



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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



March 9, 2023

Dear Mayor Meadows and City Council,

We are happy to see the City Council adopting Housing Element programs so quickly.

We share the Council's concern about standards for multimodal transportation requirements for new developments. Half of the LAAHA steering committee are cyclists, and we all walk; every day we see the need for improvements to our cycling and walking infrastructure. We also share Director Zornes' concern about staying within our authority, and not imposing requirements we are legally forbidden from imposing.

Thus far, the Complete Streets Commission (CSC) has been reviewing multifamily housing projects at the last minute. Every time, Complete Streets makes roughly the same suggestions: add more bike parking, make the bike parking better, improve non-car access to the building. These are the right requirements at the wrong time. Developers need to know our requirements in the initial design phase so they can design a building that accommodates cyclist and pedestrian needs from the start. It's inefficient for everyone to impose these standards at the end of the entitlement phase instead of the beginning.

The City needs objective standards for multimodal transportation for our development projects. We urge the City to quickly instruct staff to bring this issue to CSC, which is the group with the expertise to craft those standards. Then Council can vet the standards and enact them into law.

Respectfully,

LAAHA Steering Committee

Los Altos Affordable Housing Alliance

Committed to educating and inspiring the Los Altos community to build housing that is affordable for those who live and work in Los Altos

<https://losaltosaffordablehousing.org/>