



Redwood City New General Plan Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group



Summary of March 6, 2008 Meeting

At its regularly scheduled March 6, 2008 meeting, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group met with members of the General Plan consultant team to discuss future bicycle and pedestrian mobility options in Redwood City. The discussion focused on desirable bike paths and connections to be identified in the General Plan, with Working Group members and others who attended the meeting marking up maps to illustrate possible future on-street and off-street bike and multi-modal trails. The Group also discussed more generally Redwood City's assets and key issues that should be addressed in the General Plan.

Attending the meeting from City staff were Jill Ekas, Tom Passanisi, and Susan Wheeler. General Plan consultant team participants included Laura Stetson from Hogle-Ireland, Sam Tabibnia and Matthew Ridgeway from Fehr & Peers, and Julie Ortiz and Andrea Nocito from CirclePoint.

Attached is a composite map illustrating the results of the mapping exercise. The information regarding possible future bicycle and pedestrian travelways will be used by the General Plan team to develop a comprehensive plan to be included in the Land Use, Community Design, and Circulation Element. With regard to the Redwood Shores area, the group did not mark any maps of Redwood Shores provided at the meeting. However, subsequent to the meeting, City staff conducted additional research to identify existing routes and new routes proposed as part of a roadway restriping plan in Redwood Shores.

In addition to illustrating possible future bike and pedestrian paths on the maps, members of the Working Group and the public offered the following thoughts:

Bike Issues and Ideas

- Safe, adequate bike parking is needed in Downtown.
- Bike trails may be feasible along grade separated railways.
- Hudson would be a good bike path if parking were eliminated on one side and vehicle speeds were slowed.
- Get Selby Lane path to connect south and reach Palo Alto.

- Use utility corridors as pathways. (In particular, the Hetch-Hetchy easement may be a good choice.)
- Look at the feasibility establishing of one-way streets.
- A connection is needed between San Carlos Airport and the Redwood Shores bike path.
- Three-lane Farm Hill Blvd: Route to Canada Road is a good north/south route.
- Regional routes are needed to Stanford and other regional employment centers.

Pedestrian Issues and Ideas

- ADA considerations are growing with an aging population.
 - Utility poles and trees can narrow sidewalks.
 - Cars parked across or on sidewalks hinder movement.
- Street lighting needs to be improved on main streets.
- Crossing Jefferson north/south (or Woodside) at night is dangerous.
- Downtown street names are confusing. Better signage, such as “You are here” maps for non-residents, would help.
- Crossing El Camino Real is always a challenge. Cars turning don’t look for pedestrians, just other cars.
- Sidewalks are missing in many parts of town.

Long-term Opportunities to Encourage Biking and Walking

- Multiple paths if Cargill is developed
- Attractive and safe bike racks
- Bike loops
- East Bayshore Road opportunities
- Pedestrian connections on Alameda
- Corridor along bay
 - Fix bridge
 - Make complete connection
- The Stanford Creek crossing provides great between communities. Look for similar solutions in Redwood City.
- Jefferson needs to be a priority
- Bike boulevard—Hudson Rd/Middlefield
- Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way as a bike path
- Do something with McGarvey Road.
- Maple/Vera—Cross-town boulevard
- Schools are key destinations.
- Streetlight operations improvements at night

- Signage/downtown pedestrian signals

Define Redwood City's Assets

- Port
- Bay
- Parks, especially Edgewood Park
- Bair Island
- Access to hills
- Walkable downtown
- Well-served transit hubs
- Library
- Canada College and Berkeley Extension
- Great roadways/routes/connectivity
- Great center for music entertainment
- Climate for outdoor recreation
- Recreation center
- Large employers
- Responsive City staff

Identify Critical Issues that Should Be Addressed in the General Plan

- Economic diversity
- Physical locations/sections cut off from center
- Long-term parking needed
- Lack of safe pedestrian crossings at:
 - Woodside
 - El Camino
 - Jefferson Road
 - Schools
- Hills are driver friendly, but not bike/pedestrian friendly
- Poorly connected islands
- Too much street parking
- Cargill site
- Access to mobile parks
- Traffic/too many cars and congestion
- Need north/south bike/pedestrian routes
- "Road diets" to narrow; make room for bikes
- "Complete" streets: streets that function as safe travel paths for cyclists and pedestrians and have a garden quality, in addition to providing places for

- Coordination with agencies for jurisdiction of roads (e.g., El Camino and Woodside are controlled by Caltrans)
- Blocks of nothing but houses
- Steep hills
- Need measurable objectives
- Three types of cyclists: recreation, commuter, and enthusiast (will ride any time, any where). Give them options
- Congestion at schools—kids walk/bike. Institute “no idling” regulations
- Behavior modification

Identify Opportunities

- Water areas: potential
- Opportunities for reuse at El Camino
- Develop Grand vision maps (wish list) versus immediate needs maps
- Multi-modal streets (“complete” streets)
- Woodside is a good corridor to consider for many uses and functions.
- Utility corridors for routes
- Use trees as a buffer
- One way streets/reduce lanes
- Road calming—not relocation of traffic
- Create a bike master plan
- Bikes better not on arterials (What does this mean?)
- 4 Es: enforcement, engineering, education, encouragement
- Look at routes beyond Atherton
- Bridges over I-280 and everywhere
- Provide retail pockets citywide to allow people to bike and walk for local needs
- Room to grow bike/pedestrian needs

Other Cities/ Agencies that Have Bike-Friendly Planning

- Seattle
- Chico
- Marin
- San Carlos
- Berkeley
- Ventura
- Caltrans/BART bike parking

Attachment: Composite map