

Melissa Thurman

From: Safe Routes DTLA <saferoutesdtla@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 7:05 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Aida Fairman; Art Williams; jillsw@me.com; jdenebeim@comcast.net; harrypguy@gmail.com
Subject: Council Study Session on Feb 27, 2024, Item 1(c) Complete Streets Commission

February 25, 2024

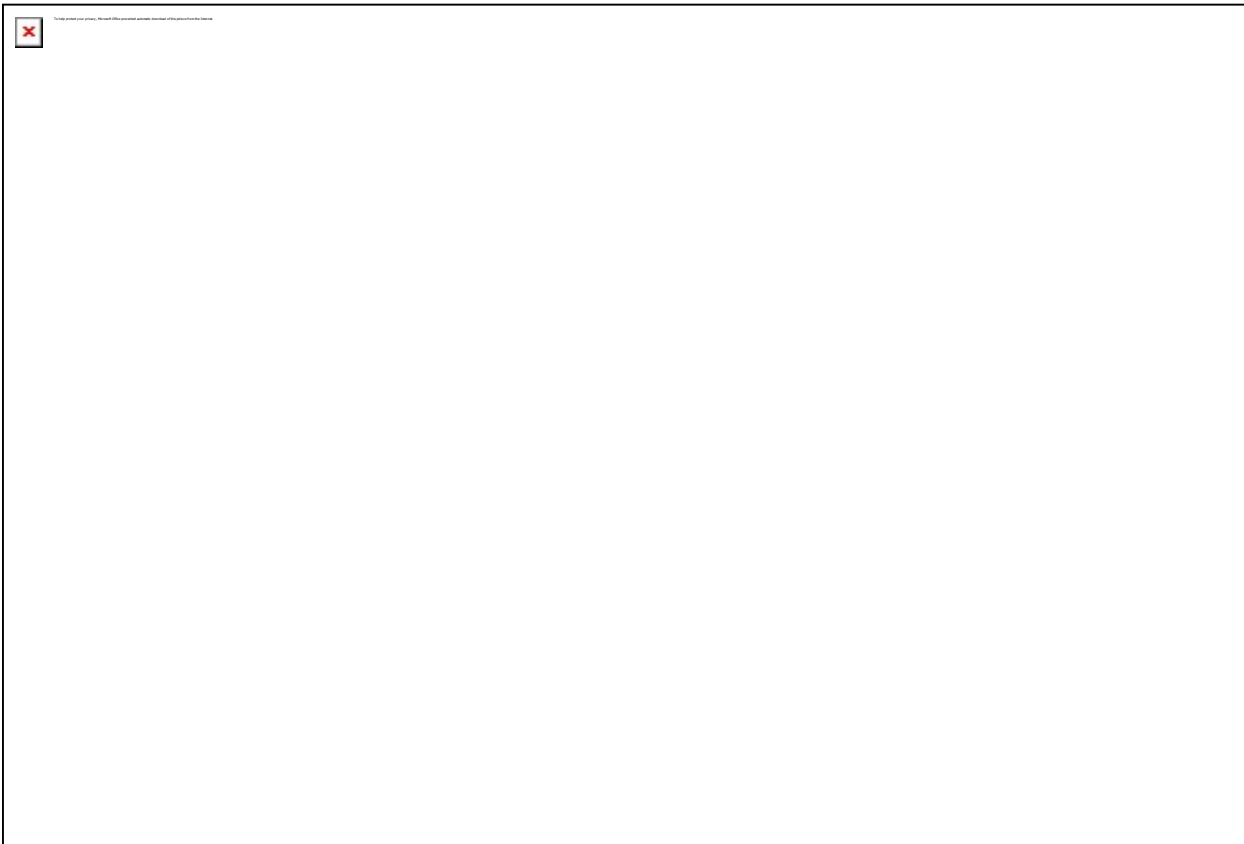
Los Altos City Council Members and Complete Streets Commissioners
City of Los Altos
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Honorable City Council Members and Complete Street Commissioners;

As you prepare to discuss the Complete Streets Commission Work Plan for 2024, we urge you to include what we see as two missing components that are critical in achieving the Complete Streets Commission's Activity, Safety, and Community Input goals:

1. Utilizing provisions of AB43 to reduce vehicle speed limits within business activity districts and safety corridors.
2. Engaging with the County of Santa Clara's Bike/Ped study of Foothill Expressway,

Waiting to act will increase the likelihood that our community will experience another death similar to what happened last week to Marie Elise Jabon, a 38 year old Los Altos resident who was tragically killed by a car as she was cycling on Foothill Expressway. While last week's incident wasn't within the jurisdiction of the City of Los Altos, you still have the ability to strongly advocate for and influence safety improvements made by the County of Santa Clara, and you most certainly have the authority to make near-term safety improvements within the City's jurisdiction. We are asking the City of Los Altos to more proactively protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and other multimodal users of our streets with immediacy and urgency.



Accidents over an

11 year period in Los Altos involving a bicyclist or pedestrian.
UC Berkeley Transportation and Injury Mapping System

#1 Utilize Provisions of AB43 to Reduce Vehicle Speed Limits Within Business Activity Districts and Safety Corridors

The fastest, easiest, and most cost effective way to improve multi-modal traffic safety in Los Altos is to reduce the speed limits within the busiest safety corridors and business activity districts, prioritizing San Antonio Road, W Edith Ave, and Foothill Expressway. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data, [vehicle speed plays a central, powerful role in the safety of pedestrian and bicyclists](#). Slower speeds save lives. Under the recently passed AB43, the City of Los Altos and the County of Santa Clara now have the power to lower speed limits on city streets, especially in safety corridors, areas that generate a high concentration of pedestrians and bicyclists, and in business activity districts. Many SF Bay Area cities, including [Menlo Park](#) are already ahead of Los Altos in taking advantage of AB43.



Safe Routes to Downtown Los Altos has been advocating for safer roadways, intersections, and access to Downtown Los Altos for almost two years. While the typical study, design, and build process for a street project

can take a handful of years, we implore the Council and Complete Streets Commission to also consider near-term changes that can dramatically improve street safety in our community.

San Antonio Road

In a [memo](#) drafted by City of Los Altos staff for the Complete Streets Commission in 2022, the City of Los Altos communicated the new opportunity to reduce the 35MPH speed limit on North San Antonio Road, a road where we've already experienced at least one pedestrian fatality. We are distressed that no reduction of speed has been implemented and this improvement has not even been proposed as part of the 2024 Work Plan.

"AB43 allows for lower posted speeds on streets contiguous to a business activity district, following a 30-day warning period. This would allow for lower speeds along N San Antonio Rd adjacent to Downtown." ([Complete Streets Agenda 8/31/2022](#))

Foothill Expressway

Foothill Expressway runs parallel to Downtown Los Altos, and also serves vulnerable pedestrian and cycling traffic. We are asking the City to request that the County implement AB43 on Foothill Expressway and reduce the speed limit adjacent to the Los Altos downtown triangle. The goal should be to reduce fatalities and accidents rather than to "improve transit times" on Foothill Expressway. For every 5 MPH reduction in speed, travel time for one mile would be increased by 15 seconds. How many seconds is a life worth?

"AB43 allows further 5-MPH increment reductions below past calculated speed zones taking into consideration vulnerable pedestrian groups as a heavily weighted factor when recommending speed zones. A 30-day warning period is required prior to issuance of citations when lower speed limits" ([Complete Streets Agenda 8/31/2022](#))

#2 Engage with the County of Santa Clara's Bike/Ped Study of Foothill Expressway

The safety challenges for multimodal transportation on and crossing Foothill Expressway go far beyond the reduction of vehicle speed limits. We are fortunate that the County of Santa Clara recognizes the need for improvements along the entire Foothill Expressway and Junipero Serra corridor. As the first step towards making improvements, the County has secured funding for a Bicycle/Pedestrian study of this corridor, which runs the entire length of Los Altos.

In order for the study to accurately reflect the needs of Los Altos and to best serve the interests of our community, the City of Los Altos will need to be engaged in this study, from the RFP phase, through data collection, and then by providing feedback on the draft report. In the coming years, there will be a design study and then building plans. Ultimately, this project will make a significant impact on the Los Altos community. Positive impacts on our community will only result from the city's engagement during the life of this study and the followup from its conclusions. Our request is that engagement in the Foothill Expressway Bike/Ped Multimodal study be included in the Complete Streets Commission Work Plan for 2024.

We hope you will agree that it is not acceptable that people are nearly injured, injured, or killed on our streets. We must value life over speed. Foothill Expressway and North San Antonio Road can be examples of how to create safe spaces for pedestrians, cyclists, and other multi-modal transit. We urge Council and the CSC to act within your power to reduce speeds on these roadways and to prioritize moving the San Antonio Road and Foothill Expressway projects forwards by all means available.

In summary, we implore you to include the following items in the 2024 Complete Streets Commission Work Plan:

- Utilize provisions of AB43 by reducing vehicle speed limits within Business Activity Districts and Safety Corridors with Special Attention to San Antonio Road, W Edith Ave, and Foothill Expressway.

- Engage with the County of Santa Clara's Bike/Ped Study of Foothill Expressway.

Sincerely,
Jill Woodford, Jennifer Denebeim, and Harry Guy

