

REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
From Council Member Bain

February 14, 2005

Subject

Presentation of Concepts for Improvement of Middlefield Road between Woodside Road and Main Street

Background

Middlefield Road is an important gateway to the downtown. The road is at the center of the historic Stambaugh-Heller neighborhood, which contains many of Redwood City's oldest homes. Part of this neighborhood is designated as an historic district.

At the same time, the neighborhood contains buildings with no historic character that detracts from the beauty of the older homes. Furthermore, many of the older homes (both historic and non-historic) have deteriorated over the years, and blight has become quite prominent. In its current condition, this section of Middlefield Road is not up to the standards of most city neighborhoods, and as a major thoroughfare, sends the wrong message to Redwood City residents and visitors alike.

This provides us with several opportunities. On Monday night, I will present some concepts for improving Middlefield Road between Woodside Road and Main Street. I will present ideas for increasing both the quantity and quality of housing in this neighborhood, as well as concepts for other improvements such as undergrounding utilities, adding landscaping and possibly a new park.

I am hopeful there will be some discussion of these ideas immediately following the presentation. We may also choose to direct staff to take actions; however, with many concepts being publicly presented for the first time, the Council may want to defer any action to a later date.

This presentation is primarily designed to introduce some new concepts into the dialogue as we move towards developing the City's general plan, and our vision for the entire city.



Ian Bain
Council Member