CITY OF MENLO PARK

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Date: **5/11/2022**
Time: **7:00 p.m.**
Location: **Zoom**

A. Call To Order

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

B. Roll Call

Present: Altman, Behroozi, Cebrian, Cole, King, Kollmann
Absent: Jensen
Staff: Associate Transportation Engineer Esther Jung, Engineering Technician Patrick Palmer, Senior Transportation Engineer Kevin Chen

B1. Welcome new Commissioner Christopher Kollmann

C. Reports and Announcements

Staff Chen reported on City Council actions related to transportation since the April 13, 2022 Commission meeting.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Regular Business

E1. Accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for April 13, 2022 (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (King/ Cebrian), to accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for April 13, 2022, passed 6--0 (Jensen absent, Kollmann abstaining).

E2. Receive a summary of community engagement effort for Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project and provide feedback on selection process for preferred improvement options for Middle Avenue (Staff Report #22-008-CSC)

Staff Jung made the presentation (Attachment).

- Aaron Meyers spoke in opposition of parking removal on both sides and in support of parking removal on one side.
- Bill Kirsch spoke in support of parking removal on both sides from El Camino Real to University Drive, parking removal on one side on remainder of Middle Avenue, and raised crosswalks at Blake Street, San Mateo Drive and in front of Jack W. Lyle Park at Arbor Road and Fremont Street.
- Ken Kershner spoke about traffic conditions at El Camino Real and Middle Avenue, the need for a new mid-block crossing in front of Safeway, and suggested using parking on Middle Avenue to

protect future bike lanes.

- Elschor spoke in support of no right turn on red lights at El Camino Real and Middle Avenue, traffic calming measures on Middle Avenue, including stop signs and traffic circles, and in spoke in support of additional evaluation and enforcement at Olive Street and Oak Avenue.
- Eduardo Arias spoke in support of parking removal from El Camino Real to University Drive and improving crossing at Arbor Road.
- Burcin Baytekin spoke in support of parking removal on both sides.
- Adina Levin spoke in opposition of part-time bike lanes but in support of traffic calming measures, improvements at El Camino Real and Middle Avenue and pedestrian access near Safeway.
- Gilles spoke in support of traffic calming measures to address speeding, parking removal on one side, and preserving Nealon Park parking.
- Randy Ferrando spoke in support of sidewalks.
- Misha Silin spoke in support of traffic calming measures such as raised crosswalks, traffic circles, and closure of Blake Street.
- Jessica Gronski spoke in support of no parking in front of Nealon Park and a residential parking permit program, if parking is removed.
- Ashley Callahan spoke in support of traffic calming measures on Olive Street and University Drive and Arbor Road and University Drive, closure of Blake Street, and in opposition of traffic circles.
- Dan Azagury spoke in support of physical safety improvements such as speed bumps.
- Sandy Napel spoke in support of improving Blake Street crossing at Middle Avenue and the closure of Blake Street.

The Commission discussed and provided feedback to staff:

- Return both bike lane/ parking removal options. Final recommendation should also consider: green bike lane treatment, property lot size, driveway length, distance to school, distance to nearest cross street, etc.
- Explore multiple traffic calming measures at key locations, including Blake Street, University Drive, Arbor Road, San Mateo Drive, and Olive Drive. Measures should include but not limited to: raised crosswalk, flashing beacons, speed humps, traffic circle, speed feedback signs.
- Evaluate circulations from Safeway and gas station driveways near El Camino Real and Middle Avenue.
- Conduct a Nealon Park parking demand evaluation and propose frontage parking configuration alternatives.
- Explore the possibility of eliminating westbound right turn lanes on Middle Avenue at University Drive and at Olive Drive, to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Evaluate feasibility and explore a temporary trial phase in response to resident request to close Blake Street.

Other considerations:

- Explore no right turn on red at El Camino Real and Middle Avenue.
- Continue to seek opportunities to complete missing sidewalk gaps.
- Publish survey results on project website.
- Coordinate with the police department for enforcement and education.

E3. Selection of vice chair

- Adina Levin spoke about the vice chair's roles and responsibilities.

The Commission continued the selection of vice chair to a future meeting.

F. Informational Items

F1. Update on major project status

Staff Chen provided updates on the County's Ringwood Avenue/ Coleman Avenue transportation study and grant opportunities for the El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue crossing and the Willow Road Class IV bikeway improvements.

G. Committee/Subcommittee Reports

G1. Update from Climate Action Plan Subcommittee

None.

G2. Update from Downtown Access and Parking Subcommittee

None.

G3. Update from Multimodal Metrics Subcommittee

None.

G4. Update from Multimodal Subcommittee

None.

G5. Update from Safe Routes to School Program Subcommittee

None.

G6. Update from Transportation Master Plan Implementation Subcommittee

None.

G7. Update from Zero Emission Subcommittee

None.

H. Adjournment

Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer

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MIDDLE AVENUE COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

Complete Streets Commission | May 11, 2022

AGENDA

- Background
- Key Findings from Public Meeting
- Key Findings from Online Survey
- Commission Feedback
- Next Steps

BACKGROUND

- 65’ City right of way
- 42’ wide curb to curb
- Edge lanes with parallel parking
- No separation for bicyclists
- Varying speed limit

BACKGROUND: PLANNING HISTORY

Date	Description
October 2017	500 El Camino Real Development – Stanford University is responsible for bicycle facility design/implementation from El Camino Real to University Drive
October 2020	Speed Limit Survey – City Council directed staff to provide traffic calming options on Middle Avenue to achieve a 25 mph zone
November 2020	Transportation Master Plan – Adopted the plan for Class II bicycle lane on Middle Avenue between El Camino Real and Olive Street
March 2021	High Priority Project – City Council directed staff to add Middle Avenue traffic calming project to the work plan as a complete street project
March 2022	Community Meeting and Online Survey

PUBLIC MEETING GOALS

- Inform residents about the project and opportunities to get involved
- Gather feedback from the community to shape potential bicycle and and parking options
- Identify community needs and priorities for traffic calming measures
- Solicit input on current issues, opportunities, and barriers for walking and bicycling at El Camino Real intersection

PUBLIC MEETING

- Publicity Efforts
  - More than 2000 postcards dropped at local businesses and residences throughout the project area
  - Changeable Message Signs
  - Social media campaign
  - Project website updates
  - City press release

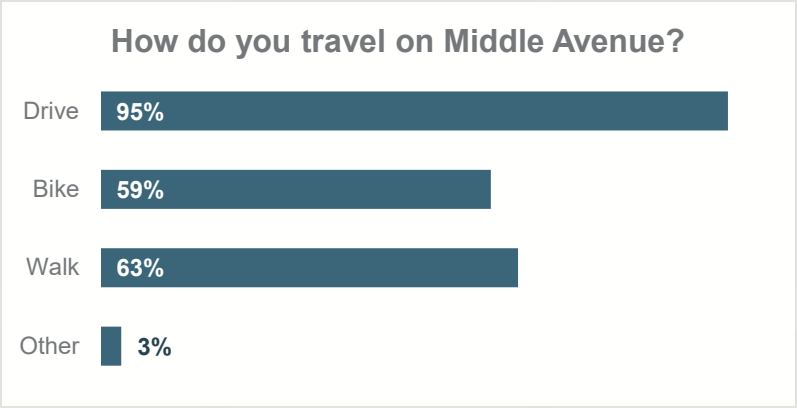
- March 3, 2022 from 6pm to 8pm
  - In-person at Nealon Park tennis court
  - Virtually via Zoom

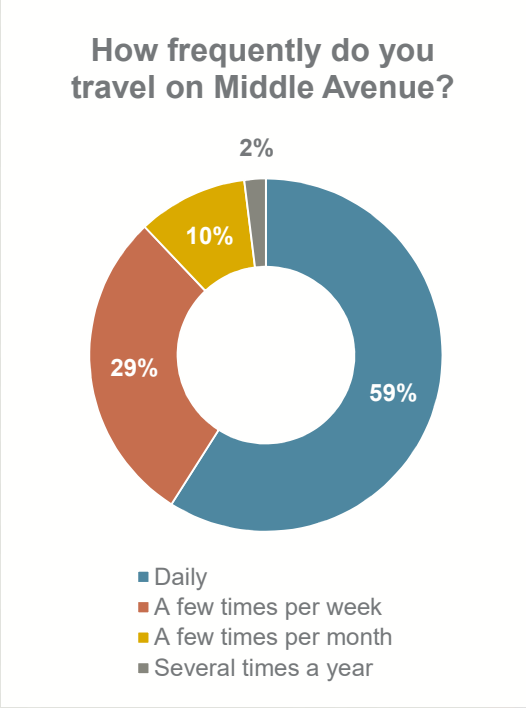
PUBLIC MEETING KEY FINDINGS

- Overall support for bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- Concerns about bicycling safety, especially for children
- Concerns about removal of street parking
- Concerns about speeding vehicles and the lack of traffic calming to slow down vehicles
- Concerns about number of larger trucks
- Opposition to back-in angle parking along Nealon Park frontage

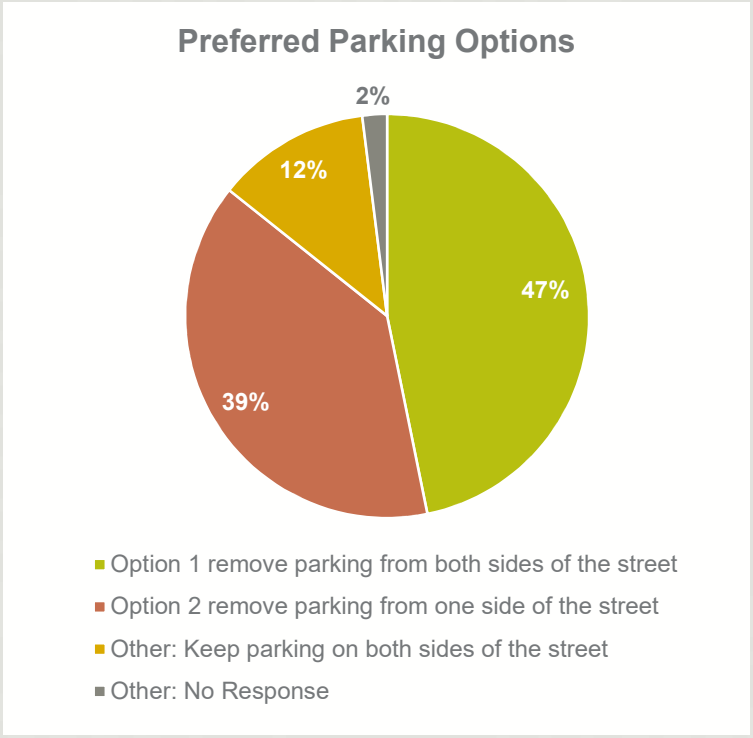
ONLINE SURVEY

- Over 600 survey respondents
  - 10 percent are residents on Middle Avenue
  - 80 percent live nearby
- Frequent users
- Travel modes





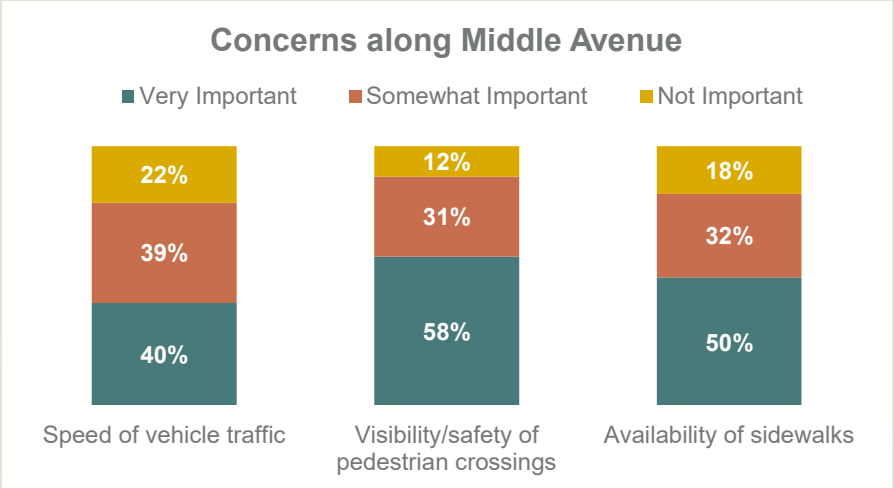
ONLINE SURVEY –
BICYCLING FACILITY AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS



- Majority prefer removal of parking on either one or both sides of the street
- More support towards removal of parking on both sides
- Few support parking with partial restrictions
- Nealon Park frontage parking
  - Back-in angle parking
  - Reconfigure or Remove frontage parking
  - Resident-parking only

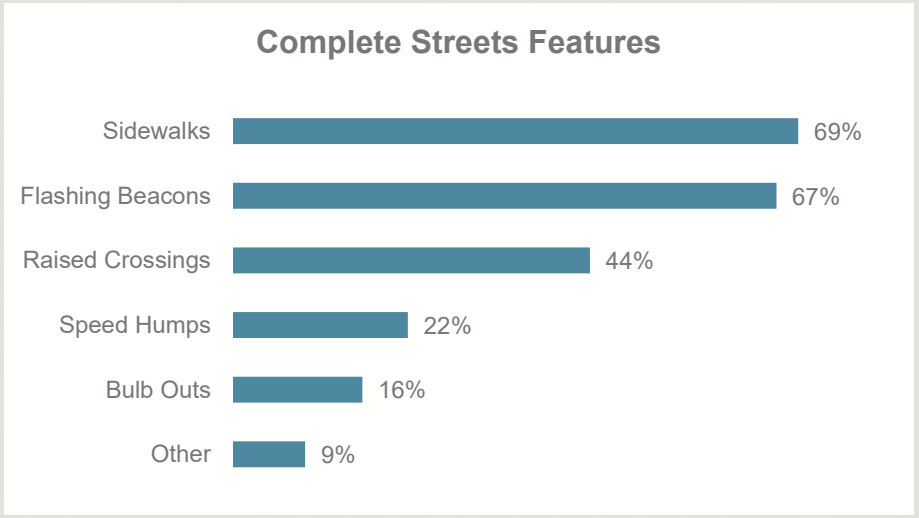
ONLINE SURVEY –
TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

- Speed of traffic, visibility of pedestrian crossings, and sidewalk availabilities are all concerns along Middle Avenue
- Need for safe pedestrian crossings
  - Nealon Park / Blake Street
  - Lyle Park / Arbor Road
  - San Mateo Drive
  - University Drive



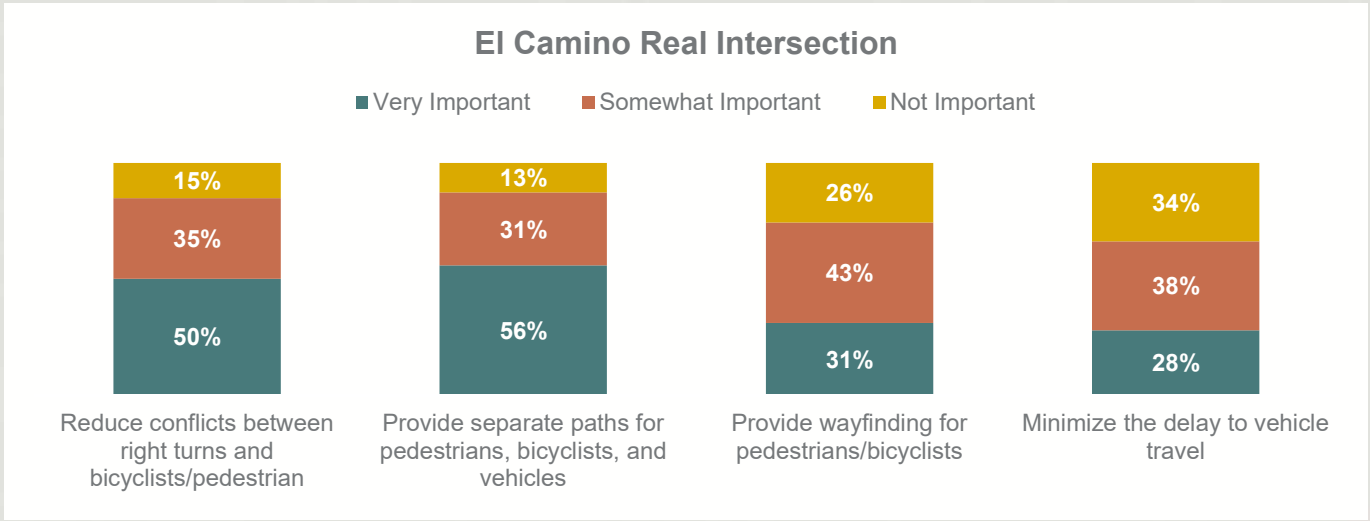
ONLINE SURVEY –
TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

- Majority support having traffic calming measures
- About 10 percent indicated no change is necessary and that some traffic calming features are not a good solution for Middle
- Other Suggestions:
  - Chicanes/Islands
  - Speed limit signs
  - Stop signs
  - Traffic enforcement
  - Bicycle education
  - Additional study on nearby streets



ONLINE SURVEY –
EL CAMINO REAL INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

- Safety of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing is major concern
- Protected paths for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles at the intersection
- Traffic delays and safety issues at Safeway and Shell driveways



COMMISSION FEEDBACK

- Bicycle facility and parking
  - Should staff bring forward both parking removal options?
  - What other metrics/criteria to consider for both options before making the final selection?

- Traffic calming measures
  - Staff intends to bring forward a set of recommended traffic calming improvements, potentially including a raised crosswalk at Blake Street and a stop sign at San Mateo Drive.
  - Are there any other specific locations or treatments that staff should consider?

COMMISSION FEEDBACK

- Should the City consider restricting turning movements at Safeway and Shell driveways?
- Should the City consider removing or reconfiguring to parallel parking at Nealon Park frontage as a design options?
- Should the City explore changing the striping of westbound Middle Avenue at University Drive and Olive Street to remove the separate right turn lanes?

COMMISSION FEEDBACK

- Staff has received a petition from Blake Street residents to close the street at Middle Avenue to through traffic. Should staff incorporate this concept or an alternate approach into a design option?

NEXT STEP

- Incorporate Commission feedback and develop design options
- Present preferred alternatives to Commission in summer
- If recommended by the Commission, Staff will present final recommendations to the City Council

THANK YOU

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