burlingame's current process for implementing mobility projects will be further analyzed to identify opportunities for improvement, with the goal of streamlining procedures and accelerating project delivery in the future. The biggest opportunity identified was to build a dedicated and sustained community partnership and coalition through a non-profit approach.

### **The Action Plan Recommendations include:**

- **Establish a Shared Goal:** Accelerate the planning, design, and construction of up to 10 miles of projects from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan by 2028.
- **Align Partnerships:** Launch a broad, nonpartisan community coalition that extends beyond the bicycle community to build sustained and organized support for mobility improvements. A robust community engagement strategy will collaborate with underrepresented constituencies to more fully reflect community needs in the planning and implementation of each new mobility project.
- **Resource Partners:** Hire a coalition manager dedicated full-time to leading this work.
- **Funding Strategy:** Implement a funding strategy to support the coalition manager and related efforts. This can be done with two approaches.
  - Strategy A: Utilize City funds and budgets.
  - Strategy B: Leverage philanthropic and business contributions. Under this approach, City Thread will, through the coalition manager, secure local philanthropic and business support rather than relying on municipal funds. City Thread estimates that up to \$2.5 million could be raised over a three-year period to support community-based activities. Staff time would still be required for coordination with

City Thread; the extent of this is unknown at this time.

- **Build the Network, Fast:** Pilot and refine project delivery methods that prioritize urgent safety improvements and redefine how the City approaches public engagement, interdepartmental collaboration, and partnerships to streamline the project delivery process.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Although City Thread has provided an initial estimate of \$2.5 million for the proposed next phase of work to build a dedicated community coalition, the actual fiscal impact to the City remains undetermined at this time. The actual cost will depend on the funding approach selected for the project.

Exhibits:

- AMP Technical Assistance Program Presentation
- City Thread Assessment Report