

Los Ranchitos Connector

Project Number: 2008

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PROJECT COMPLETED NOVEMBER, 2009



LOCATION

Ranchitos Road (Route 5) from Puerto Suello summit (Fair Drive) to Circle Road (north)

COST

\$1,024,000

FUNDING SOURCES

\$864,000; TFCA \$160,000

COMPLETION DATE

November, 2009

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project constructed new Class II bike lanes on Ranchitos Road from North San Pedro Road to the Puerto Suello summit, connecting with the Puerto Suello Hill Pathway (Project 2302). Completion of this project closes a significant gap in the North-South Greenway, connecting Terra Linda with central San Rafael. The narrow, winding grade was widened to accommodate bike lanes (4 to 5 feet wide) in each direction. Additionally, a sidewalk was constructed between North San Pedro Road and the apartment complex to the south, providing a safe passage for pedestrians who previously had to walk on an informal path next to the roadway. This was accomplished through construction of retaining walls in several locations along the route to accommodate the widening.

With the original road configuration, cyclists had to ride in the roadway south of North San Pedro Road. The significant grade in this section means cyclists are traveling at a much slower pace than vehicles which, without a bike lane or shoulder, resulted in backups or unsafe passing maneuvers by uphill motorists. Downhill travel is not as affected as cyclists can travel at up to the posted speed limit with relative ease but the lack of a suitable shoulder was still intimidating for cyclists not comfortable riding in the vehicle lane. This project has provided a safe travel way for cyclists while addressing current uphill congestion from motor vehicles by provision of the dedicated lanes.



For questions, please contact Pat Echols, Marin County Department of Public Works, pechols@co.marin.ca.us or 415-499-7026

POINTS OF INTEREST

This segment is a key link in the North-South Bikeway, connecting northern Marin with points south. In addition to being a regional connection, this segment serves Terra Linda with connections to Santa Venetia, the Marin Civic Center, and, via North San Pedro Road, China Camp State Park.

STATUS

Construction Complete

“BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME”

The Ranchitos/Puerto Suello Hill corridor has seen significant increases in cyclist and pedestrian activity since completion of the multiuse pathway on the San Rafael side of the hill and the bike lanes on Ranchitos Road to the north. Weekday cyclist usage has increased 359% since 2007 while weekday pedestrian usage has increased 457% during the same period. However, weekend usage has remained relatively flat, suggesting that much of the increased usage is due to greater levels of utilitarian trips while recreational trips have remained stable. With expected completion of the Puerto Suello-to-Transit Center project anticipated in 2013 additional usage can be expected as a major gap through downtown San Rafael will be filled with a multiuse pathway connecting to the Transit Center, Fourth Street, and Mahon Creek Pathway .

ABOUT THE COUNTS

This corridor is one of 23 locations in Marin where pedestrian and cyclist usage counts have been conducted annually since 2007. Counts are conducted in September for weekday usage (4:00-6:00pm) and weekend usage (12:00-2:00pm). During these periods, a ‘peak hour’ was identified (one sixty minute period with the highest count during the two-hour period). The data in the charts reflect counts for the peak hour.

Revised January, 2012

