

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/13/2022 Time: 6:00 p.m. Location: Zoom

Regular Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Nash called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Mueller, Nash, Taylor, Wolosin

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, City Attorney Nira F. Doherty, Assistant to the City

Manager/City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Agenda Review

None.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Presentations and Proclamations

- E1. Proclamation: Supporting the reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson therapeutic pool (Attachment)
 - Sandy Napel spoke in support of the proclamation and reopening of the pool.

Mayor Nash read the proclamation (Attachment).

Warm Water Wellness representative Jane Stahl accepted the proclamation.

- E2. Proclamation: Recognizing September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Month (Attachment)
 - John Butler spoke in support of the proclamation and commented on mental health.

Mayor Nash read the proclamation (Attachment).

Program Manager of Clinical Services at StarVista's Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Center Brook Pollard accepted the proclamation.

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F. Study Session

F1. Menlo Park Community Campus project updates including recreation and community programs survey results (Staff Report #22-172-CC)

Library and Community Services Director Sean Reinhart and Interim Assistant Community Services Director Rondell Howard made the presentation (Attachment).

Jacqui Cebrian spoke in support of the project and efforts.

The City Council received clarification on survey results from Belle Haven residents and other survey data received that's not related to the Menlo Park Community Campus (MPCC) (e.g., aquatics and pickleball).

The City Council discussed including project-based learning.

G. Consent Calendar

- G1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for July 26 and August 23, 2022 (Attachment)
- G2. Adopt a resolution to continue conducting the City's Council and advisory body meetings remotely due to health and safety concerns for the public and to authorize the use of hybrid meetings (Staff Report #22-171-CC)
- G3. Authorize the city manager to sign the public improvement agreement for the Menlo Portal project located at 115 Independence Drive and 104 and 110 Constitution Drive (Staff Report #22-168-CC)

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Wolosin), to approve the consent calendar, passed unanimously.

H. Public Hearing

H1. Adopt a resolution to abandon a public utility easement at 248 Oakhurst Place (Staff Report #22-173-CC)

Associate Engineer Edress Rangeen made the presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Nash opened the public hearing.

Mayor Nash closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Nash), to adopt a resolution ordering the vacation and abandonment of a 10-foot-wide public utility easement running through a portion of the existing structure at 248 Oakhurst Place, passed unanimously.

I. Regular Business

11. Provide direction on preferred Middle Avenue conceptual design and adopt a resolution to install no parking zones on Middle Avenue, install an all-way stop at Middle Avenue and San Mateo Drive, and authorize a temporary closure of Blake Street at Middle Avenue (Staff Report #22-174-CC)

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Assistant Public Works Director Hugh Louch made the presentation (Attachment).

- Bill Kirsch spoke in support of parking removal on both sides of the street, raised crosswalks, and pilot programs.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of the safest possible bikeway option for Middle Avenue, improving safety at the El Camino Real intersection, and pilot programs.
- Laurie Holyoake spoke in opposition of the four-way stop and in support of a flashing beacon at San Mateo Drive and Middle Avenue.
- Maia Wolfe spoke in opposition of the parking removal and in support of bike lanes.
- David Alfano spoke in support of bike lanes with the buffer, the removal of parking on one side of the street, the Blake Street bollard, and a four-way stop sign at San Mateo Drive and Middle Avenue.
- Sandy Napel spoke in support of the Blake Street closure, additional stop signs at San Mateo Drive, engaging Middle Avenue residents for removal of parking, and spoke in opposition of a roundabout.
- Julia Piper spoke in support of closing Blake Street.
- Ted Callahan spoke in opposition to the removal of street parking and in support of the Blake Street closure.
- Ashley Callahan spoke in support of retaining parking in select areas of Middle Avenue where it is most needed, closing Blake Street, and requested bike safety classes at schools and the evaluation of other streets.
- David Yoshida spoke in opposition of the removal of parking.
- Jonathan Coe spoke in support of dedicated bike lanes, pilot programs, and time of day parking
 restrictions in coordination with school bell schedules, and in opposition of parking removal on
 both sides.
- Jacqui Cebrian spoke in support of a 25-mph speed limit and the removal of parking on both sides
- Sally Cole spoke support for ease of use and navigation and parking removal on both sides.
- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of a four-way stop at San Mateo Drive and pilot programs, including the roundabout.
- Brandon Visser spoke in support of the removal of parking and all proposed traffic measures.
- Scott Soltys spoke in support of the Blake Street closure, sidewalk installation, and speed abatement and in opposition of parking removal on both sides of the street.
- Matthew Raskaff spoke in support of parking removal and all proposed safety measures.

The City Council took a recess at 8:03 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

The City Council received clarification on parking removal on one full side of the street and partial removal on the other side of the street, public outreach to residents on Middle Avenue, and Complete Streets Commission action.

The City Council discussed upcoming projects impacts to all modes of traffic, pilot programs for the proposed measures, parking removal options, the proposed safety measures, speeds on Middle Avenue, collection of data during pilot programs, residential garbage cans impeding bicycles, loading zone opposed to parking, more engagement with Middle Avenue residents following a

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parking removal pilot, and flooding concerns.

Vice Mayor made a presentation (Attachment).

The City Council directed staff to draft and return a resolution to reduce the speeds on Middle Avenue and other similar streets to 25-mph and to pursue:

- Traffic calming at regular intervals
- Pilot parking removal on both sides, including data collection and public outreach, with parking in front of Nealon Park converted to parallel parking
- Buffered bikeways on both sides as part of the pilot
- All-way stop at Middle Avenue and San Mateo Drive
- Pilot for mini-roundabout at University Drive
- Closure of Shell gas station driveway
- Add sidewalk on south side to five-year capital improvement plan
- Waive the first reading and introduce an ordinance repealing and replacing Menlo Park Municipal Code Section 2.04.190 relating to filling City Council vacancies and adopt a resolution establishing the process for appointment of candidates to City Council seats to fill vacancies (Staff Report #22-170-CC)

City Attorney Nira Doherty made the presentation.

The City Council discussed adding "shall not be interviewed by the City Council and shall not be eligible for appointment" related to the questionnaire and selection process.

The City Council directed updating election by motion process.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to introduce by title only and waive further reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Menlo Park repealing and replacing Section 2.04.190, "Filling of Vacancies on the City Council," of Chapter 2.04 within title 2 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code, passed unanimously.

I3. Adopt a resolution to approve amendments to the salary schedule as of September 25, 2022 (Staff Report #22-169-CC)

Interim Administrative Services Director Mary Morris-Mayorga made the presentation.

ACTION: Motion and second (Wolosin/ Nash), to adopt a resolution to approve amendments to the salary schedule as of September 25, 2022, unanimously.

J. Informational Items

J1. City Council agenda topics: September – October 18, 2022 (Staff Report #22-175-CC)

K. City Manager's Report

City Manager Justin Murphy reported out on job openings in Menlo Park and the next City Council meeting on September 20.

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L. City Councilmember Reports

None.

M. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of October 11, 2022.

Supporting the Reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool

WHEREAS, the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool is an Americans with Disabilities Act--accessible warm water therapy pool operated by Sutter Health and located at the Mills Health Center, in San Mateo, California; and

WHEREAS, the Mickelson Therapy Pool was constructed over 25 year ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County to serve as a centerpiece of an arthritis center created by Mills Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Mickelson Therapy Pool has been used for over 25 years by thousands of residents of San Mateo County who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments, to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline; and

WHEREAS, Mickelson Therapy Pool has historically provided both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County suffering from health issues; and

WHEREAS, there is also an apparent and growing need for the services provided by the Mickelson Therapy Pool, due to San Mateo County's rapidly increasing number of elderly residents who are highly likely to suffer from health issues requiring a warm water therapy pool; and

WHEREAS, Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, and there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson Therapy Pool and who are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish without it; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the critical need for the facility, in June 2021, Sutter Health announced that it would permanently close the Mickelson Therapy Pool to independent use by patrons and closing Mickelson removes a valuable healthcare resource for people to assist them in daily activities; and

WHEREAS, over 4,300 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool in order to increase the health, independence, and dignity of residents who rely upon it; and

WHEREAS, Sutter Health, its subsidiaries and affiliated entities receive significant financial benefits from their operations in San Mateo County and this City Council is aware that warm water therapy pools in the region are able to operate profitably and safely, including under COVID-19 protocols; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, this City Council believes that Sutter Health should be called upon to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to maintain the same open access hours that were in place prior to January 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that I, Betsy Nash, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park recognizes that promptly reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use with the same open access hours that it had prior to January of 2020 would preserve and improve the health of residents in San Mateo County who have historically relied upon it or who could benefit from warm water therapy to maintain their health, independence, and dignity and this City Council calls upon Sutter Health to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to maintain the same open access hours that were in place prior to January 2020.

Betsy Naslu Betsy Naslu Betsy Nasli, Way September 13, 2022

Recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Month

WHEREAS, Menlo Park will join the county, state and country in honoring Suicide Prevention Month (September), National Suicide Prevention Week (September 4-10) and World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10) to spread the message that suicide can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County will join the country and state in honoring Suicide Prevention Month (September), National Suicide Prevention Week (September 5-11) and World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10) to spread the message that suicide can be prevented; a

WHEREAS, in 2021, 54 people died by suicide (34% decrease from 82 in 2020) in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS: in 2020, 12,297 contacts were received by the San Mateo County StarVista Crisis Hotline. In July 2022, the StarVista Crisis Hotline received a 10% increase compared to July 2021, likely due to the debut of the 988 number on July 16.; and

WHEREAS, Menlo Park residents are urged to play a role in supporting each other and preventing suicide by knowing the signs of suicide, finding the words to communicate and reaching out to local 24/7 resources, including our local San Mateo County StarVista Crisis Hotline (650-579-0350) or National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988 or 1-800-273-TALK); and

WHEREAS, residents can also play a role in suicide prevention by supporting local Suicide Prevention Month events, advocacy days and communication campaign. Across the city, county and state, the 2022 September Suicide Prevention Month theme is "Take Action for Suicide Prevention – Thriving at All Ages"; and

WHEREAS, beyond September, Menlo Park has joined the San Mateo County Mayors Mental Health Initiative where mayors across the 20 cities in San Mateo County have come together with the mission of promoting awareness of and access to mental health resources in their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Betsy Nash, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, State of California, hereby designates September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Month and calls upon everyone in our community to find their role in suicide prevention.

Betsy Nash, Mayor September 13, 2022



MENLO PARK COMMUNITY CAMPUS PROJECT UPDATES AND SURVEY RESULTS

City Council – September 13, 2022



MPCC - Project updates

- Upcoming City Council items
- Environmental sustainability features
- Furnishing layouts
- Construction tours
- Other updates
- Resident survey recreation and community programs
- Programming considerations
- Next steps





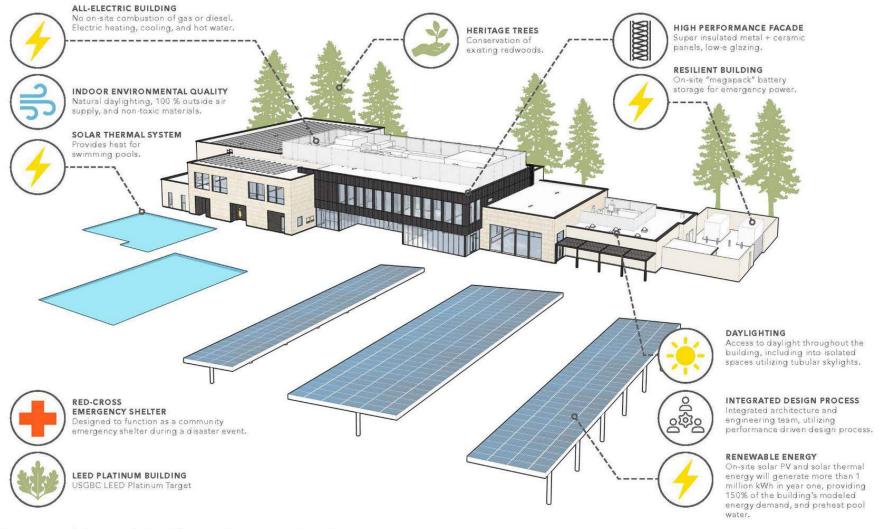
Upcoming City Council items

- October 11 Authorize staff to issue a RFP for an aquatics operator at Burgess Pool and the new MPCC Pool
- November/December Provide direction to update City Council Policy CC-86-0001, "Naming and/or changing the name of facilities" (1986)
- December/January Award of contract and budget authorization for procurement of MPCC furnishings and nonfixed equipment
- January/February Preliminary options for parking management plan
- January/February Preliminary considerations for MPCC staffing and operations



Environmental sustainability features

- The MPCC project is being designed to LEED Platinum standards for environmental sustainability
- Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission June 22
 joint study session included a presentation by project architects Hart
 Howerton about the MPCC project's many environmental sustainability
 features
- Attachment B to the staff report.



A Sustainable and Resilient Community Campus

HART HOWERTON

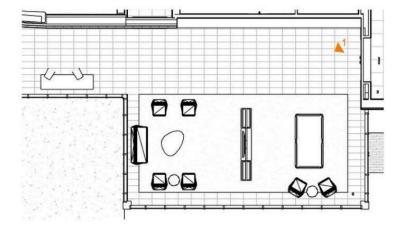


MPCC furnishing layouts

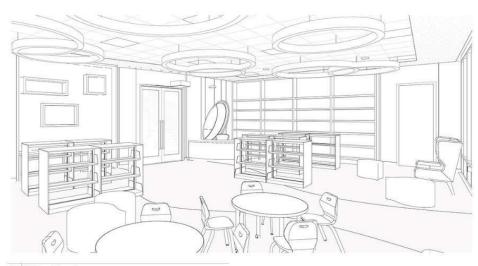
- The MPCC subcommittee and working group requested additional visual aids that show the proposed furnishings in layout.
- City staff worked with the architects to develop visualizations that show the proposed furnishings to scale in an engaging "3-D" format
- Attachment C to the staff report.



1 Senior Lounge 1









2 Childrens Library 1



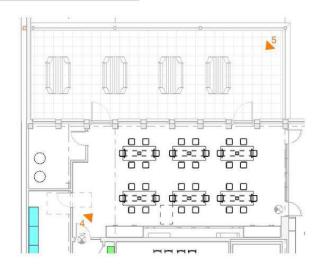




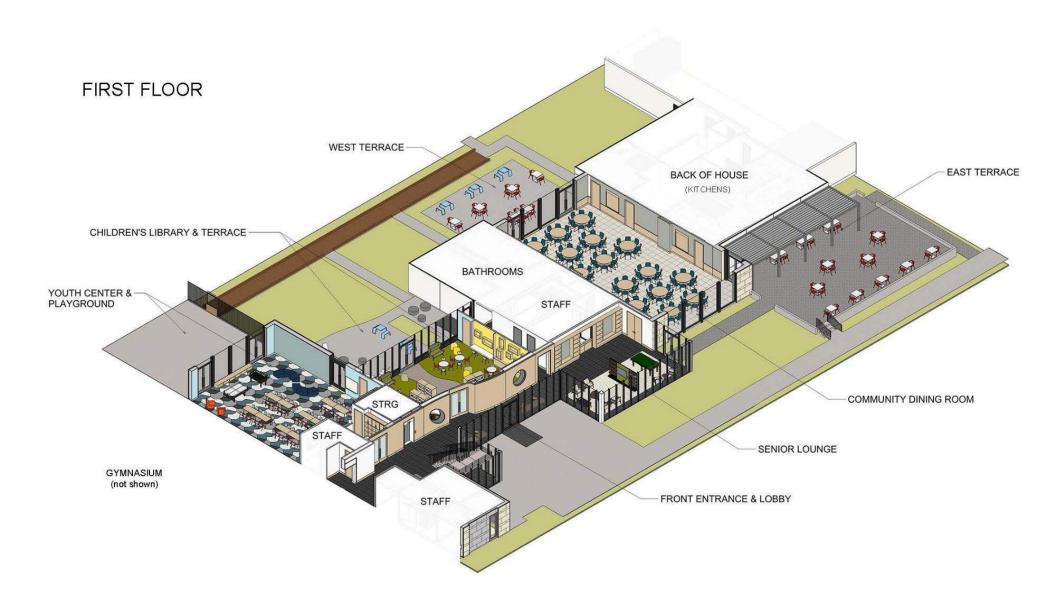


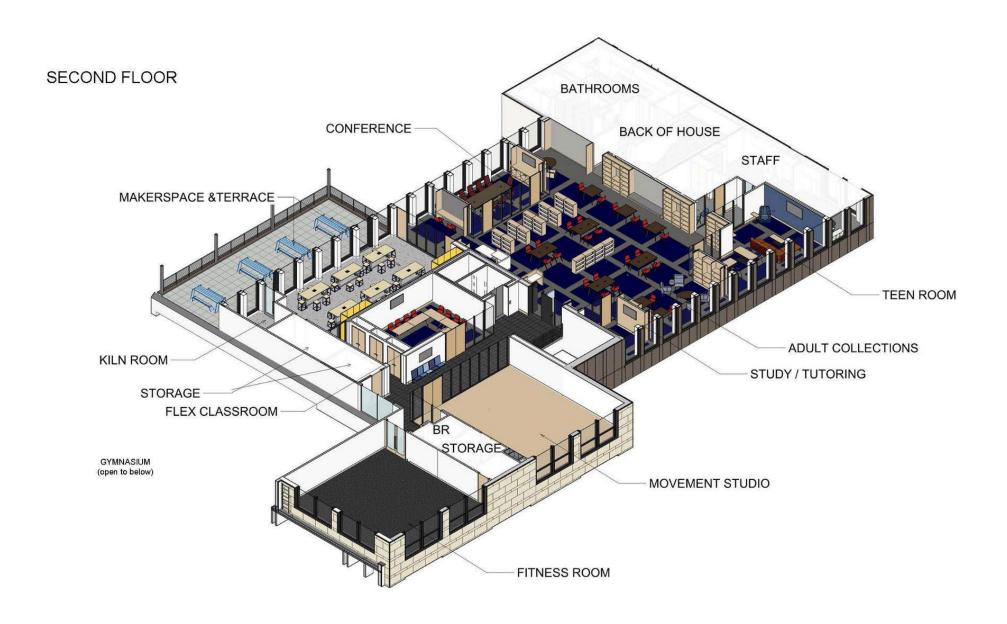
4 Makerspace 1

5 Makerspace 2











Construction tours

Upcoming tours of the MPCC construction site to provide Menlo Park residents, especially from the Belle Haven neighborhood, the opportunity to observe and experience the project while it is under construction.

- Friday, October 21 This tour will feature the interior stairs and passageways and a walkthrough of the structure
- Friday, January 6 Tour of the swimming pools and splash pad under construction, in addition to a walkthrough of the main structure
- Friday, March 10 Focus on the gymnasium and other major interior rooms, in addition to a walkthrough of the structure



Other updates

The staff report contains additional brief updates:

- Project timeline
- Beechwood school temporary entrance change
- Parking management plan
- Pool heat pumps and exception to noise ordinance.

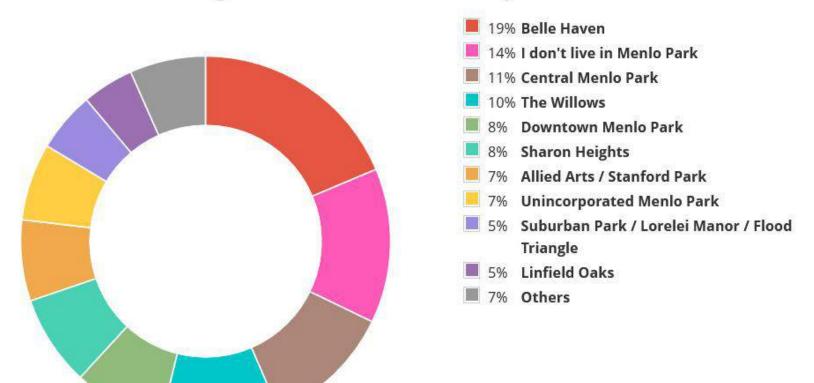




Survey results

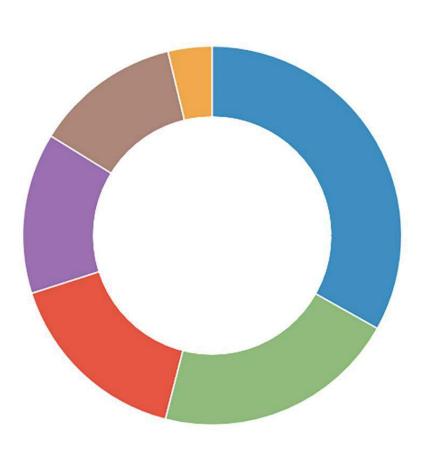
- Resident survey recreation and community programs
- Developed with input from the MPCC Subcommittee and working group,
 Parks and Recreation Commission, Library Commission, and City Council
- Survey opened June 13, closed August 10
- Distributed in paper and electronic formats; in English and Spanish
- 900+ respondents
- Complete survey results Attachment A to the report

1. What neighborhood of Menlo Park do you live in now?





2. How long have you lived in Menlo Park?







Q5. How important are the following community programs and classes?

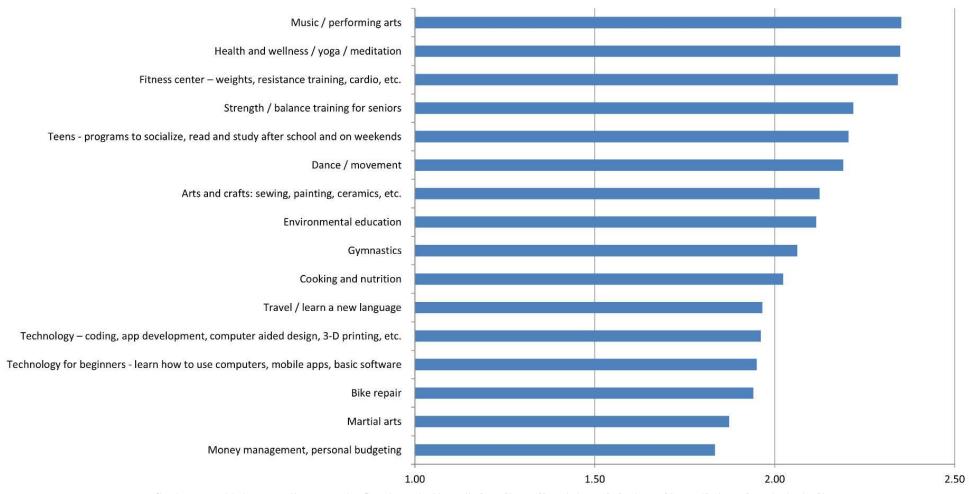
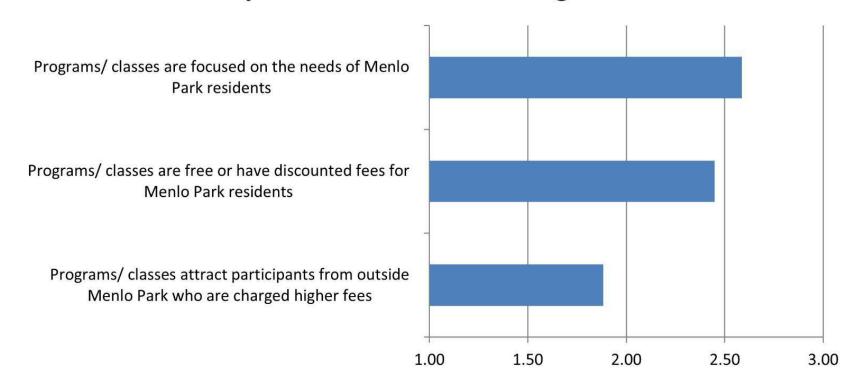


Chart shows average relative importance rated by survey respondents. Respondents rated each item as either "not at all important," "somewhat important," or "very important." Items rated "not important" a value of 3; and "very important" a value of 3. The chart shows the average value of all ratings for each item. Higher average ratings indicate higher relative importance to the survey respondents.

Q6. For community programs and classes, how important are the following items?



Q12. How important are the following athletic programs?

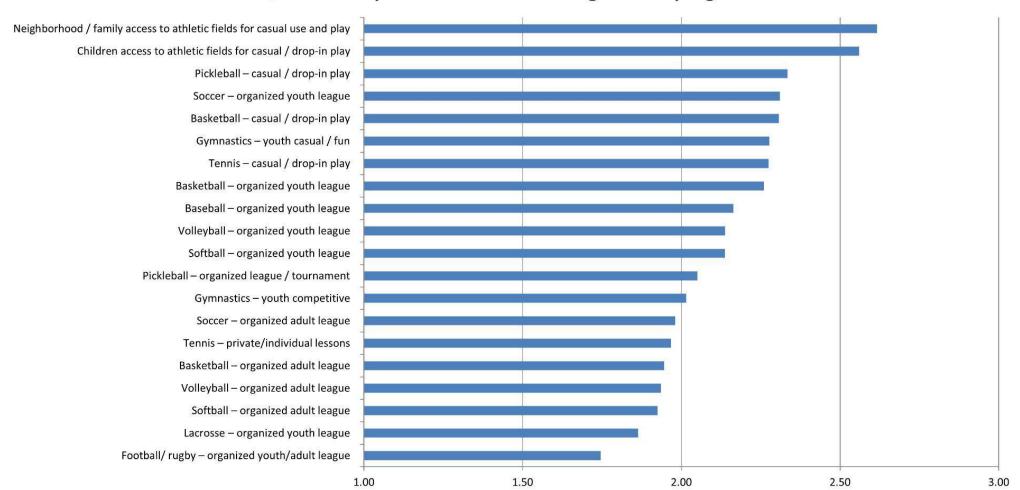
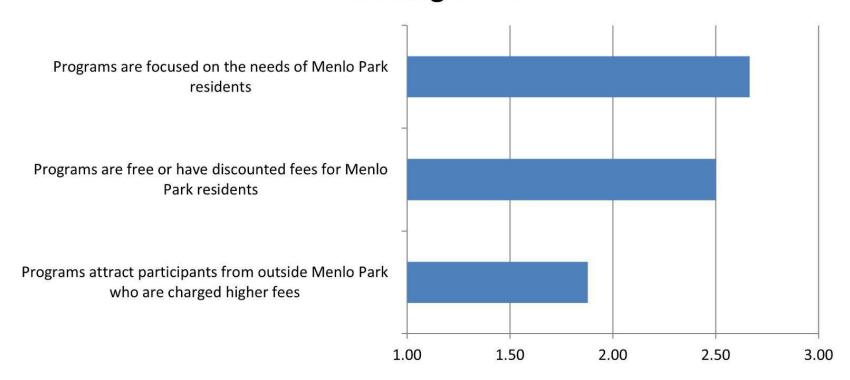


Chart shows average relative importance rated by survey respondents. Respondents rated each item as either "not at all important," "somewhat important," or "very important." Items rated "not important" a value of 3. The chart shows the average value of all ratings for each item. Higher average ratings indicate higher relative importance to the survey respondents.

Q13. For athletic programs, how important are the following items?



Q15. For city library and information resources, how important are the following items?

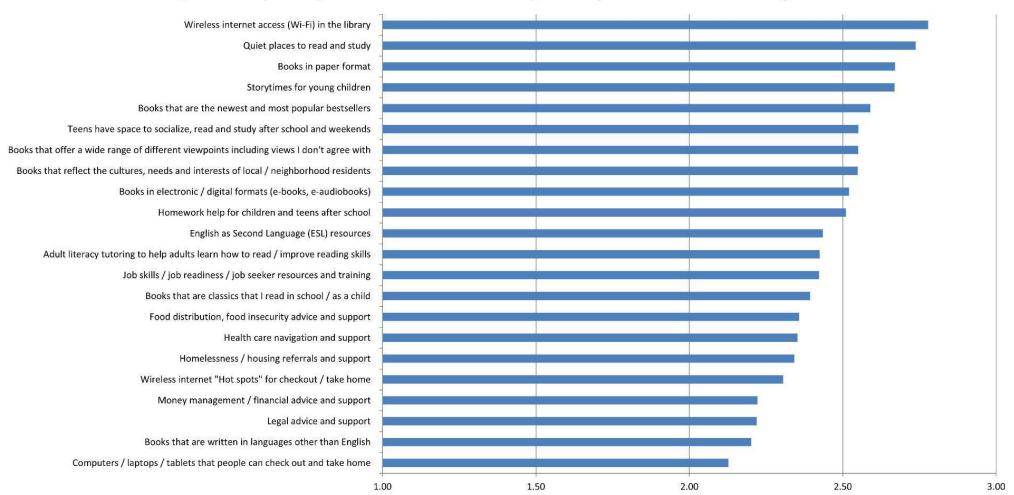


Chart shows average relative importance rated by survey respondents. Respondents rated each item as either "not at all important," "somewhat important," or "very important." Items rated "not important" a value of 1; "somewhat important" a value of 2; and "very important" a value of 3. The chart shows the average value of all ratings for each item. Higher average ratings indicate higher relative importance to the survey respondents.





Programming considerations

• Staff seeks City Council's feedback and direction on the survey considerations as well as any other elements that City Council desires to incorporate into the program planning process.



Programming considerations*

- A. Prioritize the program elements that survey respondents rated with the highest relative importance
- B. Include programs that aren't currently offered on a regular basis, but were rated with high importance by survey respondents, for example:
 - Homework help for children and teens after school
 - Job skills / job readiness / job seeker resources and training
 - Food insecurity advice and support
 - Health care navigation and support

^{*} List is numbered for convenience only, in no particular order or priority



Programming considerations*

- C. Prioritize programs and classes that are free or have discounted fees for Menlo Park residents.
- D. Deprioritize programs that primarily attract participants from outside Menlo Park, and/or that survey respondents rated with low relative importance
- E. Prioritize casual and drop-in play opportunities for children and families, especially Menlo Park residents
- F. Aquatics program considerations will be addressed in the context of the upcoming aquatics operator request for proposals (RFP) process.

^{*} List is numbered for convenience only, in no particular order or priority



Next steps

- Continue to work with stakeholders including the MPCC Subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission to develop the MPCC program planning
- Incorporate City Council's feedback and direction into the planning process and will present preliminary MPCC staffing and program options to City Council tentatively in January/February 2023.









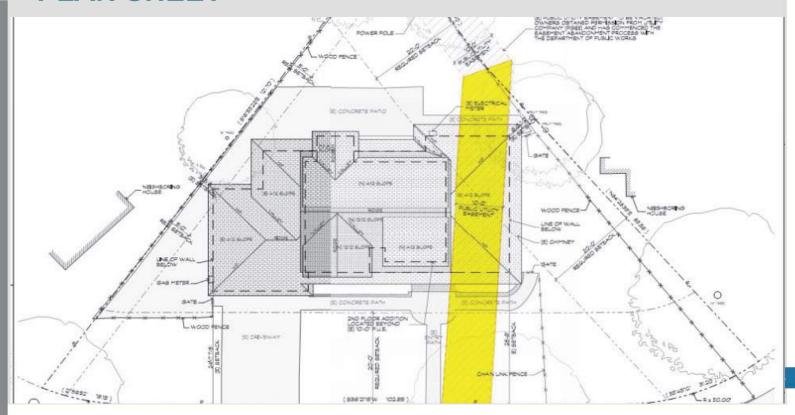
PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Summary Vacation 2 step process
 - **Planning Commission**
 - City Council
- On July 25, 2022, Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 2022-13 confirming that proposed abandonment was consistent with general plan and recommending approval of abandonment.





PLAN SHEET



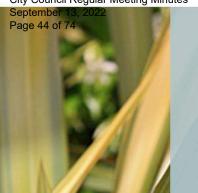


RECOMMENDED ACTION

 Adopt resolution ordering the vacation of the 10-foot-wide Public Utility Easement running through a portion of the existing structure at 248 Oakhurst Place.









THANK YOU









AGENDA

- Project goals
- Background
- Public outreach summary
- Conceptual design options and recommendations
 - 1. Bikeway design
 - 2. Traffic calming measures
 - 3. Intersection treatments
- City Council action and next steps





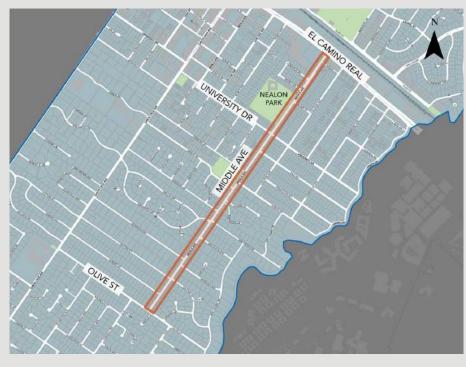
PROJECT GOALS

- Enhance bicyclist and pedestrian visibility and improve safety of all users
- Provide safe and comfortable cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and encourage sustainable mode of transportation
- Increase accessibility of the corridor by supporting improvements related to Middle Plaza and ongoing study of the grade-separated pedestrian and bicycle crossing





BACKGROUND



- 65' City right of way
- 42' wide curb to curb
- Edge lines with parallel parking
- No separation for bicyclists
- Speed limit varies –
 25 to 30 MPH +
 new 15 MPH school
 zones







PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Publicity
 - Over 2,000 postcards to local businesses and residences
 - Changeable Message Signs
 - Social media, website, press release
- Public meetings March 3, 2022
 - In-person at Nealon Park tennis court
 - Virtually via Zoom
 - About 100 total participants
- Online survey
 - Over 600 respondents
 - 10% live on Middle Avenue
 - 80% live nearby
 - 10% live elsewhere in the City
- Councilmember led outreach events



In person outreach





PUBLIC MEETING FINDINGS

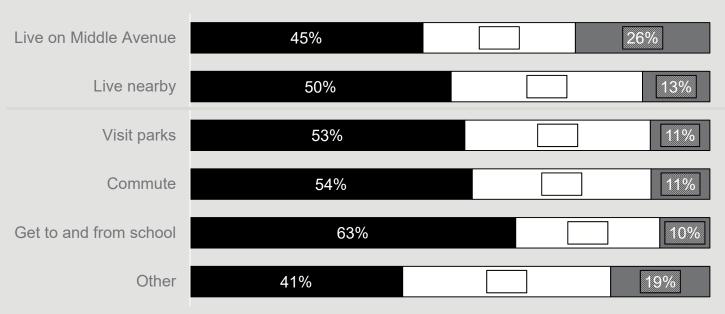
- Overall support for bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- Concerns about bicycling safety, especially for children
- Some concerns expressed about removal of street parking
- Concerns about speeding vehicles and the lack of traffic calming to slow down vehicles
- Concerns about larger trucks traveling on Middle Avenue



ONLINE SURVEYBIKE LANE/PARKING REMOVAL PREFERENCES



■ Remove both sides □ Remove one side □ Do not remove or Partial removal









CONCEPTUAL DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Corridor traffic calming
- Bicycle facility / parking removal
- Intersection improvements (El Camino Real, University Drive, Olive Street)
- Others:
 - Safeway and Shell gas station driveways
 - Blake Street temporary closure
 - Sidewalk gap closure

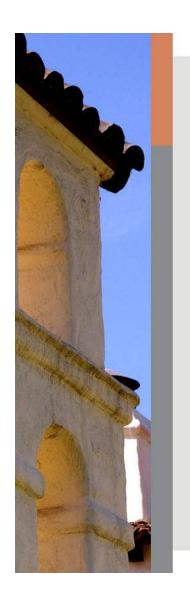


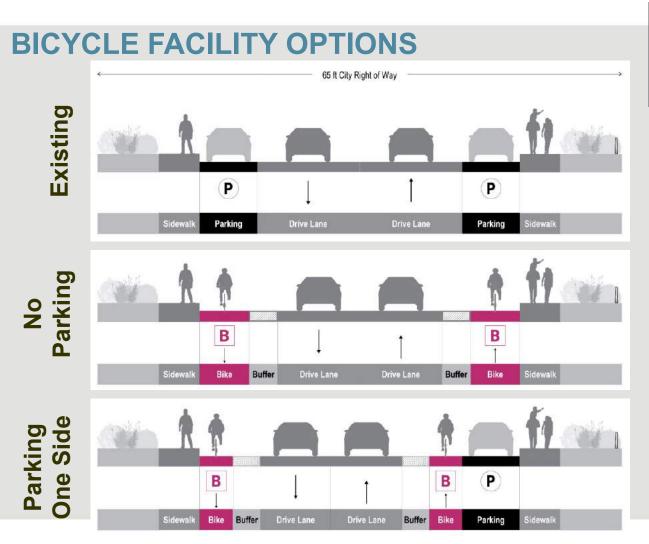


- Traffic calming tools
 - Raised crosswalks
 - Speed humps
 - Flashing beacons (RRFBs)
 - Stop sign
 - Bulb outs (in parking lane)
- CSC accepted staff recommendations for placement of specific elements

LAUREL ST SPEED HUMP











BICYCLE FACILITY OPTIONS – EXAMPLES





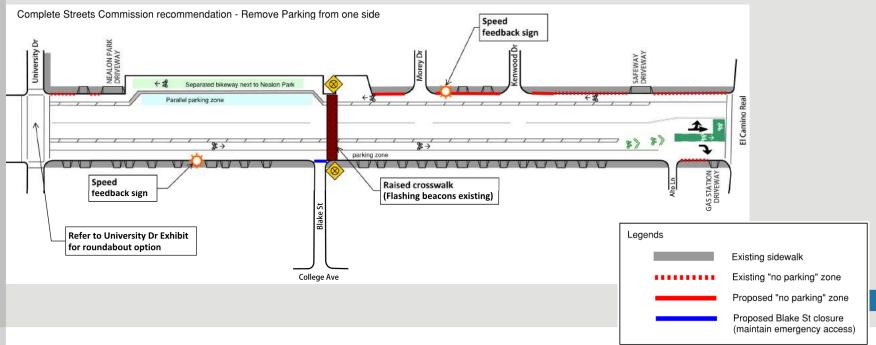




TRAFFIC CALMING AND BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS



University Dr. to El Camino Real



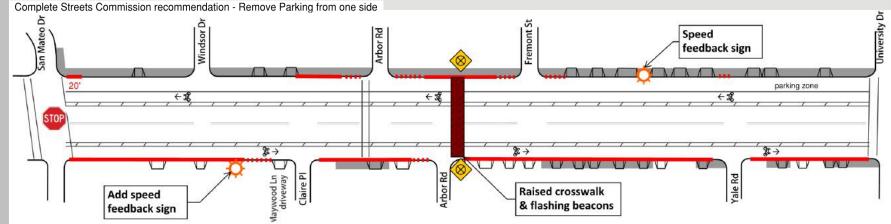
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TRAFFIC CALMING AND BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS









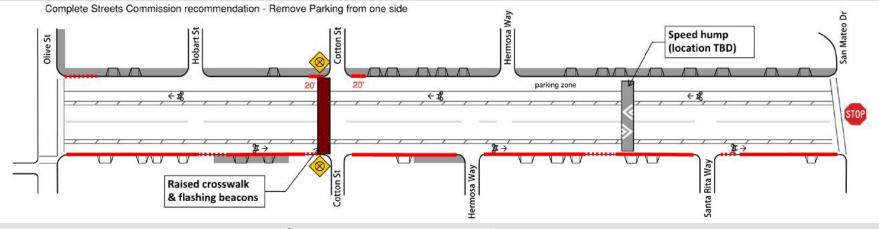
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TRAFFIC CALMING AND BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS



Olive St. to San Mateo Dr.





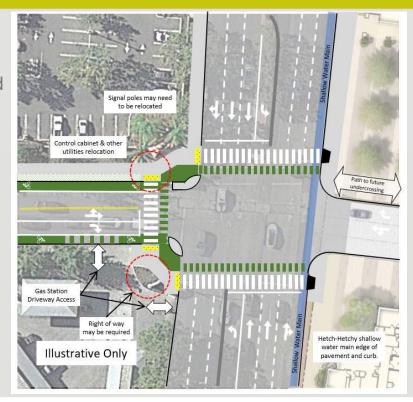
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EL CAMINO REAL CSC RECOMMENDATIONS



- Pursue dedicated intersection
 - Some right-of-way acquisition may be needed
- Pursue short/mid-term signal improvements
 - Leading pedestrian interval
 - No right turn on red (blank out signs during start of pedestrian crossing phase)
 - Protected left turns
 - Bicycle signal

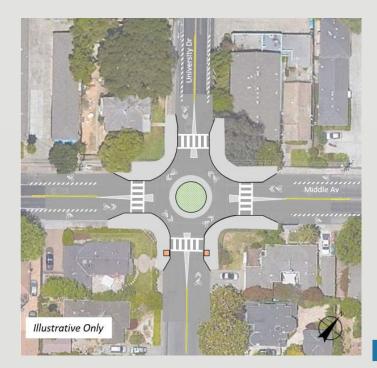




UNIVERSITY DR & OLIVE STREET CSC RECOMMENDATIONS



- Remove turn pockets at University Dr and Olive St
 - Removing right-turn pockets is not expected to create additional congestion
- Pursue a pilot mini-roundabout at University Dr
 - Include education and encouragement as part of pilot

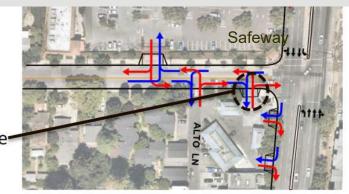




SAFEWAY AND SHELL DRIVEWAY CSC RECOMMENDATIONS



- Ongoing monitoring of driveways at both properties
- Pursue conversation with Shell gas station owner about closing one access point from Middle Avenue (one would remain via Alto Lane)
- No action at Safeway driveways



Recommended closure

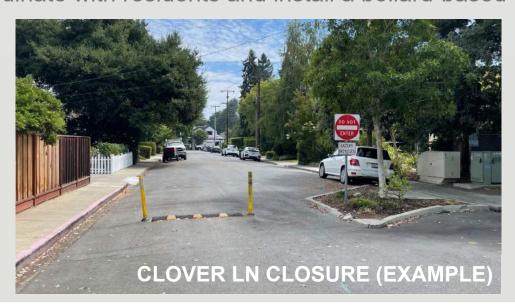
Existing Turning Movements



BLAKE STREET TEMPORARY CLOSURE



- CSC supported temporary closure of Blake Street at Middle Avenue
- Staff will coordinate with residents and install a bollard-based closure







SIDEWALK GAP CLOSURE

- About 3,000 feet of sidewalk gap on south side of Middle Avenue
- Cost estimate to install concrete sidewalks \$4 million
- CSC recommended pursuing sidewalk closure
- Staff recommends adding to 5-year CIP program





ACTION REQUESTED TONIGHT

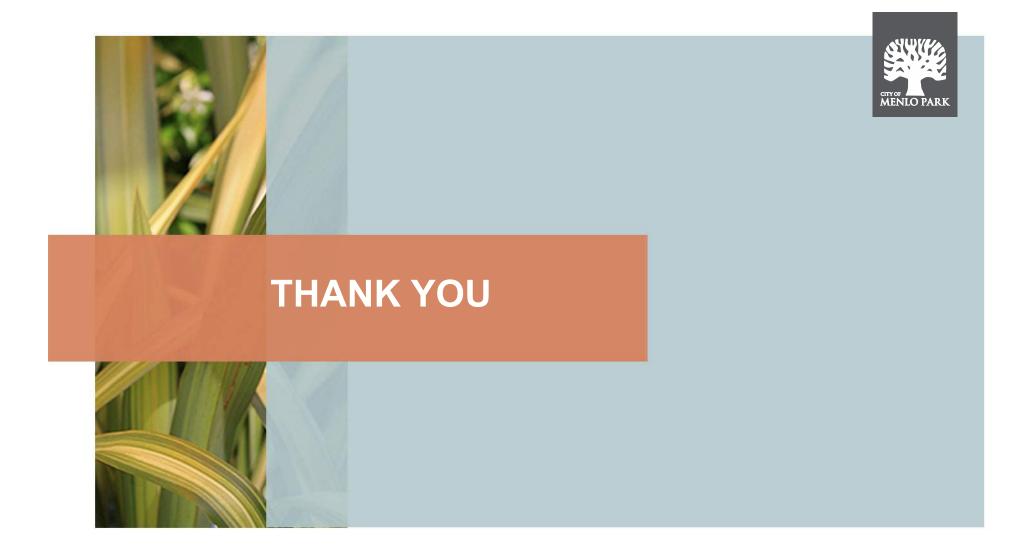
- Provide direction on project recommendations
 - Traffic calming at regular intervals
 - Parking on one side, buffered bikeways on both sides
 - Pursue closure of Shell gas station driveway
 - Temporary closure of Blake Street at Middle Avenue
 - Add sidewalk on south side to 5-year CIP
 - Pursue a pilot mini-roundabout at University Dr
- Adopt a resolution to:
 - Remove parking on one side of Middle Avenue and up to 24 spaces on the other side
 - Install an all way stop at Middle Avenue and San Mateo Drive
 - Authorize a temporary closure of Blake Street at Middle Avenue





NEXT STEPS

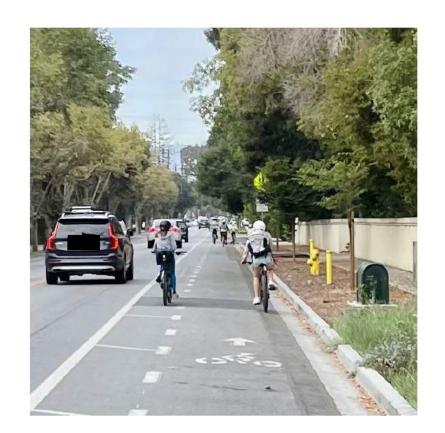
- El Camino to University
 - Staff to provide direction to Stanford University to complete bikeway elements
- University to Olive
 - Staff to commence design for preferred concept
 - Staff to pursue grant opportunities to support implementation
- Blake Street temporary closure
 - Staff to design and install
- Evaluation/Data collection
 - Staff to collect parking counts on Sunday near the New Community Church
 - Staff to collect data on parallel and intersecting streets using existing data collection contract



Side by Side Riding

Morning of 9/12/22

Oak Grove Avenue - Morning of 9/12/22





Middle Avenue - Morning of 9/12/22



Door Zone

Morning of 9/12/22

Oak Grove Avenue - Morning of 9/12/22





Oak Grove Avenue - Morning of 9/12/22



