

City Council Letter from CSC in support of CSMP adoption

April 27, 2022

Honorable Los Altos Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Councilmembers,

After nearly three years of considerable effort and extensive outreach with the Los Altos community to create the Complete Streets Master Plan, the Complete Streets Commission provided feedback last fall on the final draft of the Complete Streets Master Plan (CSMP) and recommended the advancement of the final draft to City Council for review and thereafter adoption. City Council provided thoughtful and detailed feedback on the final draft during its study session on November 9, 2021. Staff working in conjunction with the vendor on this project, Alta Planning and Design, incorporated the feedback. On March 22, 2022 at its second study session for the CSMP, City Council provided additional feedback to staff/vendor on the updated final draft, and deferred the adoption to a consent item at a future city council meeting.

The Complete Streets Commission writes this letter in full support of the adoption of the Complete Streets Master Plan. This Commission notes that an unanimous vote by City Council would convey a message of unity for our future planning and advancement of complete streets initiatives in the city.

This Commission would like to emphasize that the Complete Streets Master Plan is not a design document or construction plan. Every individual project will always go through the City's standard and extensive review process – including opportunity for public input, engineering attention, and thorough review by the Complete Streets Commission – after the Complete Streets Master Plan is adopted.

The City needs to have an adopted Master Plan to support and be successful in transportation-related grant applications. In addition, the City recently completed development of new Transportation Analysis and infrastructure improvement guidelines for private development that reference the Complete Streets Master Plan. The CSMP needs to be adopted before these guidelines can be required of developers.

After adoption of the Complete Streets Master Plan, the Commission supports future on-going development of the plan to add other topics including transit, traffic calming, and congestion management. The Commission recognizes that the current plan is purposely focused on bicycle and pedestrian modes; this was done to prioritize suggested routes to school, community connectivity, and safety. Research shows that streets that are safer for people walking and biking are safer for motorists as well. The Commission's work plan already includes future initiatives to update the 2008 Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan and the 2011 Collector Traffic Calming Plan, continue to develop the citywide traffic model, and develop Transportation Analysis and VMT policy and implementation to address congestion management.

Thank you for this opportunity to advise the City Council on complete streets solutions. We remain committed to provide Complete Streets that are streets for everyone: streets that are planned, designed and operated for the safe mobility for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit users of all ages and abilities. We look forward to the immediate, unanimous, adoption of the Complete Streets Master Plan.

Stacy Banerjee
Los Altos -- Complete Streets Commission, Chair