



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 7/8/2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 959 6579 2741

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the Complete Streets Commission, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Access the special meeting real-time online at:
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – Regular Meeting ID# 959 6579 2741

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website www.menlopark.org. The instructions for logging on to the Zoom webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the Zoom webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information (menlopark.org/agenda).

Regular Meeting ([Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 959 6579 2741)

A. Call to Order

Chair Behroozi called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Behroozi, Cebrian, Espinosa, Kirsch, Lee, Levin, Meyer, Wyatt

Absent: Cromie

Staff: Assistant Engineer Rich Angulo, Senior Transportation Engineer Kevin Chen

Consultant: Parisi Transportation Consulting

C. Reports and Announcements

Staff Chen reported a summary of City Council actions on transportation related and City budget

items since the February 12, 2020, Commission meeting.

Commissioner Behroozi inquired about the downtown Santa Cruz Avenue closure. Commissioner Levin reported on the City's Climate Action Plan update and Caltrain news. Commissioner Lee reported on potential bus service shortage for the upcoming school year.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Regular Business

- E1. Approve the Complete Streets Commission regular meeting minutes of February 12, 2020 (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Kirsch/Lee) to approve the Complete Streets Commission regular meeting minutes of February 12, 2020, passed (4-3-1, Behroozi/Espinosa/Wyatt abstained, Cromie absent).

- E2. Consider recommendation to City Council to make permanent the temporary turn restriction measures installed in the Willows neighborhood (Staff Report #20-003-CSC)

Staff Angulo and Patrick Golier from Parisi Transportation Consulting made the presentation (Attachment).

- Julie Forbes spoke against the project due to increased time to exit the neighborhood.
- Amar Murugan, Tricia Barr, Amy Roleder, Keith Roleder, Brian Gilmer, Tracy Morris, Michelle Heeseman, Chitra C., Francois Bailly, Michele Barry spoke in support of the project.
- Carol Hosinger and Kevin Hosinger stated the project increased time to exit the neighborhood and inquired about impact due to COVID and police enforcement.
- Llan Hornstein spoke in support of the project and suggested enforcement leniency for neighborhood residents.

ACTION: Motion and second (Meyer/Behroozi) to recommend to City Council to make permanent the temporary turn restriction measures installed in the Willows neighborhood, and to exempt bicycle from turn restrictions, passed (8-0-1, Cromie absent).

- E3. Selection of chair and vice chair

Chair Behroozi provided remarks and asked for nominations.

ACTION: Commissioner Kirsch nominated Commissioner Levin as Chair, by acclamation Commissioner Levin was selected as Chair. Chair Behroozi nominated Commissioner Lee as Vice Chair, by acclamation Commissioner Lee was selected as Vice Chair. With consent from new Chair Levin, Commissioner Behroozi continued to facilitate meeting.

F. Informational Items

- F1. Update on major project status

Staff Chen provided updates on the transportation management association feasibility study, crosswalk flashing beacon construction, and Oak Grove sidewalk construction.

Commissioner Kirsch inquired about the Middle Avenue pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing project.

G. Committee/Subcommittee Reports

G1. Update from Active Transportation Network Subcommittee

None.

G2. Update from Climate Action Plan Subcommittee

Commissioner Levin reported on the current status of the City's Climate Action Plan and requested a straw poll to represent the commission and present prepared public comments at the July 14 City Council meeting.

G3. Update from Downtown Access and Parking Subcommittee

Commissioner Behroozi reported on the downtown Santa Cruz Avenue closure.

G4. Update from Multimodal Subcommittee

Commissioner Levin reported on the current status of the Dumbarton rail and corridor projects.

G5. Update from Safe Routes to School Program Subcommittee

Commissioner Lee reported on the potential bus service shortage for the upcoming school year.

G6. Update from Transportation Master Plan Subcommittee

None.

G7. Update from Zero Emission Subcommittee

None.

H. Adjournment

Commissioner Behroozi adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer

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Willows Neighborhood Turning Restrictions

City of Menlo Park and Parisi Transportation Consulting

Complete Streets Commission

July 8th, 2020



Background

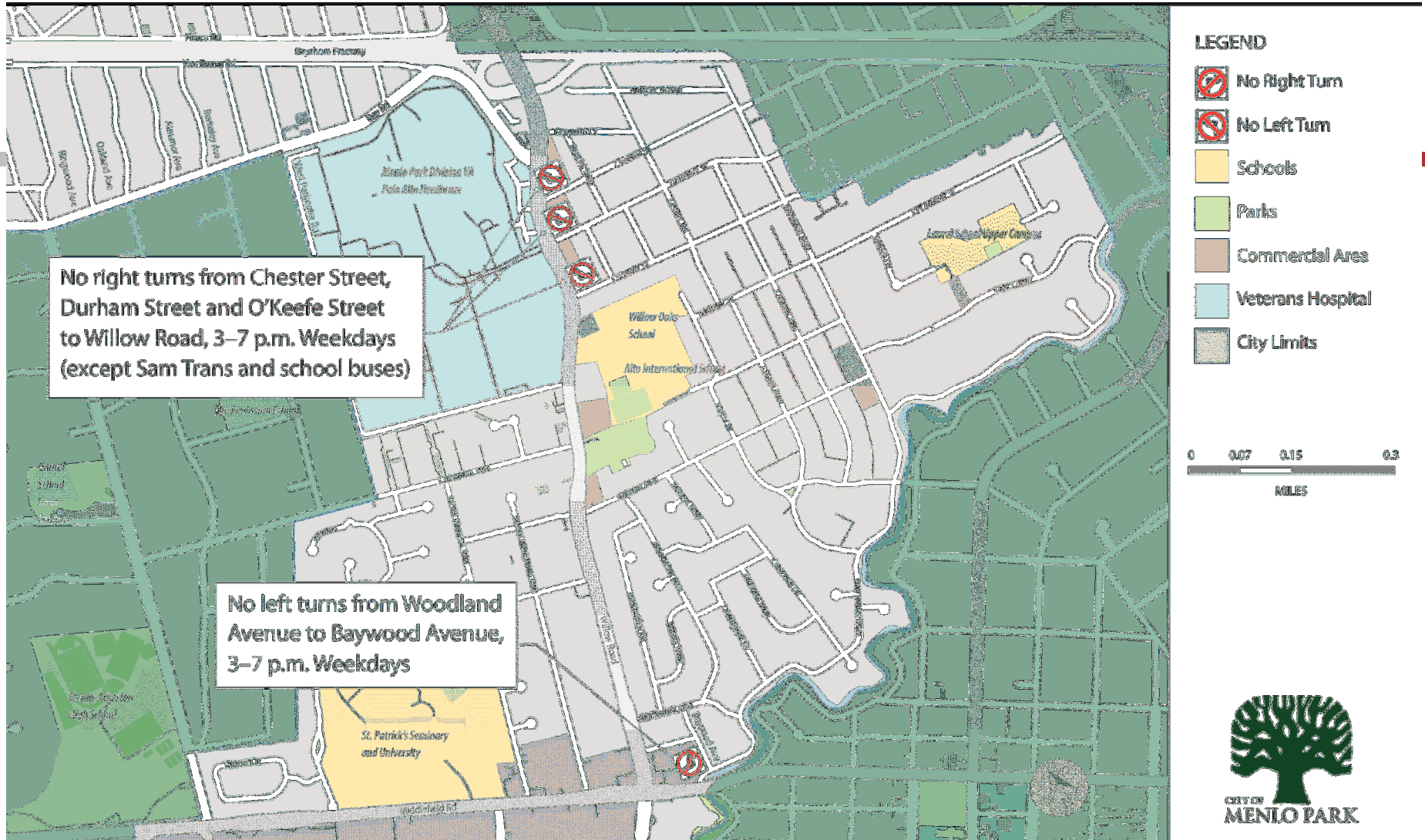
- PM peak-hour congestion on Willow Road had encouraged cut-through traffic in the Willows neighborhood
- Construction on the Highway 101/Willow Road interchange increased cut-through traffic
- City of Menlo Park installed four PM peak-hour turning restrictions to reduce cut-through traffic
- Construction on the interchange is now complete
- Parisi Transportation Consulting hired to analyze traffic volume data and provide a recommendation on the permanency of the restrictions



Timeline

- **Spring 2017:** “Before” traffic counts completed
- **May 2017:** Caltrans began construction of the U.S. 101/Willow Road interchange
- **December 2017:** PM peak-hour turning restrictions installed
- **Spring 2019:** “After” traffic counts completed
- **January/February 2020:** A public survey was completed to gauge public opinion on the turn restrictions

Turn Restrictions in the Willows Neighborhood

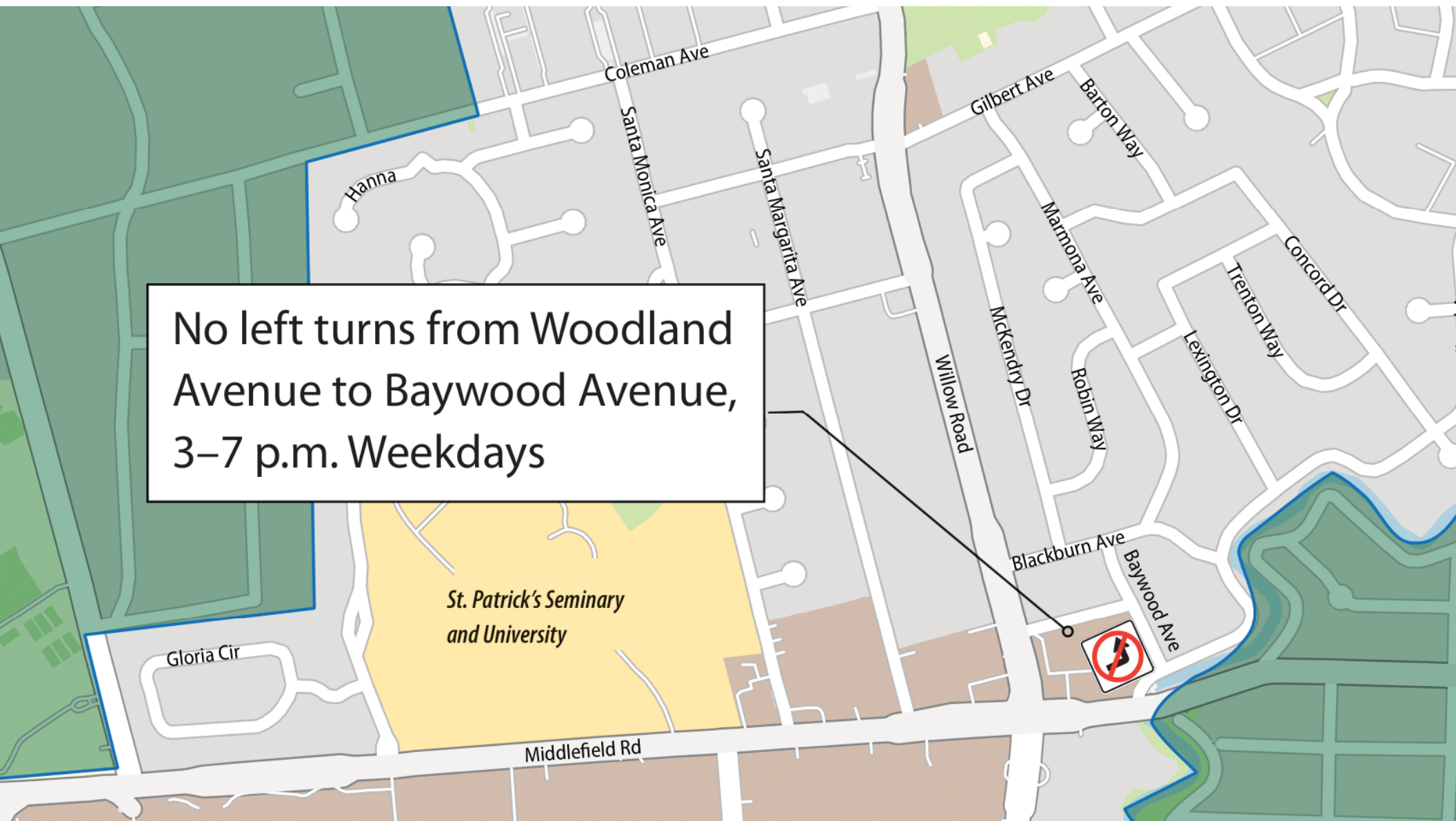




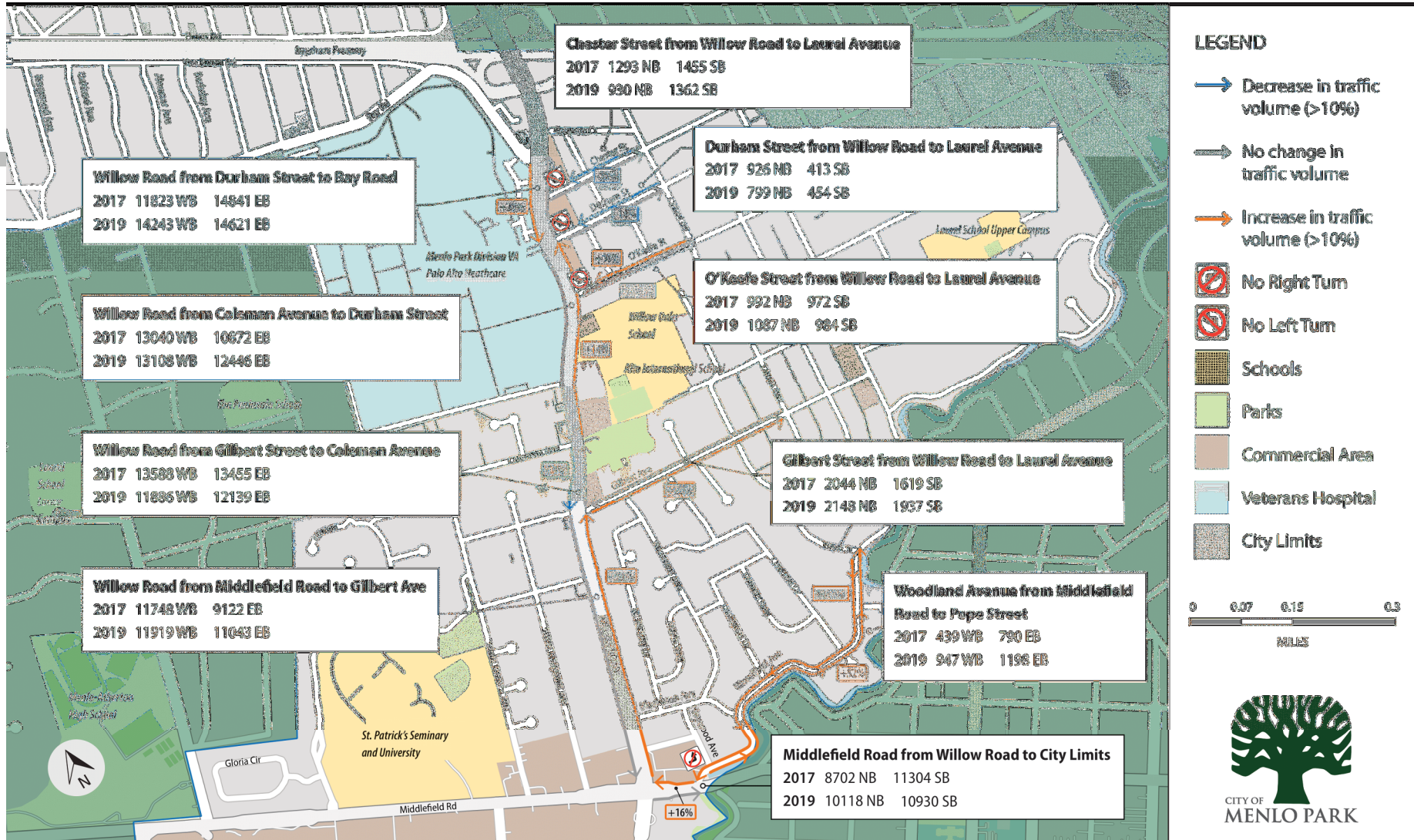
No right turns from Chester Street, Durham Street and O'Keefe Street to Willow Road, 3–7 p.m. Weekdays (except Sam Trans and school buses)

No left turns from Woodland Avenue to Baywood Avenue,
3–7 p.m. Weekdays

*St. Patrick's Seminary
and University*



The Willows Neighborhood: Change in Daily Traffic Volumes (2017 – 2019)



Chester Street from Willow Road to Laurel Avenue

2017 1293 NB 1455 SB

2019 930 NB 1362 SB

Durham Street from Willow Road to Laurel Avenue

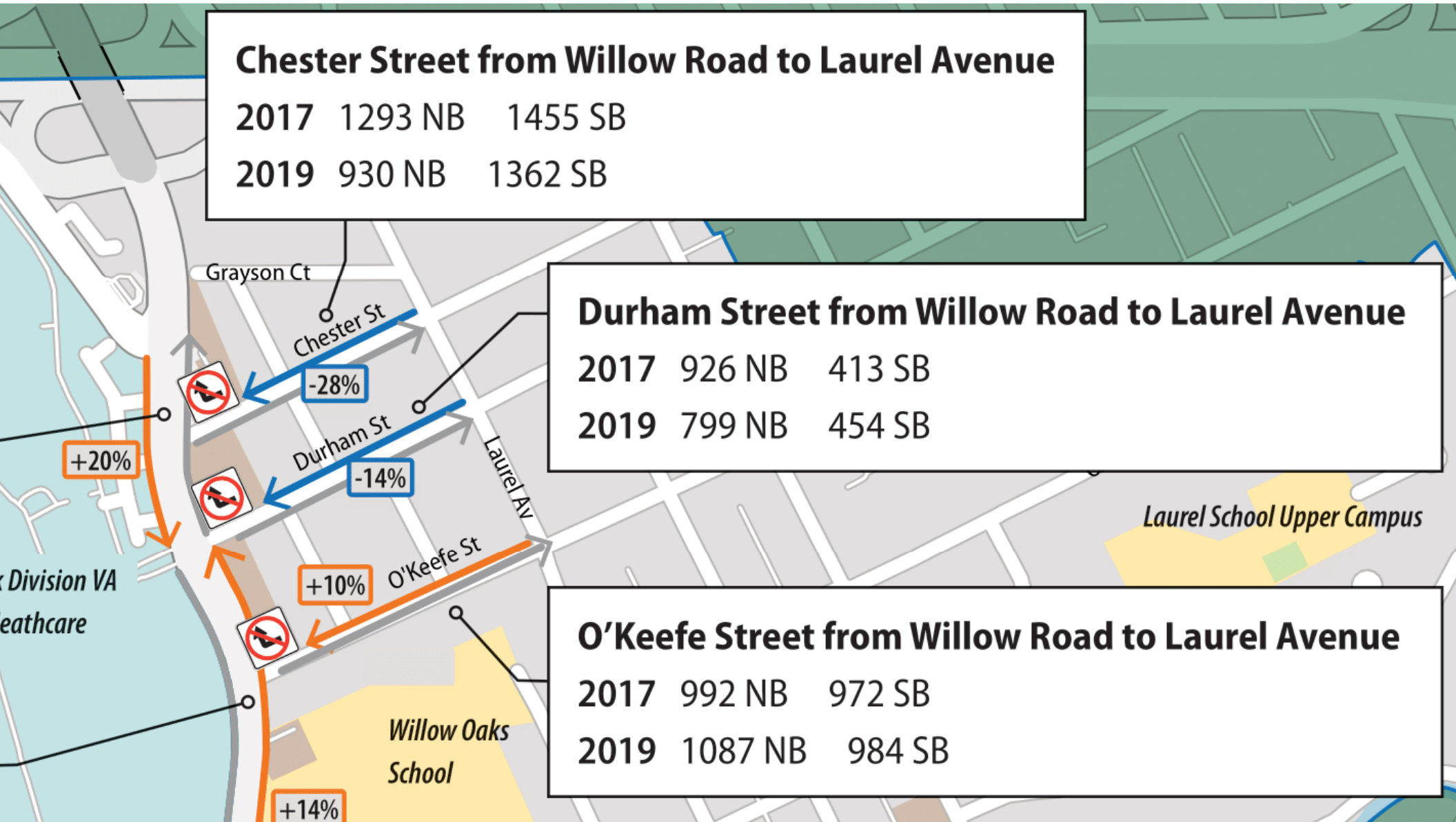
2017 926 NB 413 SB

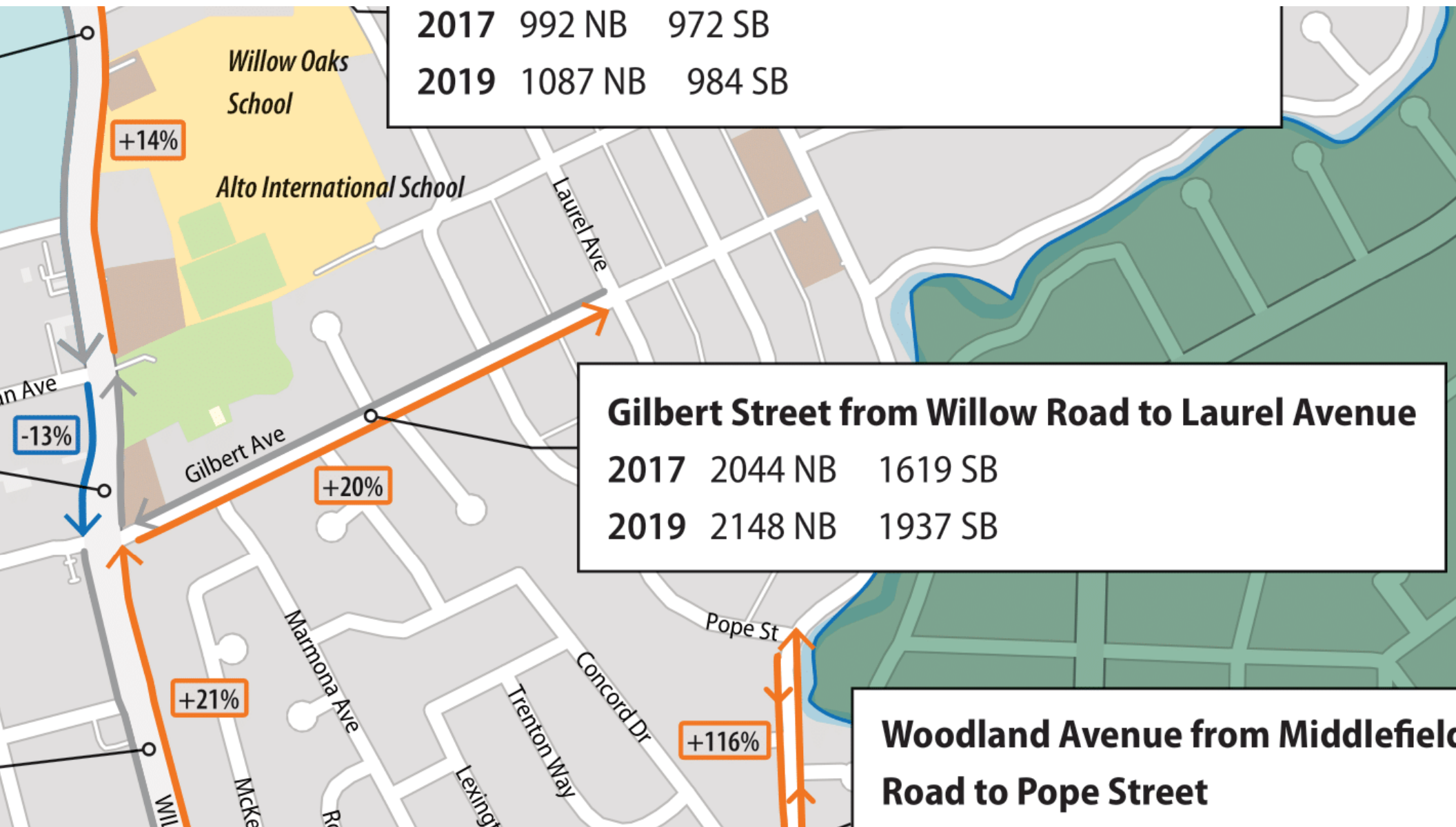
2019 799 NB 454 SB

O'Keefe Street from Willow Road to Laurel Avenue

2017 992 NB 972 SB

2019 1087 NB 984 SB





2017	992 NB	972 SB
2019	1087 NB	984 SB

Gilbert Street from Willow Road to Laurel Avenue

2017	2044 NB	1619 SB
2019	2148 NB	1937 SB

Woodland Avenue from Middlefield Road to Pope Street

2017	167	167
2019	334	334

+14%

-13%

+20%

+21%

+116%

Willow Oaks School

Alto International School

Laurel Ave

Gilbert Ave

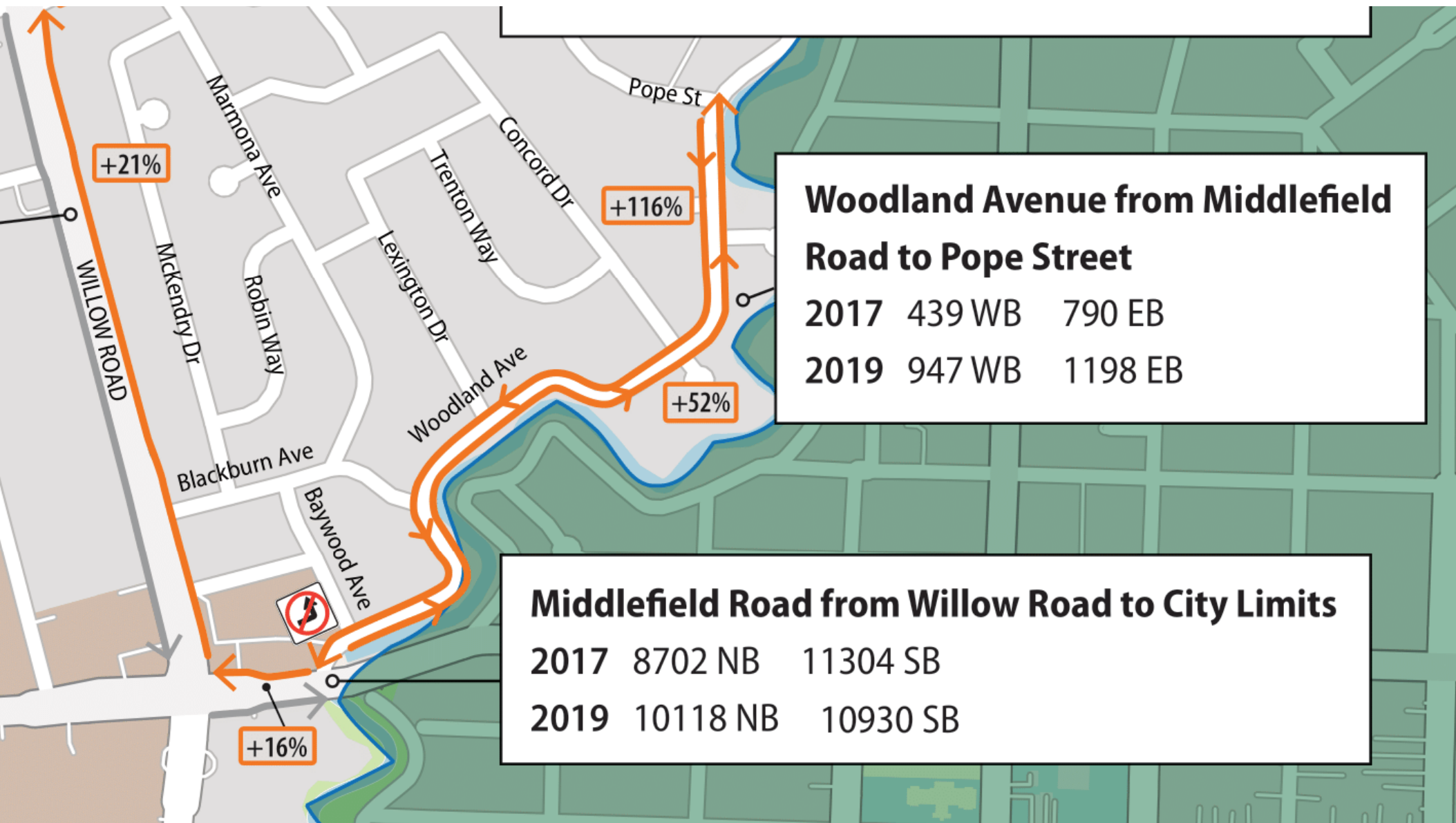
Marmona Ave

Trenton Way

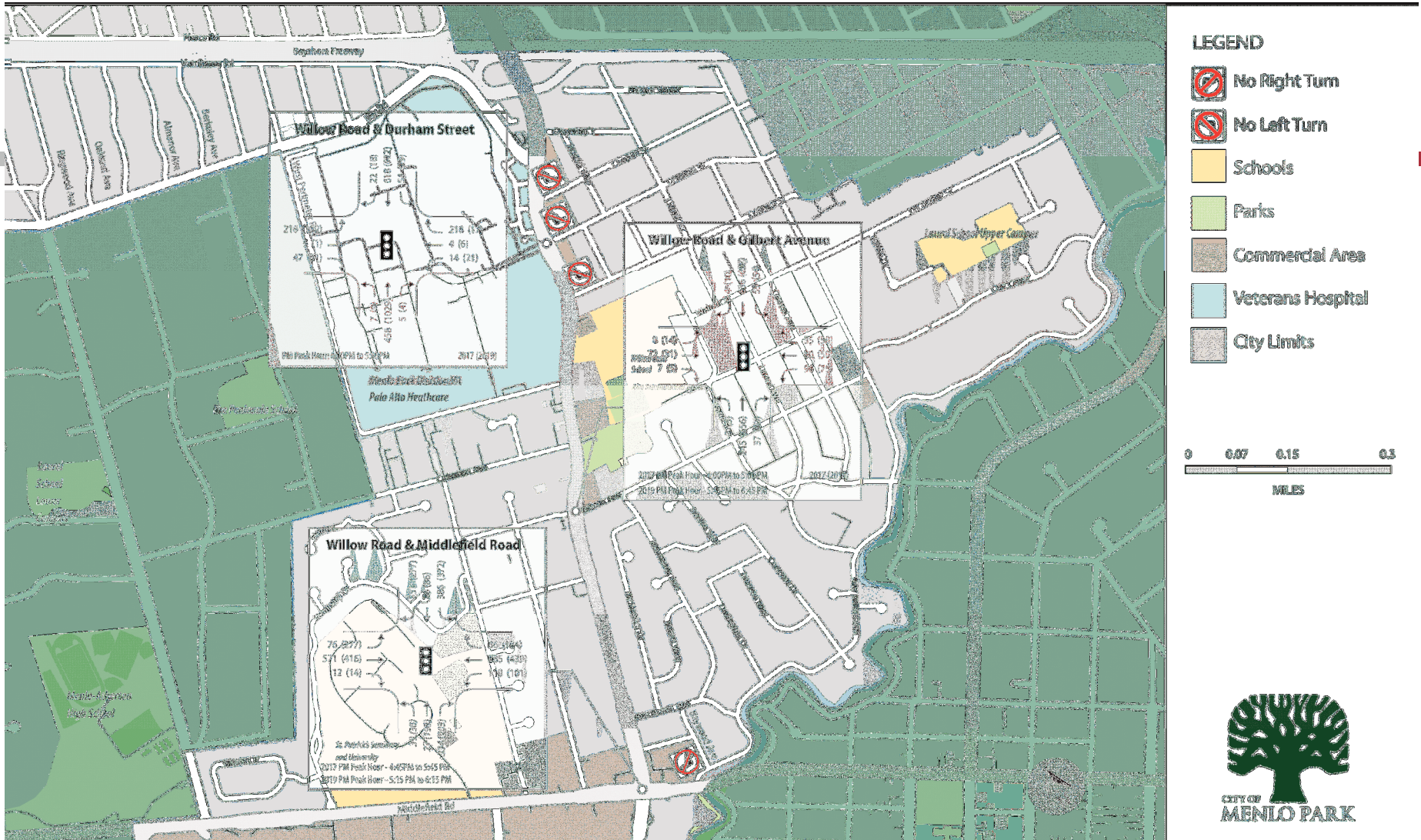
Concord Dr

Pope St

Middlefield Road



The Willows Neighborhood: PM Peak Hour Traffic Volumes (2017 & 2019)



PM Peak Hour Turning Movements

- Right from Durham Street to Willow Road
 - ▶ 2017: **218** vehicles
 - ▶ 2019: **17** vehicles
- Right from Gilbert Street to Willow Road
 - ▶ 2017: **35** vehicles
 - ▶ 2019: **58** vehicles
- Right from Willow Road to Middlefield Road
 - ▶ 2017: **334** vehicles
 - ▶ 2019: **203** vehicles

Traffic Count - Summary

- Total daily traffic in NB direction towards Willow Road **decreased** on Chester and Durham Streets though **increased** on O'Keefe Street
- Durham/Willow – over 90% reduction in number of vehicles turning right in PM peak hour from Durham to Willow
- Gilbert Avenue – corresponding increase of 23 vehicles
- Middlefield/Willow – 40% reduction in numbers of vehicles turning right onto Middlefield in PM peak hour from Willow

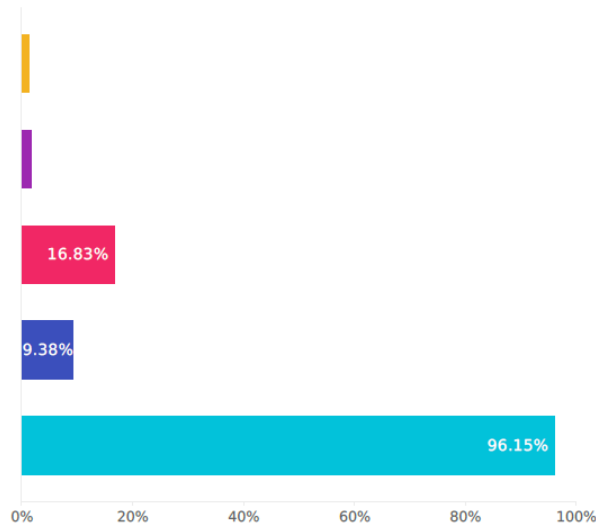
Public Survey

- January 17th to February 3rd, 2020
- Postcards advertising the online survey were mailed to residents in the neighborhood and posted to NextDoor, Twitter, and Facebook.
- 417 responses received



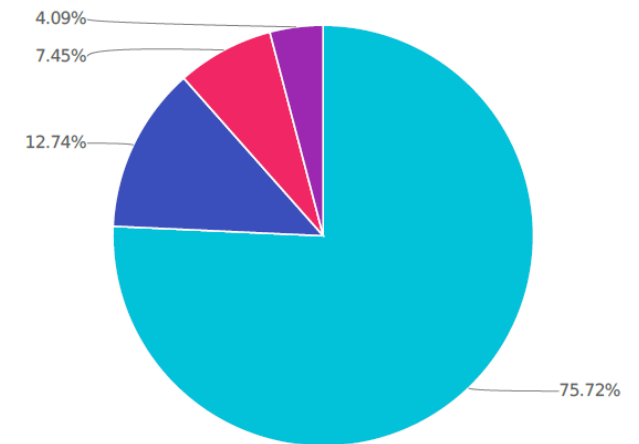
Public Survey

Check All that Apply:



- I live in the neighborhood
- I work in the neighborhood
- My child goes to school in the neighborhood
- I do not live in the neighborhood, but I patronize businesses, services, or parks there, or visit friends or family there
- Other (Please specify):

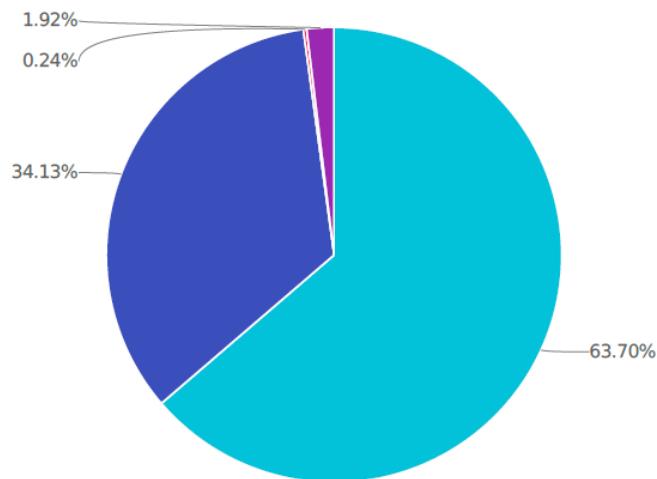
Prior to the installation of the turn restrictions, you thought cut-through traffic in the Willows neighborhood was:



- A serious problem
- A moderate problem
- A minor problem
- Not a problem

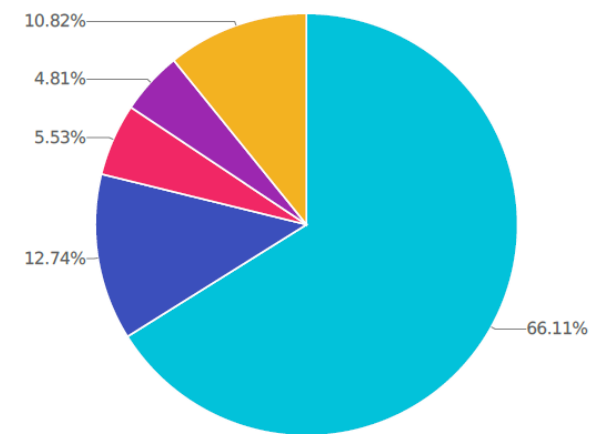
Public Survey(cont.)

Did you change your typical traveling patterns as a result of the turn restrictions?



● Yes ● No ● I don't know ● I don't drive

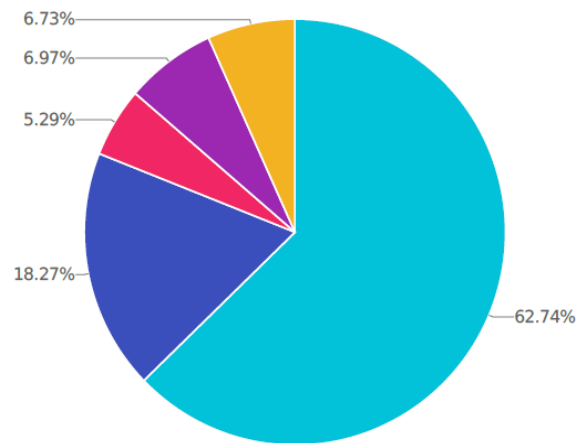
I think the turn restrictions provide _____ benefits than drawbacks for vehicle circulation



● Significantly more ● Slightly more ● About the same amount of
● Slightly less ● Significantly less

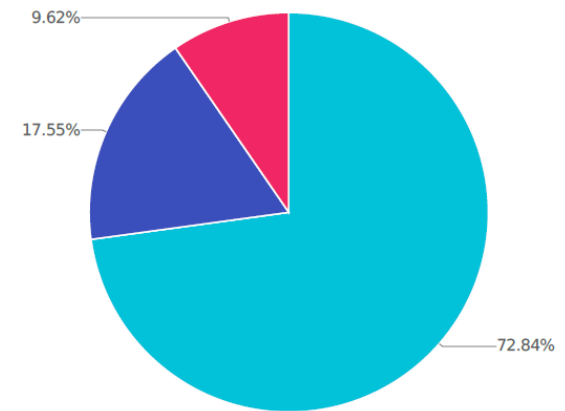
Public Survey (cont.)

I think the turn restrictions have resulted in a _____ impact on the neighborhood.



- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neutral
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative

Do you think the turn restrictions should remain in place permanently?



- Yes
- No
- Some should stay, some should go (describe using question #8)

Public Survey – Comments Received

- The turn restrictions have improved quality of life for neighborhood residents
- Turn restrictions have increased travel times to and from Highway 101 for some respondents
- Turn restrictions are not adequately enforced by Menlo Park Police
- The intersection of Woodland Avenue and Blackburn Avenue has poor visibility
- Intersections on Willow Road frequently blocked
- Exemptions should be made for neighborhood residents and/or bicyclists

Recommendation



- Overwhelming compliance with the restrictions
- Minimal impacts on other neighborhood streets
- Strong public support for keeping the turn restrictions in place permanently
- **Recommendation to retain turn restrictions**

Thank you!

