

Complete Streets Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



Date: 8/14/2024
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Regular Session

A. Call To Order

Chair Cole called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Altman, Bailey, Cebrian, Cole, Ierokomos
Absent: King, Rascoff
Staff: Assistant Engineer Matthew Hui, Senior Transportation Engineer Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer Kristiann Choy

C. Reports and Announcements

The Commission received reports on City Council actions since the July 10 Complete Streets Commission meeting.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Regular Business

E1. Accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for July 10, 2024 (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Cole/ Altman), to accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for July 10, 2024, passed 4-0 (Cebrian abstaining, King and Rascoff absent).

E2. Receive an update on Town of Atherton's El Camino Real Complete Streets Study (Presentation)

Staff Choy, San Mateo County Transportation Authority staff Carolyn Mamaradlo and WSP consultant Mikaela Sword made the presentation (Attachment).

The Commission discussed public outreach process and indicators, parking along El Camino Real (ECR), desired destinations, collision data, new bike lane efforts from neighboring agencies, potential safety impact due to speed differential between cars and bikes, alternative options such as a multi-use pathway and next steps.

- Adina Levin spoke in support of treatments to lower speed and safer bike lanes and requested information on parking needs and transit priority treatments.

- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of making ECR safer for bicyclists.

E3. Review the University of California, Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center safety assessments on Santa Cruz Avenue and Sand Hill Road (Staff Report #24-008-CSC)

Staff Hui made the presentation (Attachment).

The Commission discussed the outreach process, the purpose of the grants, recommended project details, future supplemental efforts, low-cost versus permanent improvements, project design considerations and costs, projects excluded from the grant application and next steps for the Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) report.

The Commission discussed advantages and disadvantages of each recommended project and lessons learned from previous similar efforts.

- Adina Levin spoke in support of improvements and opposed two-way cycle track on Santa Cruz Avenue.
- Kevin Rennie spoke in support of additional outreach to Menlo Park communities, street cleaning, protection for bicyclists, treatments for cross streets and police enforcement.
- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of student bike safety education, opposed two-way cycle track on Santa Cruz Avenue and requested information for Olive Street.
- Randy Avalos spoke on concerns related to funding discrepancy between neighborhoods and to re-distribute funding more equally across both corridors.

E4. Evaluate Commission subcommittees to support City Council and Commission priorities

Staff Chen introduced the item (Attachment).

The Commission discussed the purposes of the subcommittees and opportunities to engage the public through these subcommittees.

- Adina Levin spoke in support of more safe routes to school efforts and downtown parking and access.

ACTION: By acclamation, the Commission approved the following modifications:

- Middlefield Road Safe Streets Subcommittee: remove Chair Cole, add Commissioners Cebrian and King
- Safe Routes to School Subcommittee: remove "to School" from title
- Vision Zero Subcommittee: Add Chair Cole.

F. Informational Items

F1. Update on major project status

The Commission received updates on citywide speed reduction effort, Menlo Park library bike event and signal improvement at Willow Road and Newbridge Street.

F2. Tentative Complete Streets Commission agenda

G. Committee/Subcommittee Reports

None.

H. Adjournment

Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer

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El Camino Real Complete Streets Study

Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission

August 14, 2024

Phase 1 Summary

Study Overview

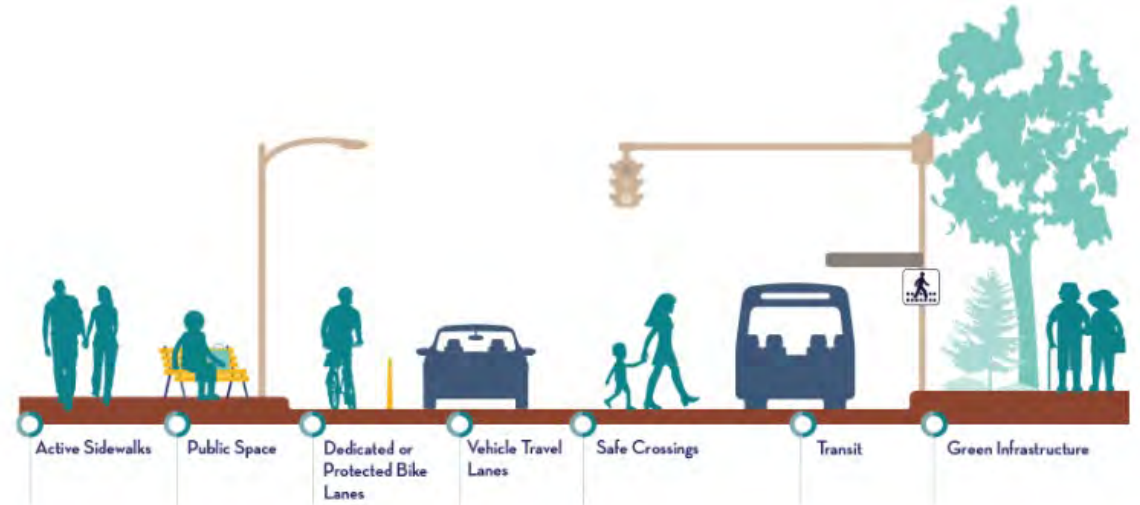
Carolyn Mamaradlo, San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA)



What are “Complete Streets”?

A complete street provides mobility options for people of all ages and abilities, particularly people who are walking, biking, using personal mobility devices, and riding transit.

Complete streets offer several benefits, including enhanced safety and quality of life by providing a balanced variety of options for travel.

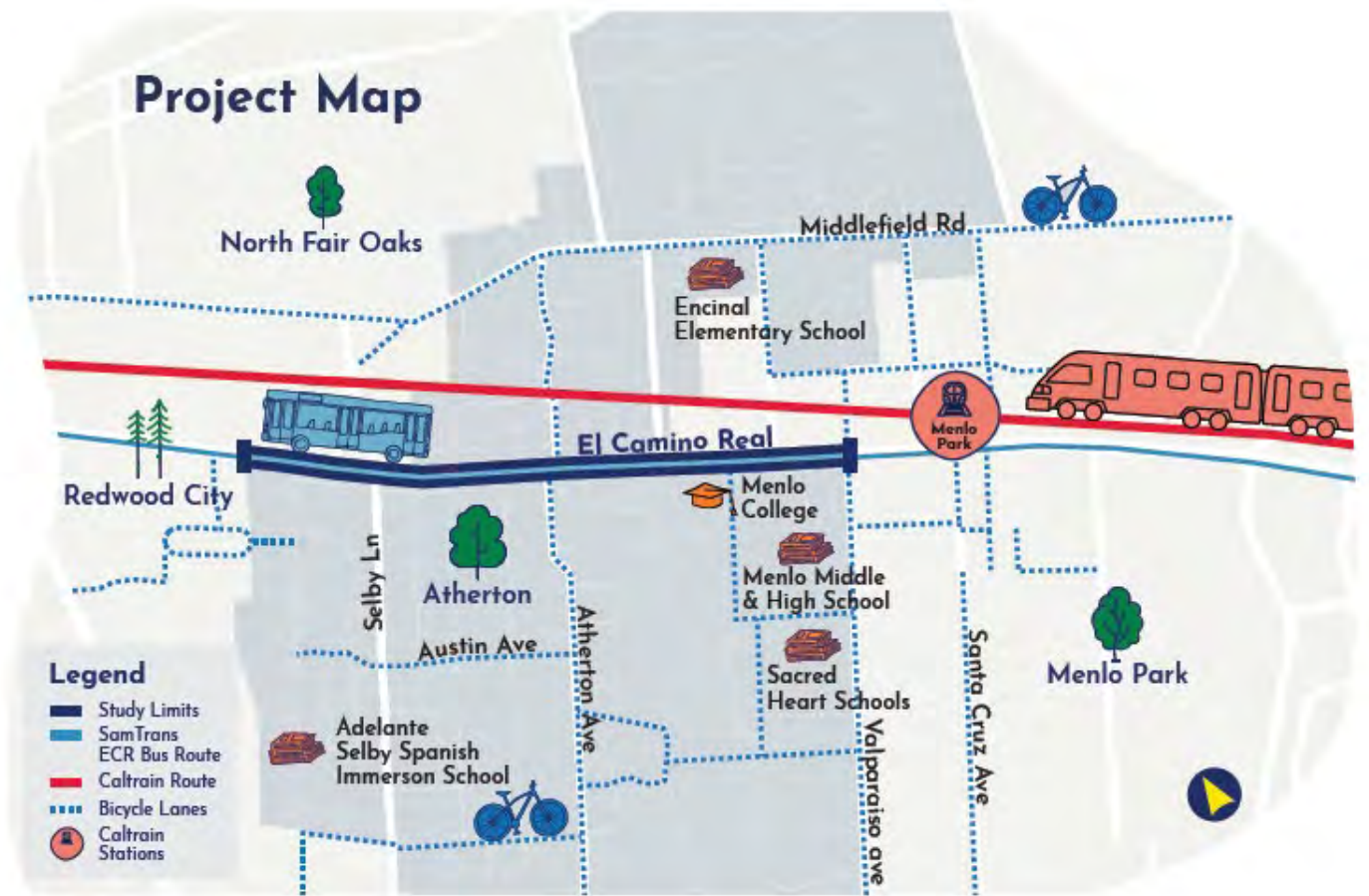


Source: City of Santa Fe, NM



Background

- Town of Atherton received Funding from TA Cycle 6 Pedestrian & Bicycle Program to Complete Street options for El Camino Real (ECR)
- ECR through Atherton lacks dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- El Camino Real is a State Highway under the purview of Caltrans
- Prepare for Project Initiation Document (PID) phase



Project Overview

Project Goals:



Improved Safety and Quality of Life



Improved Connectivity



Enhanced Equity and Access



Expand Travel Options



Project Overview

Timeline:








Funding Sources:

- Measure A funding through the 2022 SMCTA Pedestrian and Bicycle Program
- Town of Atherton
- City of Menlo Park
- SamTrans



Existing Conditions



-  Vehicle Lanes
-  Sidewalk
-  No sidewalks
-  On Street Parking
-  SamTrans Bus Stop

North Bound Traffic

El Camino Real

South Bound Traffic



Oakwood Dr Selby Ln Fifth Ave Stockbridge Ave Almedral Ave Tuscaloosa Ave Atherton Ave Isabella Ave Watkins Ave Alejandra Ave Menlo College Encinal Ave Valparaiso Ave





Existing El Camino Real Roadway Characteristics



Crash Analysis



Phase 1 Engagement Results: What We Heard



Public Engagement

Engagement Tactics:

- Project webpage
- Multilingual factsheet and FAQ
- Online survey + interactive map
- 3 Focused Listening Sessions
- 3 Pop up events
- 2 CBO Meetings
- Technical Working Group Meeting #1
- Virtual Community Meeting



What We Heard: Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure

- The quality of pedestrian infrastructure
- The risks of crossing multiple lanes of traffic and being ignored by drivers
- Walking along corridor at night and early morning



Image: Mapping Exercise at Pop Ups

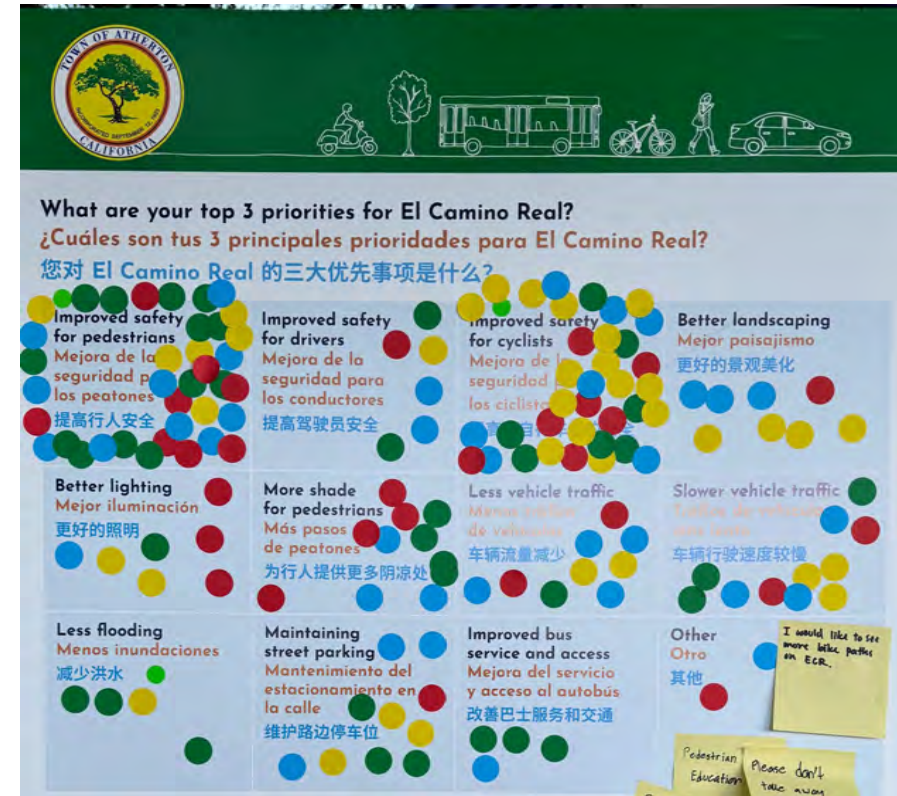


What We Heard: Bicycle Lanes and Safety

- Many community members expressed that they would travel more by bike if it felt safe to do so.
- Parents and school administrators cited safety concerns for students biking to school regardless of whether bike lanes were to be installed.

Key suggestions to make the corridor more bike-friendly include:

- Replacing dirt paths with paved sidewalks
- Improving street level lighting
- Adding protected bike lanes and improving connectivity to other segments of the corridor
- Narrowing or reducing traffic lanes to make space for bike lanes



What We Heard: Public Transportation and Bus Stops

- Many community members from North Fair Oaks and surrounding equity priority communities depend on El Camino Real bus service to commute to work and move through the larger area.
- Community members shared concerns about:
 - Lack of visibility and lighting surrounding bus stops
 - Difficulty accessing bus stops during the rain
 - Unreliable bus service, including delays and inaccurate schedules



What We Heard: Flooding on El Camino Real

- Worsens traffic and the experience commuting by car
- Forces pedestrians and cyclists onto the road from the road shoulder
- Turns the dirt paths on the corridor into mud
- Makes some of the bus stops along the corridor inaccessible



What We Heard: Traffic and the Driver Experience

- Difficulty seeing pedestrians walking along the road shoulder
- Congestion caused by drivers attempting to turn left along the corridor
- Visibility issues when turning on to El Camino Real due to parked cars, overgrown landscaping, etc.
- Unsafe driver behavior such as speeding and ignoring pedestrian hybrid beacons
- Parking on the corridor



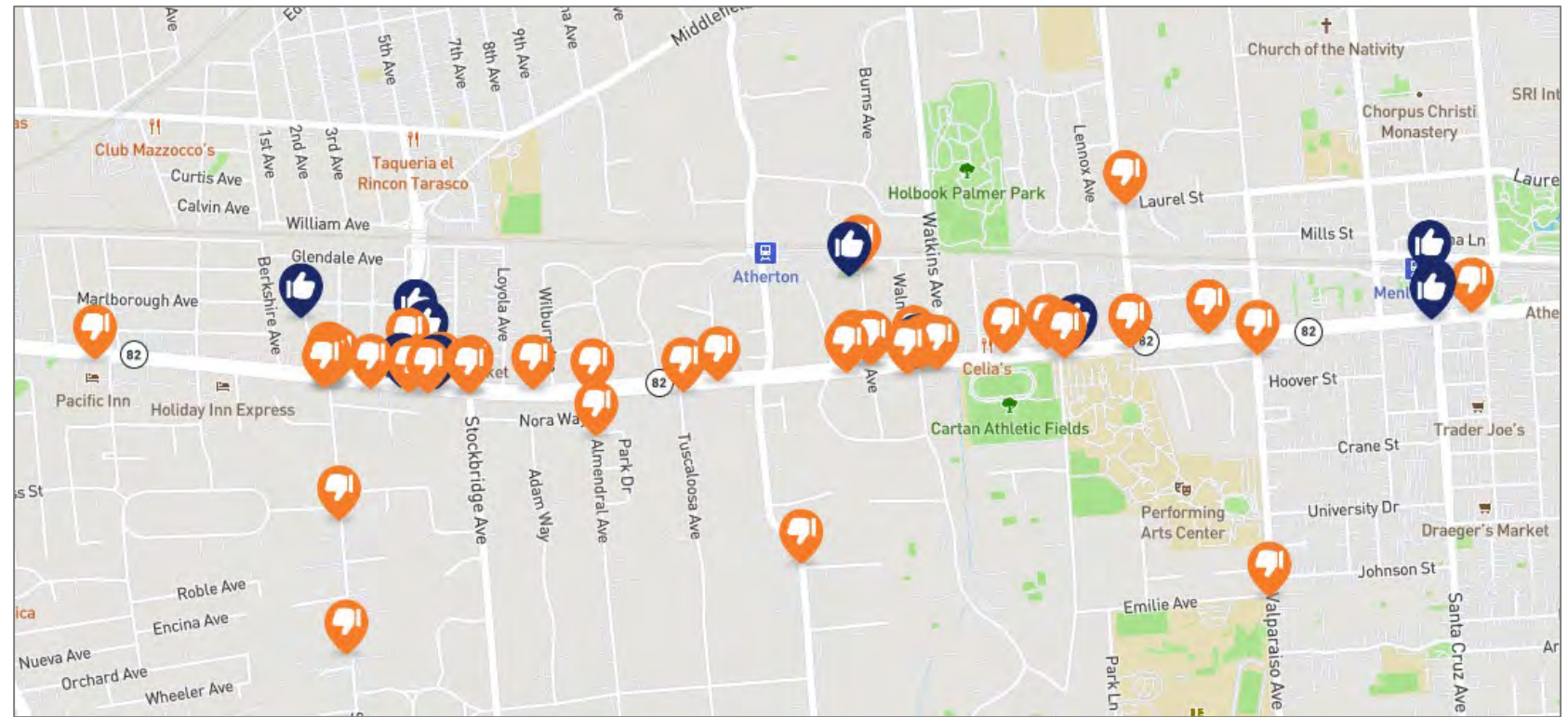
Survey and Activity Map



April to June 2024



59 markers added to the map



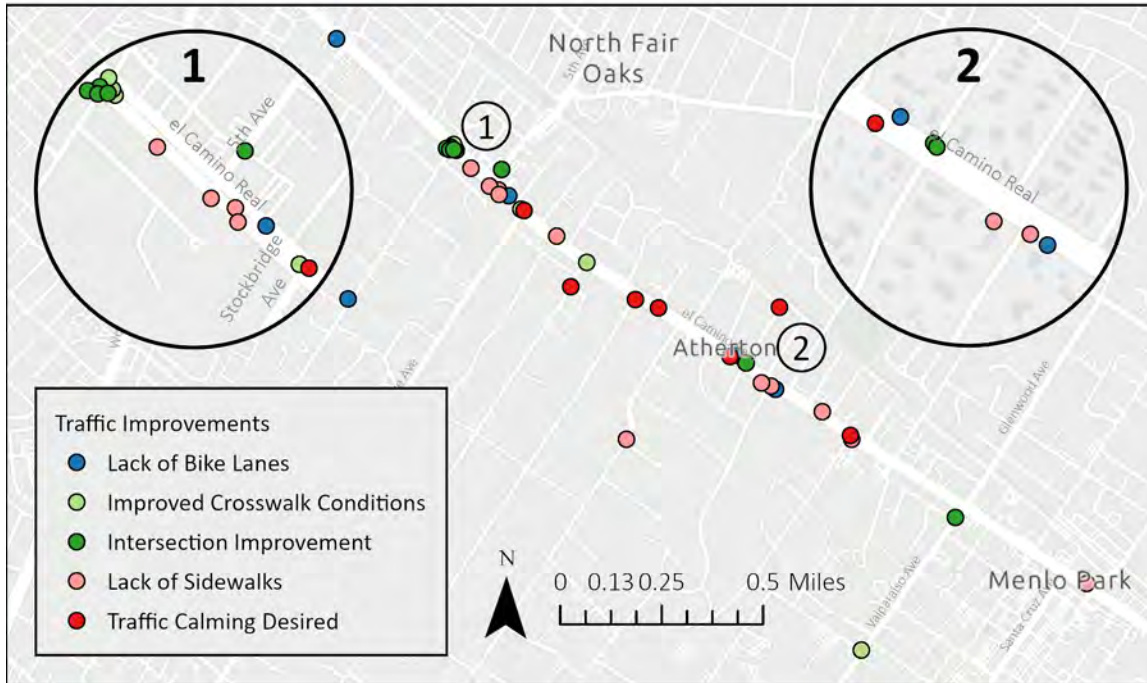
Activity Map

Atherton Phase 1 Survey Responses: Collisions & Near Misses

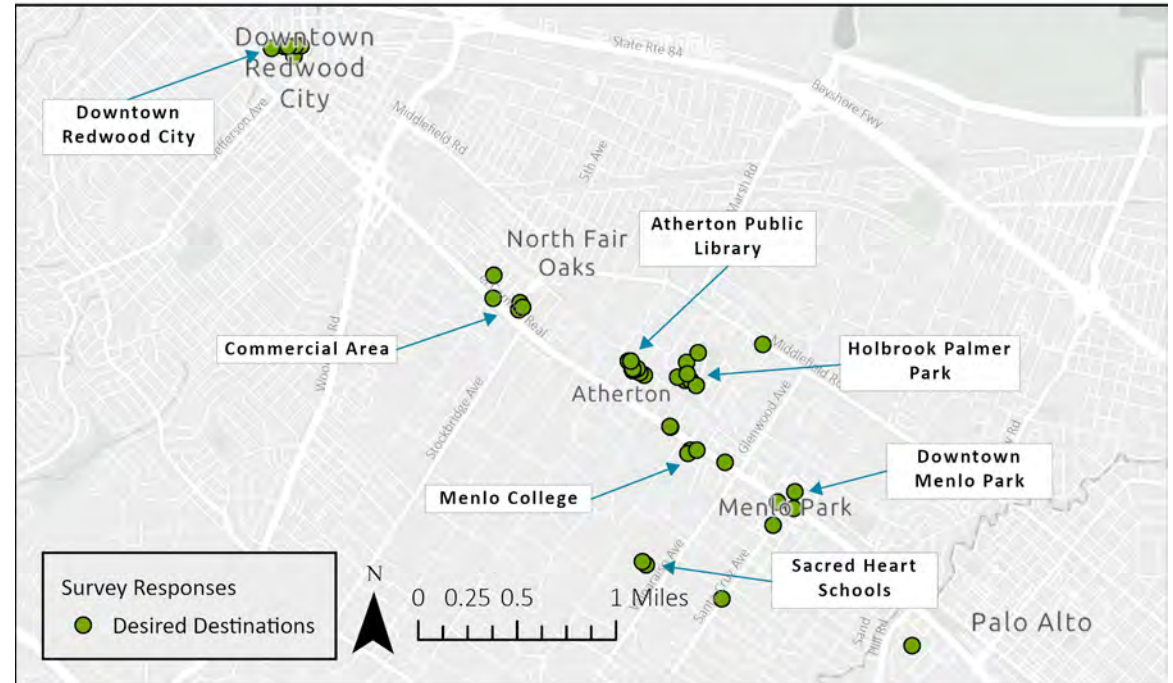


Activity Map

Atherton Phase 1 Survey Responses: Traffic Improvements

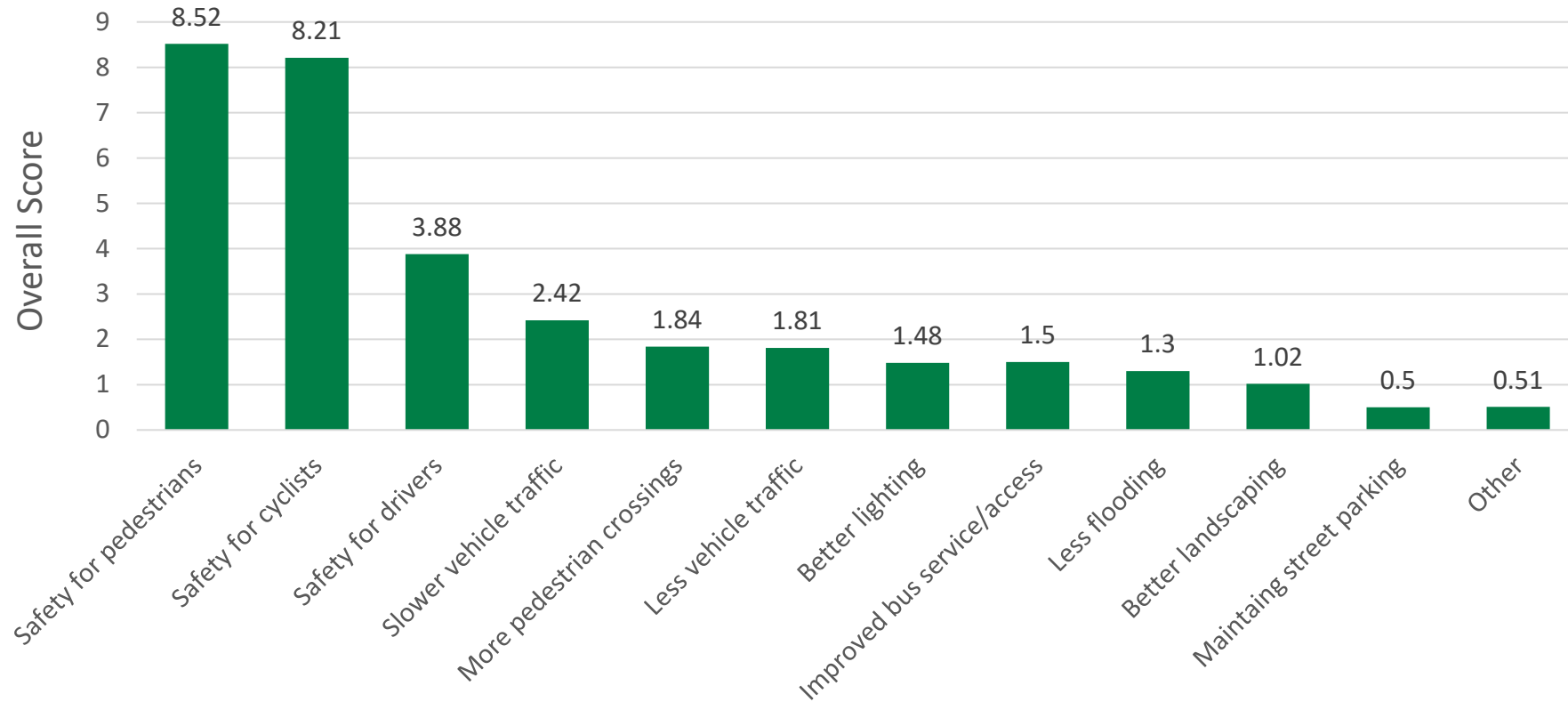


Atherton Phase 1 Survey Responses: Desired Destinations



Survey

Top Priorities for Travel on El Camino Real



Next Steps



Next Steps

- The project team is preparing a report of the Existing Conditions and Mobility Profile analysis.
- In Phase 2 of engagement, the project team will ask for feedback on concept design alternatives.





Thank You!

Carolyn Mamaradlo
Senior Project Manager
MamaradloC@samtrans.com



SUBCOMMITTEES (MEMBERS)

- Bike Rack Subcommittee (Bailey, Ierokomo)
- Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project Subcommittee (Cole, King)
- Middlefield Road Safe Streets Subcommittee (Cole, Ierokomos)
- Safe Routes to School Subcommittee (Bailey, Cebrian, Rascoff)
- Vision Zero Subcommittee (Altman, Rascoff)

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