



STAFF REPORT

City Council

Meeting Date: 11/19/2024

Staff Report Number: 24-198-CC

Consent Calendar:

Accept the Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study final report and adopt a resolution of support for the implementation of a one-way pilot on Coleman Avenue in San Mateo County

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study final report (Attachment A) and adopt a resolution of support advocating for the implementation of a one-way pilot on Coleman Avenue between the City/County border and Ringwood Avenue to provide space for people walking and biking (Attachment B).

Policy Issues

The Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study is consistent with General Plan Circulation Element policies to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety (CIRC-1.7 and 1.8), support safe routes to school programs (CIRC-1.9), accommodate all modes (CIRC-2.1), support use of streets for people walking and bicycling (CIRC-2.7), and expand the bikeway network (CIRC-2.9).

Background

Coleman and Ringwood Avenues are both important routes for students walking and bicycling to several area schools, including Menlo-Atherton High School, Laurel Elementary School (both Lower and Upper campuses), the Peninsula School, KIPP Valiant Community Prep, and Silicon Valley International School. The Menlo Park Transportation Master Plan identifies improved bicycle facilities as a priority project on Coleman Avenue from Willow Road to the City border, as well as a desired extension of that route north through the County-owned portion of Coleman Avenue to Ringwood Avenue. The two roadways are primarily within the City of Menlo Park or County of San Mateo jurisdiction, though a small portion of Ringwood Avenue (one side of the street adjacent to a portion of the Menlo-Atherton High School campus) is within the Town of Atherton.

Coleman Avenue is one of three roads (along with Bay Road and Middlefield Road) that connect Ringwood Avenue with Willow Road. Given its centralized location and lower traffic volumes compared to the parallel routes, Coleman Avenue serves as the most direct route for children that bicycle and walk to school. Ringwood Avenue, while primarily located within the County, is an important part of a bicycling and walking route that connects from downtown and Caltrain to the Flood Triangle, Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods. The Ringwood Avenue pedestrian/bicycle bridge is an integral component of the route, offering a less stressful, separated alternative to crossings over US 101 at Marsh Road or Willow Road and allowing many students to travel to schools on both sides of US 101.

In December 2021, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of San

Mateo to jointly fund a study to identify and evaluate safety upgrades for Coleman and Ringwood Avenues, with a focus on improving active transportation options in these corridors. City staff, together with County staff and W-Trans, the project consultant, kicked off the Project in February 2022. A link to the County's project website is provided in Attachment C. The Project included a review of existing conditions, identification of challenges and opportunities, development and evaluation of improvement options, and development of a final report (Attachment A). The Project also included substantial outreach, including a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), public engagement events, and presentations to the Complete Streets Commission (CSC) and the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

The TAC included representatives from public agencies (including Menlo Park and San Mateo County), Samtrans, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, and administrators from several schools. The CAC included a diverse set of representatives including students and parents from several schools, members of relevant commissions (City of Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission and County BPAC), local residents, and community-based organizations serving the Belle Haven neighborhood and East Palo Alto.

On Oct. 22, the City Council received a report (Attachment D) on the study's progress and provided direction on next steps. A full description of the community outreach and engagement and recommendations from the Complete Streets Commission and County BPAC was provided as part of the prior report. As part of the study session, the City Council directed staff to:

- Proceed with implementation of a pilot bikeway installation on Coleman Avenue in the City, which would include removal of parking on one side;
- Proceed with implementing traffic calming measures in the City, as quickly as possible;
- Proceed with implementing an all-way stop sign at Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue;
- Authorize the Mayor to approve and sign a letter to San Mateo County advocating for implementation of a one-way pilot on Coleman Avenue between the City/County border and Ringwood Avenue in order to provide space for people walking and biking; and
- Return to City Council to accept the Coleman-Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study final report.

Analysis

Since the Oct. 22 City Council meeting, staff has continued to develop an implementation plan for the modifications on Coleman Avenue and coordinate with San Mateo County staff on next steps. As discussed at this meeting, staff is anticipating the pilot installation within the area of the City's jurisdiction would be installed during summer 2025 in advance of the 2025-26 school year. A more detailed schedule and implementation plan is currently being developed, and as directed by the City Council, staff explored installing the traffic calming measures and all-way stop sign at Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue as soon as possible. Staff will return to the City Council to adopt a resolution for the stop sign installation and parking modifications for the pilot in spring 2025. Based on other ongoing project priorities and available resource levels, staff anticipates that all improvements would be installed in summer 2025.

Staff is returning to seek City Council acceptance of the final report (Attachment A) and to seek the City Council's adoption of a resolution of support advocating for the implementation of a one-way pilot on Coleman Avenue between the City/County border and Ringwood Avenue in order to provide space for people walking and biking (Attachment B). This resolution would be submitted to the County in place of the draft letter authorized by the City Council Oct. 22.

Impact on City Resources

The Project was funded through the City's five-year capital improvement program and used Measure W funds. The budget adopted by City Council is sufficient to complete the current study and installation of the traffic calming measures and all-way stop sign at Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue. Additional funding is needed for the installation of bicycle facilities in the City section, and staff anticipates requesting funding for these modifications (up to \$140,000) as part of the annual mid-year budget review in early 2025. The long-term improvements on Coleman Avenue and Ringwood Avenue require a larger effort and staff will continue to look at potential grant opportunities, in coordination with San Mateo County, to help fund the project elements.

Environmental Review

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378. Any future improvements would undergo environmental review as needed.

Public Notice

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Attachments

- A. Hyperlink – Final report: smcsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/Coleman-and-Ringwood-Avenues-Transportation-Study_Final-Draft-Summary-Report.pdf
- B. Resolution
- C. Hyperlink – County project website: smcsustainability.org/colemanringwoodwalkbike
- D. Hyperlink – Staff Report # 24-185-CC: menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2024-meetings/agendas/20241022/h1-20241022-cc-colman-and-ringwood-aves-study.pdf

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RESOLUTION NO. XXXX**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK
SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF A “ONE WAY PILOT” ON COLEMAN
AVENUE WITHIN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**

WHEREAS, Dec. 7, 2021, the City Council authorized a memorandum of understanding with the County of San Mateo for the Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study (Study); and

WHEREAS, the Study established goals to improve safety and mobility for all users on Coleman and Ringwood Avenues; and

WHEREAS, the Study covered four different phases including establishing existing conditions, developing initial alternatives, selecting preferred alternatives, and developing potential pilot options for Coleman Avenue; and

WHEREAS, City and County staff held in-person and virtual public meetings to inform residents about the Study and gather feedback from the community to shape potential recommendations; and

WHEREAS, long-term alternatives were identified for Ringwood and Coleman Avenues; and

WHEREAS, in response to community input, four short-term pilot options were developed for Coleman Avenue; and

WHEREAS, a community-driven survey indicated a strong preference for a one-way pilot in the County section of Coleman Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in September 2024, the County hosted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting, and more than 80 people provided comments with more than half expressing preference for a one-way pilot; and

WHEREAS, a pilot can be installed in a shorter timeline and lower cost to the permanent long term alternative; and

WHEREAS, the City Council Oct. 22, 2024 discussed the Study, next steps and directed staff to:

- Proceed with implementation of a pilot bikeway installation on Coleman Avenue in the City, which would include removal of parking on one side;
- Proceed with implementing traffic calming measures in the City, as quickly as possible;
- Proceed with implementing an all-way stop sign at Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue;
- Authorize the Mayor to approve and sign a letter to San Mateo County advocating for implementation of a one-way pilot on Coleman Avenue between the City/County border and Ringwood Avenue in order to provide space for people walking and biking;
- Return to City Council to accept the Coleman-Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study final report; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the meeting, staff has continued to coordinate with San Mateo County staff on next steps; and

WHEREAS, this resolution replaces the letter directed by City Council Oct. 22; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park, acting by and through its City Council, having considered and been fully advised in the matter and good cause appearing therefore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of Menlo Park does hereby affirm support for a "one way pilot" on Coleman Avenue within the County of San Mateo.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the nineteenth day of November 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this ____ day of November, 2024.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk