



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Chris Tucher](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 1:56:24 PM

Hello Los Altos city council!

First off, thanks for your work on behalf of the community. I live on Manuela Road, off Fremont Road. Downtown Los Altos is my main destination for nearby shopping and restaurants.

I understand that the city next week is considering bike lanes on El Camino. My family and I support those bike lanes!

El Camino needs to become a safer place to ride a bicycle.

Car drivers may protest the removal of parking, but using public roads for public travel makes more sense than using them for private car storage. The roads belong to all of us.

Please support your fellow cyclists, and support Los Altos' section of the Bicycle Superhighway.

Chris & Sandra Tucher

From: [Arley Lewis](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Yes to bike lanes on El Camino
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 5:58:47 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please build bike lanes on El Camino Real. If you build them, more and more of us will switch to biking. That means less money for dictators like Putin and MBS, less CO2 pumped into the air, and even less noise in Los Altos and Mountain View.

Thanks!

Arley Lewis

A bike commuter from San Carlos



From: [Ted Huang](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 9:09:26 PM

As a former Silicon Valley Bike Coalition Director, a longtime cyclist, co-founder of two professional cycling teams, and longtime Los Altos Hills resident, I strongly support improving bicycle infrastructure through Los Altos on El Camino. I grew up with the "Old Mil" movie theaters indoor shopping area, and a much quieter Los Altos El Camino throughfare. I would sometimes ride my bike as a high school student up to El Camino but never crossed it (to get my haircut at the Barber Shop at the corner of San Antonio and El Camino (it's still there).

I'd love for not only myself, but kids as well as bicycle commuters to feel and be more safe traveling on divided bicycle lanes along El Camino. With so much added housing in and around, it is mandatory, IMHO.

Thank you for making this an agenda item and taking steps to add hopefully more than just green striping!

I am also speaking on behalf of my wife, Dr. Christine Thorburn, a 2x Olympian in road cycling (time trial/road race events 2004/2008), who is an avid bike commuter!

Ted

From: [caroline.horn](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM#5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 10:34:21 PM

I am writing in support of the proposed class IIB bike lanes on El Camino Real in Los Altos.

For bicycle commuters, El Camino is often the most direct route up and down the Peninsula. These improvements would provide an important link between Palo Alto and Mountain View, for example.

I bike to work daily and see many others doing the same. Improved safety on El Camino will encourage even more people to bike, reducing congestion and air pollution.

I chose to live in Los Altos because of access to public transit, the ease of biking to work, and the excellent schools. None of my adult children own cars; they all use bicycles as their main mode of transportation.

Thank you for doing the right thing: voting for the bike lanes!

Caroline Horn
Resident of Los Altos
Bike commuter
Mother of three bicyclists

From: [Jeremy Minshull](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM#5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 2:57:54 AM

I am writing in support of the proposed class IIB bike lanes on El Camino Real in Los Altos.

For bicycle commuters, El Camino is often the most direct route up and down the Peninsula. However the speed and volume of traffic on El Camino makes its use for cyclists extremely hazardous. A classII bike lane would provide an important bike link between Palo Alto and Mountain View.

I bike to work (across the Dumbarton bridge to Newark several days a week, and see many other bike commuters on my journey. Improved safety on El Camino will encourage more people to bike, reducing congestion and air pollution.

I chose to live in Los Altos because of access to public transit, the ease of biking to work, and the excellent schools. None of my adult children own cars; they all use bicycles and public transportation.

Please support safe bike lanes!

Jeremy Minshull
Resident of Los Altos
Bike commuter
Father of two cyclists

From: [Rosenberg, Galen](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Item 5 3/22/22 Council Meeting
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 9:29:29 AM

To the Los Altos City Council:

I am writing in support of the resolution to join with other cities in our community to make biking safer for our community and especially for our students going to school.

Adding buffered bike lanes on El Camino is a critical piece of this infrastructure, especially in collaboration with our city neighbors. Bike lanes that start and then disappear on a route are very unsafe. El Camino is a key transportation route. With many LAHS students coming from Mountain View to our campus, it is critical that they be able to find safe, buffered bicycle routes from their home to our school.

Thank you to Caltrans, the city's staff and the Complete Streets Commission for their work on and support of this improvement to our community.

Galen Rosenberg
Assistant Principal
Los Altos High School

From: [Donna Davies](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes on El Camino
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 4:39:48 PM

Hello Los Altos Council Members,

As a cyclist and a resident of Mountain View, I am writing to urge you to vote for removal of parking along El Camino Real and create painted, buffered bike lanes on both sides of the busy street. It is essential for safety and encouraging less vehicle miles traveled - for climate action. This is an important opportunity where Caltrans will pay now and may not be able to in future years.

Sincerely,
Donna Davies

From: [Scott Stanford](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #5 El Camino Bike Lanes - March 22, 2022
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 5:19:00 PM

Hello - Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I would like to voice my support for buffered bike lanes on both sides of El Camino from Adobe Creek to just south of Rengstorff. As a biker myself, I know how important this is for safety, and to give people the confidence they need to get out of cars and onto bikes. Many bicycle / car accidents could be prevented with such measures.

Thank you for your consideration,

Scott Stanford

From: [Kathy Taylor](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:40:14 AM

I understand that Los Altos is considering bike lanes on El Camino Real (ECR). As things stand now, I would NEVER ride my bike on ECR. It is too dangerous. I am hopeful that the City of Los Altos will come up with a plan to make ECR safer for all users. I support bike lanes on ECR. I think you should eliminate parking on ECR to make way for those bike lanes. It is a public road so it makes sense to keep it 100% for transportation, rather than private parking of cars. We need to encourage more people to ride bikes to combat climate change. I am a seasoned cyclist and I would not ride on ECR. We need to make these changes so that people new to cycling won't feel threatened when they ride on ECR.

Thanks for listening!
Kathy Taylor

From: [Elaine](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: support for bike lanes
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:40:22 AM

Please make **active transportation** safer and more convenient on El Camino. Bicycle commuting is healthier for the rider and good for the environment. If more people bicycled, there would be more room for more customers in the businesses.

If Los Altos truly wants to be a sustainable city, they should greatly improve the bicycle infrastructure.

-Elaine Haight
Lisa Court, Los Altos

From: [Natalie Telis](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: I support bike lanes and you should too!!!
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:40:25 AM

Literally just this morning a child was killed on El Camino. How much more evidence do we need that commuting sustainably needs to be made safer?

The inability to ride on El Camino because of how unsafe it is (cars park and can slam a door into you as a commuter; you have to share the lane, which infuriates cars no matter what speed you go) results in many extra miles ridden on side streets for people just trying to make sustainability changes to their commutes. Especially during the pandemic many people discovered they could commute less and more sustainably in general; we need to support these efforts with local infrastructure, like a bike lane, to enhance the safety of commuting by bike. El Camino is a major thoroughfare for car traffic; let's replace the parking on it to enhance the mobility of non car transit and enable people to have easy, direct and safe routes to access important local places.

From: [Mary Dateo](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #5 El Camino Bike Lanes - March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 11:18:42 AM

Hello Los Altos City Council,

Please vote to approve the installation of buffered bike lanes along El Camino Real.

This stretch of road is SO critical for school kids to reach school safely. Please help to make it safer for them, and for everyone.

Encouraging active transportation is so important to making our cities safer and healthier, and to reducing greenhouse gases. To make that happen, we need connected networks. It would be wonderful to have these bike lanes in place, connected to the stretch that's going in in Mountain View.

Please approve the buffered bike lanes.

Regards,

Mary Dateo
Mountain View resident

From: [Ann McCarty](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #5
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 12:02:55 PM

Dear Council Members ~

I am writing to share my strong support for buffered bike lanes along El Camino Real in Los Altos/ Mountain View. Though I am not a Los Altos resident, I live in adjacent Mountain View through which El Camino also runs. You are making a crucial decision that impacts not only your city residents, but those of neighboring cities far and wide, as El Camino is such a widely used boulevard. And wouldn't it be great if in the 21st century, you take this opportunity to make it a friendly boulevard for cyclists as well.

Taking this bold move would send a message to other cities who share the road that Los Altos is a community that cares about the safety of it's residents, as well as the environment. It could go a long way to ensuring that moving away from cars is a reachable goal for our area. Please do the right thing and vote to add the buffers while you have this rare win/win opportunity.

With regards,

Ann McCarty

From: [Roberta Phillips](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Item #5 El Camino Bike Lane/ City Council Meeting March 22/ Public Comment
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 2:06:42 PM

Dear City Council Members

I am opposed to putting bike lanes on El Camino and removing 248 parking spots.

1. It will hurt businesses by eliminating customer parking. Businesses have suffered during Covid and this will have an additional negative impact. We need to look out for businesses, even if they are not located in Downtown Los Altos.
2. It will reduce employee parking, again hurting small businesses.
3. The loss of parking spots on El Camino will drive cars onto side streets and residential streets looking for alternative parking spots.
4. It will impede loading and unloading, pushing delivery trucks further out into the road.
5. It will constrain turns into parking lots.
- 6..It will hamper trash pick up
7. It is unsafe for bicyclists, regardless of the barriers that are installed.
- 8..Children or young adults should never be allowed to ride their bikes on El Camino. There are alternative , safer routes and forms of transportation. I don't believe adults have a strong desire to ride bikes on El Camino.

The Complete Streets Commission has a very poor track record of improving safety and solving problems in a way that causes less harm than before they got involved.. Examples are the Cuesta Drive Speed tables. As you know, the Fire Department has said the tables are unsafe and should be removed as they impede travel time for emergency vehicles.

At the High School at San Antonio Rd and Almond the City spent buckets of money on bike lanes and traffic signals to encourage students to ride their bikes to school. This has failed. as signaled by the last Complete Streets Commission where they discussed that over 800 students arrive by car within a 20 minute time frame. The gobs of money the City spent on this project has not encouraged students to ride their bikes to school. Parents care about the safety of their children, which is why they drop their kids off at school.

The VTA is pushing this idea, as their ridership falls. Buses will still need to drive into bus stops , across bike lanes endangering cyclists..

If all the other cities along El Camino do not remove all parking then there is no point in Los Altos removing parking for our tiny section of El Camino. Palo Alto is not even discussing the idea. Menlo Park has removed only 8 parking spots to the detriment of business owners.

Please stop playing around with the safety of the Los Altos Community and spending money on pie-in-the sky ideas that do more harm than good.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

650-941-6940

From: [Janet Vassar](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 3:15:19 PM

Dear City of Los Altos, Transportation Services Department,

I am writing in SUPPORT of establishing dedicated bike lanes on El Camino in Los Altos. I have been a resident of Los Altos since 1987 who bikes regularly for recreation and commuted to work via bike for 30 years. I would much prefer that the lane be designated ONLY by clear paint markings. From experience, I find that the raised curb or flexible bollards only create another hazard to negotiate. For example, I have had a pedestrian step into the bike lane without looking first and would not have been able to avoid them if the bike lane were “protected” by a curb or bollard. Arguments that other routes are safer are not necessarily true. On the Bryant Street bike path through Palo Alto, my daughter and I were hit by a car that didn’t stop at a stop sign, fortunately sustaining “only” minor injuries. In addition, I regularly see cyclists traveling down El Camino currently, regardless of hazards. Why not make their travel safer by implementing bike lanes? I think it is important to try to match the bike lane plans of adjacent cities such as Mountain View and Palo Alto as much as possible to minimize confusion for both drivers and cyclists.

My hope is that if cyclists regularly used El Camino as a thoroughfare, drivers would become a bit more cautious and learn to expect cyclists, as is true in other countries.

Thank you for your attention to this issue,

Janet Vassar

From: [Pat Marriot](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Item 5 March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 3:33:09 PM

Council Members:

I'm opposed to bike lanes on El Camino.

Businesses have been hurt for the last two years of COVID. Let's not hurt them more by removing 248 parking spots used by customers and in some cases by employees. They will be forced into neighborhoods to find places to park. Look no further than Palo Alto, where neighbors near University Ave and California Ave had to force the city to provide neighborhood parking passes to protect them from workers taking over their streets.

How safe will unprotected bike lanes be? Cyclists will have to deal with buses, cars turning right, drivers pulling out of driveways, delivery trucks, trash bins left out. Unless bike lanes are separated from traffic by a physical barrier and buses have dedicated lanes, cyclists will be unsafe on a major thoroughfare like El Camino.

Pat Marriott

From: [Hugh Zabriskie](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 5:14:38 PM

Hi,

I am extremely excited to see bike lanes are being considered for El Camino! That would be a huge step forward in mobility in South Bay, and encouraging less solo car commuters, and reducing carbon emissions. It's a bummer that the often wide shoulders of El Camino are just parking today, they could be filled with happy cyclists enjoying the nearly year-round good weather.

Please support this exciting action to improve bike lanes and quality of life!

Best,
Hugh Zabriskie

From: [Bill Hough](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #4, March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 4:08:57 PM

Vote NO on the Resolution supporting Class IIB - Buffered Bicycle Lane Installation on El Camino Real. There is no reason to force traffic onto side streets to look for parking. Who is pushing this? Busy El Camino is a scary place to ride a bike and after two years of COVID hell, there is no reason to make local business suffer by making parking more difficult. Back to the drawing board with this one.

From: [Robert Neff](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Support for Buffered Bike Lanes on El Camino
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 5:58:39 PM

Dear Los Altos City Council,

I write in support of agenda Item 5, replacing street parking with wide, buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real.

I often ride on El Camino to get to destinations on El Camino, or to connect from streets in Palo Alto or Mountain View to the streets of Los Altos. Many connections across El Camino require a jog of a block or two on El Camino, and there are many business and restaurant locations to access from the street.

I think streets are for helping people move, either by walking, or riding an auto, bike, or bus, and this change will add more capacity for movement along the street. I think the parking report shows that we do not need to continue to use El Camino like a long term parking lot.

I am glad that simple buffered bike lanes are being considered. These are both more comfortable than regular bike lanes, because they are wider, and keep motor traffic further away, and do not add the complication of physical barriers to movement on the street.

Overall, this change will make bicycling to destinations more comfortable, and also make crossing the street for pedestrians safer, as there will not be parked cars obscuring pedestrians waiting to cross.

Thank you for your work for the city of Los Altos

Robert Neff

Resident of Palo Alto

Daily cycle commuter across Los Altos since 2006.

From: [Mitra Lohraspour](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Trevor Berg](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #5 El Camino Bike Lanes - March 22, 2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 8:29:58 PM

Dear Los Altos City Council members,

I am writing to express my whole-hearted support of the changes to El Camino Real to make it safer for cyclists. The recent death of Graham Middle School student Andre Retana is a tragic reminder of how vulnerable cyclists are and how critical it is to protect them.

Sincerely,
Mitra Lohraspour
1410 Miravalle Ave, Los Altos

From: [Debbie Mytels](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Agenda Item #5 - El Camino Bike Lanes 3/22/2022
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022 11:44:39 PM

Dear Members of the Los Altos City Council,

I'm a senior who still likes to ride a bike around town, and I'm delighted to hear that the Los Altos City Council is going to be voting on approval of buffered bike lanes on El Camino. This would make it MUCH easier to use that section of ECR for getting around. I live in Palo Alto just south of Oregon Expressway, and like to ride up to downtown Los Altos and the Redwood Grove along University Avenue. I usually zig-zag along several side streets, but it would be lovely if I could go up Charleston and then ride along a section of El Camino that was separated from the cars and go to some of the shops near Chef Chu's on El Camino. Back in the '90's, when I was a 40-something, we made a three-week bicycle trip in Germany. In most of the big cities we traveled through, there were separated lanes for bicycles, making it not only safe, but also convenient, to ride a bike through the commercial areas. It would be terrific if Los Altos would help transform El Camino into a slower and safer road for bicycles. Please vote to approve this plan for the buffered lanes on El Camino!

Sincerely,

Debbie Mytels

Debbie Mytels
2824 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
[REDACTED]

[Methane leaks occur at all places along its pressurized system - at the wellhead, in transmission and distribution lines and compressors, in supply lines, and in the appliance itself. That is because methane gas is pressurized up to 1400 pounds per square inch, in order to get it to the point of use.](#)

[Methane gas leaks are quite normal and can not be fixed - that is a problem! Getting rid of methane is the solution.](#)

From: [Kim Jelfs](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - 3/22/2022 COUNCIL MTG
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 8:52:27 AM

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in support of item #5 on the agenda for the March 22 Council Meeting, **El Camino Real Bike Lanes**.

One of the key categories in the recently passed Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is transportation, a major cause of GHG emissions in our community. Encouraging cyclists can help reduce automobile travel and the pollution from transportation. Safety is a concern along a busy route like El Camino, where just last week, a 13 year old cyclist was tragically killed. Buffered bike lanes would be a welcome addition along El Camino. The project has the support of city staff and the cost is already covered by Caltrans as part of their resurfacing improvements. This is a great opportunity for Los Altos to add infrastructure to support and encourage safe biking conditions, and work towards the CAAP goals.

Please approve the proposal for buffered bike lanes.

Thank you
Kim Jelfs - local resident

From: [Brian Forney](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 11:30:08 AM

I am writing in support of bike lanes on El Camino Real. I see the following reasons as reasons for bike lanes on El Camino:

- We need to improve the safety for all users of roads. Bike lanes make road use safer for bicyclists. The recent death of a 13 year old at El Camino and Grant in Mountain View demonstrates the need for improvements in safety for cyclists on the El Camino corridor.
- We need to provide more and better alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles given the clarity the scientific community has provided on climate change. The need to act is urgent given the science and the impact to humans and many other species.

Sincerely,
Brian Forney
1101 W. El Camino Real Unit 410
Mountain View CA 94040

From: [Jen Wolosin](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 5 (Please Support Buffered Bike Lanes on ECR) - 3/22/22
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 12:59:47 PM

Dear Mayor Enander, Vice Mayor Meadows and Councilmembers Fligor, Eng and Weinberg,

I am writing to you about your upcoming agenda item regarding buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real. Please note that while I serve on the Menlo Park City Council, I am writing to you as an individual.

Please support your staff and commission recommendations to install buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real. As the staff report outlines, this project is a "once in a 25- to 30-year opportunity to make mobility-transformative changes for the community along this corridor."

On March 8th, the Menlo Park City Council voted to remove parking spots on El Camino Real to make room for a safety median for vehicles and pedestrians, and to enable future buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real. You can read about this recent Council decision [here](#). This was not an easy decision to make, given that the small businesses on El Camino currently use this parking for their customers. That being said, parking alternatives exist and we directed staff to further mitigate the loss with changes to parking on the nearby side street.

Some may argue that bike lanes should not be installed on El Camino Real unless they are separated and buffered. Immediate action to add bike lanes on El Camino is critical because people are riding bikes on El Camino Real now. As a former Safe Routes to School advocate, safety is of utmost importance to me, and I would love to see protected bike lanes on El Camino. However, change sometimes comes in incremental steps, and it makes sense to take advantage of this Caltrans repaving project to move the concept of bike lanes on El Camino forward. In the staff report, your staff makes a great recommendation on how the current design leaves room/an opportunity for future safety enhancements and improvements.

As you may know, there is a regional effort to install a continuous bike lane on El Camino Real. See the Joint Ventures Silicon Valley Peninsula Bikeway Feasibility Study [here](#). No one city can turn this vision into a reality on their own. Please do what you can, for the residents of Los Altos, and for all those who visit and travel through your City, to advance this important effort. If we each do what is in our power to do, we can collectively get this done.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen

--

Jen Wolosin

Vice Mayor

Menlo Park, District 3



From: [Matthew Tiscareno](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes on ECR
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 6:50:51 PM

Hi Los Altos City Council,

I'm writing to urge you to vote "yes" at your meeting this Tuesday (3/22) to ask Caltrain to paint bike lanes along El Camino between Adobe Creek and 500' South of Rengstorff Ave by removing the underutilized on-street parking.

These bike lanes are incredibly important. Please consider the following points:

- Bicycling does more to reduce climate change, improve health, save lives, and save money than any other form of transportation.
- It makes far more sense to use our roadways for moving people rather than for storing motor vehicles. There is also plenty of parking in parking lots along El Camino.
- El Camino Real is an important cross-town route for people biking. The project would provide connection to key destinations that aren't well-served by the rest of the network,
- Bikes lanes would support business, school, commutes, and recreational biking activities.
- Many of the residents of El Camino Real rely on their bicycles as their primary mode of transportation.
- Safety! El Camino is a very dangerous street for bicyclists. Bicyclist safety is more important than car parking convenience. Neighboring cities are also in various stages of planning bike lanes on El Camino. As their bicycle facilities get built, we can expect more people biking on all of El Camino, so it would be best to make it safe for them.

Thank you, -Matt

Matthew Tiscareno, Sunnyvale CA (he/him/his)

Matthew Tiscareno, Sunnyvale CA (he/him/his)

From: [John Cordes](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Diana Crumedy](#)
Subject: Please approve buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 9:34:54 PM

Dear Los Altos Council members,

Please vote in favor of the staff recommendation for the Resolution supporting Class IIB - Buffered Bicycle Lane Installation on El Camino Real – City Limits between Adobe Creek and ~500-FT South of Rengstorff Avenue as part of Caltrans Street Resurfacing Improvements scheduled for Summer 2023." for the following reasons

- El Camino Real destination and connector when people are riding a bicycle. The project would provide multiple connections to key destinations that aren't well-served by the rest of the Los Altos bicycle network. It is also an important connector to other cross-county bikeways identified in the VTA's Bicycle Master plan for Santa Clara County
- El Camino Real is a very dangerous street for bicycling, walking and driving. Upgrading this public right-of-way from car storage to a buffered bike lane will make this portion of El Camino safer for all users. Safety for everyone using EL Camino Real is more important than unnecessary car parking.
- Neighboring cities are also in various stages of planning bike lanes on El Camino. As their bicycle facilities get built, we can expect more people biking on all of El Camino, so we might as well make it safe for them.
- Bicycling does more to reduce climate change, improve health, save lives, and save money than any other form of transportation.
- It makes far more sense to use our roadways for moving people rather than for storing motor vehicles. There is also plenty of parking in parking lots along El Camino Real.
- Bikes lanes would support local businesses, schools, commuters, and recreational biking activities.
- Many of the residents of El Camino Real rely on their bicycles as their primary mode of transportation.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, congestion, and vehicle miles traveled.

Sincerely,
John Cordes,

From: [Sharlene Liu](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: in support of bike lanes on El Camino Real
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:58:42 AM

Dear Los Altos City Council,

I am writing in support of bike lanes on El Camino Real, specifically the Resolution supporting Class IIB - Buffered Bicycle Lane Installation on El Camino Real between Adobe Creek and ~500-FT South of Rengstorff Avenue, as part of Caltrans Street Resurfacing Improvements scheduled for Summer 2023.

I regularly commute through Los Altos by bike. Currently, I have to avoid El Camino Real because of its lack of bike lanes, going 3 miles out of my way to go on safer streets. Having bike lanes will allow me and scores of bicyclists to travel safely on El Camino Real. Making our community safe for bicyclists is SO important for SO many reasons: improves air quality and livability, reduces auto noise, and allows people to get out and exercise and meet each other on the streets instead of being imprisoned in steel cars.

I urge you to vote YES on bike lanes on El Camino Real.

Thank you.
Sharlene Liu

From: [Michael Schuh](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Support for buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 6:44:11 AM

Los Altos City Council,

I live at 1630 Elmhurst Drive in Los Altos and regularly commute to work on my bicycle. I fully support the Staff Recommendation to approve buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real and removal of 248 on street parking spaces needed to make this possible.

Staff Recommendation: Approval of Class IIB (Buffered Bike Lanes) on El Camino Real within City Limits, between Adobe Creek and ~500-FT South of Rengstorff Avenue, as part of Caltrans Street Resurfacing Improvements scheduled for Summer 2023 including the approval of the parking removal.

I hope that you will vote to approve this change to improve safety of students and adults that ride this section of El Camino Real.

Sincerely,
Michael Schuh
1630 Elmhurst Drive
Los Altos, CA 94024

From: [Kevin Ma](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - March 22 (ECR Bike Lanes)
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:02:23 AM

Dear Los Altos City Council,

As a resident a block away from the section of El Camino Real in your jurisdiction, I support improvements to ensure that El Camino Real is safe for all, be they car passengers, bikers, pedestrians, or users of other modes of transportation.

As the parking study shows, the removal of the parking lane should not affect most drivers' activities along the road. And for those who are affected, it should not take excessive time to find parking a block or two over. This relatively minor inconvenience of an extra minute or two of searching should be outweighed by the potential benefits the changes have for bicyclists, of which many are currently afraid of riding on El Camino Real directly in-line with the fastest 1-2 ton cars around or on a sidewalk not meant for biking. With the bike lane, we could potentially see some trips shifted from cars to bikes, reducing the number of cars that contribute to traffic congestion and air pollution. Safety perception, after all, is one of the major reasons people don't bike more often.

The recent death of a student on the Mountain View section of El Camino Real brings greater awareness that our local safety situation is deficient, and that we need to make sure such tragedies never happen again. In particular, I would like the city and Caltrans to provide greater protections for bikers at intersections, such as increasing the turn radius or a prominent bike queue area. And I would like to see the project become true protected bikeways with bollards as soon as possible, given that buffered bikeways still depend on people catching themselves veering into the lane without physical feedback (though buffered is still better than the current no-buffer).

Sincerely,
Kevin Ma

From: [Carlos Diuk](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Support for Resolution supporting Class IIB - Buffered Bicycle Lane Installation on El Camino Real
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:47:36 AM

Dear City Council,

I am writing to encourage you to support the resolution adding bike lanes to El Camino Real between Rengstorff and Adobe. We need to encourage more bike use, and as it stands, El Camino Real right now is very dangerous for cyclists. Adding bike lanes that connect with planned work in Mountain View will help provide a safe way of moving around our cities reducing car use.

Please support the measure.

Thanks,
Carlos Diuk

From: [Jennifer Granath](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 and 6 - MEETING DATE 3/22/2022
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:01:01 AM

Dear council

I'm writing to issue public comment on the upcoming agenda items 5 and 6 for tuesday's meeting.

Item 5:

There are businesses along El Camino that need to have customers park on the street. I do not agree that the parking should be eliminated on El Camino. I voted against it when VTA was planning to take over a dedicated lane on El Camino and I vote against it now. Having a mother and father with mobility issues has deepened my understanding that not everyone can walk or bike and that being able to park close to your destination is imperative. I voted against this when VTA wanted to have a dedicated lane for busses and I vote against it now. Please vote NO in eliminating the parking along El Camino.

Item 6:

Please vote against turning our parking plazas into housing. I have lived in Los Altos for 33 years and I have seen many changes over the years. Namely, stores coming and going, but one thing that remains consistent is the ease with which we can park near our intended store, and walk along state or main street in the process. I do not want Los Altos to become Mountain View, or Burlingame or even Redwood City for that matter where parking is a nightmare. If I had wanted that, i would have chosen to move to those cities. Rather I chose Los Altos for its convenience to "pop" downtown to frequent one of the shops or get a cup of coffee. Please vote NO and do not replace the parking plazas!

Thank you

J _____ ath


From: [Jerome Leugers](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Bike lanes el Camino
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:27:15 AM

I support the elimination of parking on el Camino to create space for bike lanes.
Jerome Leugers

From: [Barbara Weinstein](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Please support buffered bike lanes on El Camino
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:40:36 AM

Dear city council,

Please support the proposal to add a separated bike lane on El Camino in Los Altos. As a long-time Los Altos resident, the wonderful bike infrastructure in town has made a great difference to my health and well-being and that of my family and friends. I urge you to extend to infrastructure to El Camino. It will encourage more people to ride when doing errands and other local activities, helping reduce traffic and pollution. And having the lanes separated will allay the concerns of bicyclists and drivers who are concerned about safety when bikes and cars are in close proximity.

Thank you,
Barbara Weinstein
1525 Siesta Dr.
Los Altos

From: [Monica Waldman](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: March 22 City Council Agenda Item 5 Feedback
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:45:08 AM

Dear Council Members,

Last week's tragic death of a 13 year old bicyclist on El Camino Real next door in Mountain View made me notice Agenda item 5, "El Camino Bike Lanes." I am glad to see Caltran's offer to put in bike lanes free of charge to the City of Los Altos but I am highly concerned that they are Class IIB and offer bicyclists no protection from cars and trucks driven by the occasional distracted driver . I myself would not ride my bike on El Camino Real until at least a Class IV lane was provided and worry that Caltran's freebie could lead to a death in our community.

Thank You,
Monica

From: [Lada Adamic](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Item 5: El Camino Real Bike Lanes
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:49:23 AM

Dear Councilmembers,

I write to enthusiastically support the addition of bike lanes and the accompanying necessary removal of street parking on El Camino Real.

In the past 11 years of living in Mountain View and biking around the area, I've tried really hard to not bike on ECR, to find every possible other route. And yet... for a lot of businesses and destinations, there is no other way. Either they are directly on El Camino, or I need to cross El Camino. And there are very few streets that cross directly -- usually I need to spend at least a little while on ECR itself, for example when my family bikes to the Sweet Shop. Bike lanes would make these necessary forays onto ECR safer.

Overall, the addition of bike lanes will allow me to make more trips by bike. For example, I go to two grocery stores that are 0.9 miles from my house. I bike to Nob Hill Foods on bike lanes and residential streets. I drive to Nijiya because there are no bike lanes on ECR or Grant. Bike or car, the trip takes the same amount of time, but the one by bike is joyful and good for the planet. When bike lanes are put in on that stretch of ECR, I plan to bike to both markets.

I know that adding the bike lanes on the Los Altos stretch of ECR would require removing street parking. I resolve, if this happens, to make more trips to these businesses, e.g. Veggie Garden, by bike, so I reduce my contribution to parking demand and automobile traffic on these short trips.

I urge the council to adopt the staff recommendation and to seize the opportunity of the Caltrans repaving project and the measure B funds. I know not everyone will want to use the bike lanes, but I will be so excited to use them and I know they will make a positive difference in a lot of people's lives.

Thank you for considering the hopes and safety of a Mountain View resident, and the sustainability and climate impact of Bay Area transportation, in your vote on this matter.

From: [carol little](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: March 22, item #5
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:24:04 AM

Dear City Council,

At some point it is impossible to completely protect pedestrians and cyclists from distracted and less than capable drivers. El Camino Real is not a road that makes a cyclist want to ride on it. Cyclist do in order to most efficiently get from one place to another. If possible, I am sure most, like me, avoid riding on it. The road itself is chopped up and disorganized with traffic of all sorts coming at a cyclist from all directions. Of course that does not mean the effort should not be made to make the experience better.

As I see it, there are 3 options available. One is to leave the cars parked, as they are now, along the curb. Another options is to remove all car parking, but that will not actually have much positive impact and is likely to create nothing but issues as all of the housing being built, and new retail/office space being built, is under parked. Under parked buildings means more cars will be looking for parking. They will double park or circle and circle, just as they do in San Francisco. That creates more pollution and more traffic and more frustration and angst. That leads to worse driving.

That brings me to yet another option. It is to maintain the parking but use the parked cars as barriers to protect cyclist and pedestrians. Obviously this option has its own issues, but it also has many pluses and is working well in many locations. The down side is that it puts drivers closer to traffic as they exit their cars, but honestly, that is the situation with curbside parking as well. A driver must look before opening their door and exiting. Nothing new regarding this challenge though. Drivers must already do this, if they want to keep their car door and live. However, they then they must also get from their car to the sidewalk by crossing the bike lane. I recognize that is not ideal. It would likely require signs painted on the ground to caution folks to look both ways before they cross the path.

Another plus to the protected option is that the entire road can be cleaned by the street cleaners on street cleaning day. They will not have a little space blocked off that collects all of the road debris, as the bike lanes with curbs and bollards now do. That debris makes it unsafe for a cyclist. Very few cities provide the maintenance needed to either blow or sweep the bike lane clean. That raises the budget quite a bit.

Given the options, I suggest we keep the parking but shift it closer to the road, allowing the cars to protect the cyclist from the moving traffic. If El Camino naturally becomes reduced in size to accommodate such a change, so be it. Perhaps Los Altos can be known as the calm traffic city by making changes that promote that goal.

Please also always consider sidewalk width. This is important for many reasons, such

as more room for tree canopies, but also because a sidewalk that is too narrow does not allow pedestrians to safely pass each other and often leads to pedestrians stepping into the street, or bike lane, in an effort to pass another pedestrian. More generous sidewalk width helps eliminate this issue.

Further, trying to outsmart the terrible drivers with all sorts of safety measures is impossible. Again, it is important to call out the fact that one major aspect of the safety issue is distracted driving. As a result, reducing that problem is one (this is only one, but it's a big one) key to reducing the safety challenges. I suggest the entire council, and all residents make a pledge to drive and only drive. No distractions that can be controlled for, such as talking on the phone, or watching GPS. In other words, we would all stay off of our phones and plan our trips in advance, unless we have audio GPS. Would this make life a bit more challenging? Perhaps, but it hasn't been that long since that was a way of life. Hang up and drive simply makes sense. This is even more important after the recent tragic loss of life on El Camino and Grant road. We cannot continue to wring our hands and say we care about cyclists while we each continue to drive distracted.

If for no other reason than to save a child's life, pledge to hang up and drive.

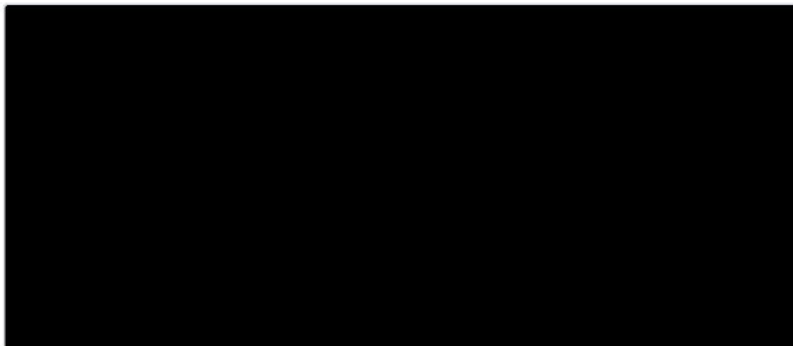
Thank you for considering my request to keep the parking on El Camino, widen the sidewalks and hang up and drive in order to protect pedestrians and bicyclists and to slow traffic down.

I provided a picture of the protected bike lane I am referring to. I also provided a link to a fairly recent article about Pasadena's experience with protected bike lanes and a study regarding protected bike lanes.

Sincerely,

Teresa Morris

<https://www.pasadenacsc.org/blog/protected-bike-lanes-increase-traffic-safety-for-everyone>



Study Finds Protected Bike Lanes Increase Traffic Safety for Everyone-In...

There are lots of reasons cities like Pasadena should have more protected bike lanes: they encourage more people...



From: [Maddy McBirney](#)
To: [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #5 - Please support buffered bike lanes on El Camino
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:43:33 AM

Dear City Council members,

As a resident of Los Altos and an active cyclist, I would like to support the promotion for infrastructure for safer cycling on El Camino in Los Altos. I strongly support the staff's recommendation for buffered bike lanes on El Camino in the Los Altos section especially.

Please adopt the resolution for El Camino Real Bike Lanes supporting Class IIB- Buffered Bicycle Lane Installation on El Camino - City Limits between Adobe Creek and 500ft. South of Rengstorff Ave. as part of Caltrans Street Resurfacing Improvements scheduled for Summer 2023: Approve removal of street parking to accommodate this improvement.

Better for the environment, better for our health and safety, better for all, better for future generations.

Sincerely,
Maddy McBirney
149 Doud Drive
Los Altos

From: [John Kenny](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #5 - Please support buffered bike lanes on El Camino
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:55:24 AM

Dear Council members,

I am a resident of Los Altos, and I fully support the installation of buffered bike lanes on El Camino Real. This protects all the bicycle riders who bike on El Camino, and biking is a more environmentally friendly method of transportation than driving. I believe more people would bike if they felt safe and protected along this corridor. Please vote YES on Buffered Bike Lanes.

Sincerely,
Patricia and John Kenny
1721 Lantis Lane
Los Altos

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Russell](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Agenda Item #5 - March 22, 2022 Council Meeting
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:35:22 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Susan Russell [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #5 - March 22, 2022 Council Meeting
To: <publiccomments@losaltoscca.gor>

As longtime residents on Los Altos Avenue we support the Buffered Bike Lanes along both sides of El Camino Real beginning with Class IIB paid for by Caltrans.

The outreach meetings show almost unanimous support of these bike lanes. We agree with staff that this is a rare opportunity to improve bicycle network connectivity which, in turn, will help with reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

At noon today a drive along El Camino Real to check the entire frontage proposed for the buffered lanes showed that generally fewer than 50% of the spaces were occupied and always there appeared to be sufficient off-street parking close by.

We wish these bike lanes had been in place when our children were growing up and when we were more active cyclists as the improved safety definitely will encourage biking.

Susan and David Russell
744 Los Altos Avenue

From: [Tracy](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #5 - Please support buffered bike lanes on El Camino
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:57:38 AM

Dear Council:

I strongly support creating buffered bike lanes on El Camino. Let us work to protect people who bike on our streets.

Thanks
Tracy Y

From: [Anne Paulson](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 5 - Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:15:57 PM

March 22, 2022

RE: Item 5, El Camino Real Bike Lanes

Dear Mayor Enander and City Council Members,

I'm a 35 year resident of Los Altos, who uses a bike for my primary means of transportation.

Please support the buffered bike lanes on El Camino. Like motorists, cyclists need to go to destinations along El Camino. Right now, if we try to ride on El Camino, we're dangerously squeezed between parked cars; we need a safe space to ride on the road.

The more bike facilities we have, the more we get people out of cars and onto bikes, which frees up road space and parking spaces for the drivers who remain, while achieving our climate goals.

Please support the bike lanes.

Sincerely,
Anne Paulson

From: [Roberta Phillips](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes on El Camino Council meeting March 22
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:42:50 PM

Dear Council

I am sending this email for Jim Jolly

Re: Opinion: The Supposed Safe Feeling of Protected Bike Lanes is Misleading—

One problem that is not mentioned in this article is car door opening. Whether the car parks on the curb and the bicyclist rides by on the driver's side of the car, or the car parks away from the curb and the bicyclist rides by on the passenger side of the car, the danger of car door opening is always a danger to the bicyclist. If a car door is suddenly opened as a bicyclist rides by, the cyclist is going down. Depending on which side of the car the door is open, the cyclist can either be hit by a passing car, or thrown onto the curb/sidewalk. The potential for serious injury is high.

The current bike traffic on El Camino through Los Altos is exposed to the driver side door opening problem, the proposed "protected bike lane" will shift the door opening danger to the passenger side. Neither option is a good one and from my 75 year bicycling experience without an accident, the best solution is to NOT ENCOURAGE Bicycling on El Camino Real.

Jim Jolly

