

Complete Streets Commission Subcommittee Comments on Jardin Drive

Response from City of Los Altos Staff - 3/26/2024

The City Council does not approve design of projects. The project will go to the City Council when it's time to award the construction contract and execute agreement with awarded contractor. City staff has been following the process.

Design Focused Items

1. There have been 5 public meetings where the community had the opportunity to give feedback regarding the redesign of Jardin Drive. The redesign of Jardin Drive was based on the adopted Complete Streets Master Plan (CSMP). The CSMP was based on the input of key stakeholders (school districts, school administrations, Complete Street commissioners, parents, local organizations, etc.).
The redesign improves the intersections of Alicia Way and Jardin Dr by:
 - a. Installing continental high visibility crosswalks
 - b. Aligning the centerlines
 - c. Updating the limits of the corner bulb-outs to improve emergency responders turning movement (i.e. fire department)
 - d. Adding signage to restrict parking at the corners – therefore improving visibility
 - e. Painted bulb outs provide a refuge for pedestrians waiting to cross the streetUpon review and discussion of individual prepared SRTS plans with LASD and determination of the various paths students and parents take to get to school, we will adjust and modify the prepared SRTS plans accordingly. Our goal is to ensure that the routes students take to school are safe.
2. Staff will evaluate the loading zone restrictions including hours noted on the signage after implementation. We want to study how traffic of all users throughout the weekday is working before we make any changes. As mentioned during the CSC meetings, we are committed to evaluating the post-construction conditions of Jardin Dr and will fine tune as needed.
3. Although it is not the purview of the CSC, City Staff will have discussions with the PD in regard to enforceable parking restrictions in the redesign.
4. The concerns raised by residents on the north side of Jardin Drive have been considered and the redesign will help improve the problems they are currently experiencing, including the ability to place their trash bins on the street, pulling in and out of their driveways, and accessing their mailboxes among other things.
5. ?
6. Staff will closely evaluate and study the impacts of the left turn restriction at Casita Way and Jardin Dr. While traffic patterns will adjust in the beginning, drivers will still have the ability to select another side street to navigate (4 options if going northbound; and at least 2-3 other options going southbound, depending on where they are going).

7. Staff have reviewed the new bike entry/exit at the tennis courts with LAH to ensure students follow the plan. The high school will help educate parents and students throughout the year and provide high school staff at the tennis courts to direct students through this access points.
8. The crosswalks and stop control at Valencia and Jardin Drive have been previously evaluated and determined to be warranted for installation. The scope of this safety redesign project excludes the reevaluation of the stop control and crosswalks at this location. Both the stop control and high visibility crosswalks improve safety and are recommended to remain.
9. Although it is not the purview of the CSC, City Staff will have discussions with PD in regard to the crossing guards program.
10. Although it is not the purview of the CSC, City Staff will have discussions with PD in regard to having presence when the new design is implemented.

Collaboration with School Focused Items

1. Staff will continue to coordinate closely with the high school to ensure the success of their redesign and operational improvements we seek to gain in the implementation of this project. The high school vice principal (VP) has been present at every CSC meeting regarding the Jardin Dr redesign since November 29, 2023. They have shown commitment and collaboration in partnering with the city as much as possible to ensure that the design matches how they will encourage student movement in and out of the school. We are fortunate to have this type of open communication and partnership in place and hope to work together before/during/after construction.
2. Staff will work with the high school to help with education and outreach. We have mentioned the importance of providing access maps and other educational material for the high school to provide to students before the school year starts and on regular basis throughout the year, including assemblies.
3. Same as #2 above.
4. Staff will not be able to provide bike rack security on school campus, however, the high school VP has mentioned that he is open to adding additional bike racks throughout the school to complement our design, as needed. It's the high school's responsibility to ensure their bike racks are secure and safe from theft.
5. Staff will encourage the high school to issue more parking permits and provide additional parking, if possible. City does not have jurisdiction over high school property.

Monitoring

Although it is not the purview of the CSC to direct City Staff, City Staff is committed to evaluating the post-construction of Jardin Drive and will update the CSC if changes and fine-tuning are needed.

Future Consideration Items

1. Staff will evaluate all SRTS plans and ensure they are reflecting current travel routes and will focus on connectivity throughout the school regions of the city.
2. Staff will continue to reach out to Mountain View about extending Jardin Drive improvements.
3. Parking restrictions will not be addressed as part of this safety improvement project on Jardin Drive. The community and staff have agreed that this item needs to be addressed holistically as a separate item.
4. Same as #1 above.