

From: caroline horn <caroline_horn@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 1:10 PM
To: Transportation; Art Williams
Cc:
Subject: CSC meeting non- agenda comments 5/29/2024

Dear CSC commissioners and city staff,

I am part of a Los Altos High School parent group trying to encourage our students to use active transportation or public transit to get to and from school.

The motivations for this effort are numerous, ranging from improving mental and physical health, reducing pollution, enabling operational independence in non-drivers, for example. Our work would also free up space on and around campus: 10 bikes occupy a lot less space than 10 cars!

What are the obstacles, though? About half of our students come from Mountain View. Many must cross El Camino Real and/or travel on busy feeder streets to reach campus.

In survey after survey, we find that the current lack of safe routes discourages students from cycling.

Also, many don't know how to use the bus system.

What are some solutions?

1. During the Caltrans sidewalk and other El Camino Real construction projects, please request work schedules and detour plans from contractors like OC Jones & Sons to minimize the risk to students and others. O C Jones demolished two sidewalks recently, endangering students trying to cross El Camino at Rengstorff. Furthermore, anyone getting off the northbound bus would have been trapped at the bus stop. Just as is done for automobile traffic, viable detours should be explicitly defined for pedestrians and cyclists, rather than letting fend for themselves.

2. Provide free Clipper transit passes to students living across El Camino, even if they don't live the required distance or qualify for the free pass. This gets students into the habit of taking the bus. They will be less likely to beg a ride on those rainy days when biking is not as appealing.

3. Have the Los Altos CSC, the Planning Commission, city staff and property developers work with Caltrans, VTA and the surrounding communities to improve the safety of the feeder streets and the Caltrans-maintained El Camino.

For example, the intersection of Rengstorff Avenue and El Camino is the location of two upcoming construction projects. These projects provide an opportunity to improve the flow of pedestrian and bicycle traffic to and from the high school. Why not enable 4 crosswalks rather than blocking the south crossing to pedestrians? Could the new driveway for the 5150 ECR project be relocated to reduce pedestrian and bus conflicts with cars? Could a paseo be built for pedestrians and cyclists behind the old Chilies site (reducing the current congestion on the sidewalk at the bus stop)?

I would be happy to meet any of you at that location to discuss the issues.

Thank you very much for your attention to this letter and for all you do to improve life in Los Altos!

Sincerely,

Caroline Horn