

**Community Development
Department**

Planning Division
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650)780-7234
www.redwoodcity.org



**El Camino Real Corridor Plan
Citizens Advisory Group**

Kevin Bondonno (Chair)
Marc Manuel (Vice Chair)
Roger Buckhout
Erin Callaghan
Stacy Huisman
Brian Jaffe
Stephanie Kolkka
Alma Montalvo
Elliot Rivas
Muhammad Safdari

**July 27, 2016
Meeting Summary**

**7:00PM
City Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Chair Bondonno, Vice Chair Manuel, Members Buckhout, Callaghan, Huisman, Jaffe, Kolkka, Montalvo, Rivas, Safdari

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Assistant City Manager/CDD Director Aaron Aknin; Planning Manager Steven Turner; Lindy Chan; Diana O'Dell; Apollo Rojas

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW ITEMS:

Introductions

Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) members introduced themselves, including their backgrounds and interests in serving on the CAG. Formal introductions of Planning staff and Dyett & Bhatia consultants Sophie Martin and Kate Didech, who will be working on the corridor plan.

El Camino Corridor Plan - Presentation by Dyett & Bhatia

Ms. Martin of Dyett & Bhatia gave a presentation on the scope of the El Camino Corridor Plan. Presentation outlined the existing conditions on El Camino, the components of a typical corridor plan, the proposed study area, the planning process, and a plan timeline (see [PowerPoint presentation](#)).

CAG asked questions relating to the presentation:

Will the plan change height and density limits? How firm is that decision? The General Plan and Downtown Precise Plan were recently updated, so corridor plan will likely not increase height and density/intensity limits. However, Council has given direction that plan should look at increasing allowable density within the envelope of existing buildings to promote affordable housing. Parking may be considered as well.

How will this apply to Woodside – it is uninviting for pedestrians? This will be an area of focus and concern. Woodside is also a State highway and will require coordination with Caltrans.

Will CEQA apply to the corridor plan? Yes, but the level of review will be based on the scope of the plan.

What's our ability to affect the use of El Camino Real as a thoroughfare? El Camino Real is both a shared, communal facility that is used to move from point A to point B, and a front yard for people. Over the years, Caltrans has become more interested and concerned with the community's interests and objectives. The GBI has identified ways to square community's objectives with Caltrans design objectives.

Will the project consider the potential of High Speed Rail (HSR)? This is one of the potential HSR locations. We will be speaking with agencies and working with projects that are ongoing, like the Broadway Corridor study.

How was the corridor boundary/study area chosen? The plan boundary aligns with existing zoning.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Page – Redwood City should take a leadership role in fixing El Camino. The plan can influence neighboring cities. Actively avoids El Camino when riding his bicycle. Current lack of use of El Camino as a bicycle corridor does not mean that there is not any potential for ridership. The corridor plan should also look at nearby alternative bike routes like Middlefield Road and other side streets.

Kris Johnson – Thanked CAG and staff for working on a plan for El Camino.

Emma Shlaes – Policy Manager for Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. El Camino is a big policy initiative for the coalition. Main priority is to improve access for bicyclist on and across El Camino Real. El Camino Real is a huge barrier. The CAG should coordinate with other surrounding cities which share El Camino.

Adina Levin – The CAG should consider policies which promote sustainable transportation, including transit passes, ridesharing, etc. Bicycle mobility should be considered not only for transportation but as a benefit to local businesses. The corridor plan should create more housing closer to jobs which will result in less traffic and will improve housing affordability on a regional level.

Robert Cronin – As an experienced bicyclist works as a bicycle route scouter to inform people online of the best routes when cycling. The improvements along El Camino are important but the CAG should also consider connecting alternate routes on side streets that run along El Camino. Currently avoids El Camino while cycling. Echoed earlier comment that Redwood City needs to be a leader in fixing El Camino.

- Public Comment Closed -

DISCUSSION:

CAG held a discussion on the focus of the group and the priorities and goals for the corridor plan.

The plan presents an opportunity for high density housing and multimodal transportation along El Camino corridor. The Bay Area is in a housing crisis and the plan should focus on housing along transit corridors. The plan should incentivize affordable housing and promote high standards for quality development. The plan should provide incentives to consolidate smaller lots to allow for high density development. Plan should address not just current, but also future community as behaviors and demographics will shift over time.

Ms. Chan provided an overview of the Brown Act to the Corridor Advisory Group.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned to the next CAG meeting to be held in October of 2016 at the City of Redwood City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA 94063. Public notification will be provided at that time.