

Mill Valley to Corte Madera  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Study

Appendix J:  
Public and Agency Comments Summary

Prepared by  
Alta/LandPeople



August 10, 2009

**Appendix J: Public and Agency Comments Summary**

**Table of Contents**

Workshop Break Out Group Comments ..... 2

Summary of Written Comments ..... 8

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Notes..... 17

Technical Advisory Council Meeting #2 Notes..... 20

Technical Advisory Council Meeting #3 Notes..... 23

## **Appendix J – Public and Agency Comments Summary**

### ***Prepared by Alta/LandPeople***

This appendix summarizes the comments received at the public workshop, in follow-up communications, and at meetings of the project Technical Advisory Committee.

### ***Workshop Break Out Group Comments***

Break out group comments and written comments (4) submitted at public workshop held on March 4, 2009:

### **Alto Tunnel Route**

#### **Neighborhood Safety Concerns....(7)**

- Chapman Meadows; Scott Hill disruptions
- Nearby homes don't want trail
- Could pose security issue to nearby homes and people using tunnel
- Safety +++
- Neighborhood impact of construction
- Social and safety concerns
- Impacts/issues for homes on either side of tunnel and at both ends

#### **Tunnel Safety/Security Concerns....(8)**

- Illumination and security issues
- Tunnel is under peoples homes
- Tunnel will continue to collapse if nothing is done
- Tunnel needs to be fixed and a path should be added
- Does tunnel have slight curve?
- Will tunnel be lit?
- Lighting and ventilation issues
- Potential for collapse if left alone

#### **Direct Connection....(10)**

- Links both sides with continuous class I facility
- Direct route
- Faster than by car
- Time consideration- modal choice
- Connection to Larkspur
- Could be emergency access
- Would break barrier between communities
- Most direct and flat route, would attract more users
- Don't need a shower after
- Emergency egress route

### **User Accommodation....(17)**

- Would best serve commuters and recreational users
- Only route that would be ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant
- Only route that can really increase non-motorist users
- Could accommodate electric bikes, wheelchairs
- Great for pedestrians
- ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant
- New tunnel could be wider (add streetcar)
- Great route for recreational riders
- Would get more people on to bikes
- Mode shift
- Offers evening and night usage
- Intermediate rider- best use, no hill
- Good with children
- “no brainer” for non-experienced
- Best route to get people out of cars
- Desire for pedestrian walkway
- Usage predictions

### **User/Traffic Conflicts....(7)**

- Small kids would not mix well with recreational riders
- Too many pedestrians would make it hard to bike
- Will increased bike traffic be addressed?
- All routes- education-“stop”, share the road, etc
- Issue at Tamalpais Dr/Corte Madera intersection
- Safety on Camino Alto-safer for all users-pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists
- Biking enthusiasts would crowd out children, elderly, walkers

### **Cost....(5)**

- Too expensive
- Would be expensive
- Cost per user goes up
- Cost/risk of not fixing tunnel
- Wildly expensive vs. widening Camino Alto

### **Economic, Other Benefits....(5)**

- Could provide positive economic impact
- Climate benefits and air quality benefits
- Property values up
- This route would be an asset to the community
- Would get people out of there cars

### **Right of Way....(3)**

- Homes may encroach on public right-of-way
- Potential reversion rights in easements
- Easements tied to railroad usage

### **Other....(3)**

- Tunnel already exists, use it
- Show tunnel study on map
- What do neighbors think about this

### **Camino Alto Route**

#### **Safety Concerns....(19)**

- Need wider shoulders/ calming treatments
- Camino Alto is too scary
- Poor pavement
- Needs to be safer for bikes and autos
- Downhill is unsafe, too fast for bikes
- Deer are along route
- Gravel at turns is dangerous to riders
- Widening could make more dangerous
- Poor visibility
- Dangerous (especially uphill)
- Need wider striping (uphill)
- Uneven road surface is dangerous for riders
- Camino Alto traffic and sight and centerline issues
- Camino Alto- needs better bike lanes
- Camino Alto narrow - Chapman alternative not in scope
- Wider shoulders are feasible
- Need better signage
- Mixing it up with cars is dangerous

#### **User Accommodation....(7)**

- Differentiate between serious and non-serious riders
- Will improving route increase ridership?
- Route is only for advanced riders
- Not efficient commute route
- Camino Alto- experience and skill needed
- Independent living on Corte Madera side. ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant?
- No easy access from Camino Alto to bike path

#### **Traffic Conflicts....(6)**

- Northbound congested during p.m. peak; lots of deer
- "Share the Road"
- Bikes compete with cars and Blithedale and Corte Madera intersection
- Riders go too fast because of grades
- Need bike/vehicle separation
- Road becomes congested during commute

## **Topography...(4)**

- Camino Alto- great climb=personality
- Not as steep as Horse Hill
- Camino Alto=workout
- Too steep

## **Other....(3)**

- Chapman should be used as alternative route
- Concerned widening will affect private property
- Shuttle over Camino Alto

## **Horse Hill Route**

### **Safety Concerns.....(5)**

- Will lighting be considered?
- Pathway narrow- could cause potential conflicts
- Blind curve at low point of existing trail is dangerous
- Trail prone to landslides
- Visibility bad @ crest

### **Traffic Conflicts....(7)**

- Concerned about stop signs
- Casa Buena-lots of conflict points-lack of safety signage
- 3 way stop and shell road is dangerous should be a 4 way stop
- Closing non-conforming on-ramp to 101 could add more room
- Dangerous intersections/stop signs Lomita and Shell
- North end onto Meadowsweet = traffic
- Meadowsweet to bike path-dangerous

### **Topography....(3)**

- Unsafe; tough to traverse with kids in tow
- Unpleasant; steep and difficult to maneuver
- Can we lower grade and make it a better bike path?

### **User Accommodation....(9)**

- Make it ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant
- Consider team riders for all routes
- Consider future potential riders
- Fewer on Horse Hill, why?
- Less direct, more residential traffic
- Less fun
- Horse Hill more practical=flat
- Schools – Edna and Ring
- 101 corridor as transportation route

### **Direct Connection....(9)**

- Least direct of three routes, convoluted route
- Northbound-difficult awkward to access Meadowsweet
- Making turn onto Meadowsweet is difficult
- Making turn onto path is difficult
- Trail is out of the way and unpleasant
- Indirect route to Magnolia
- Can't ride bikes from Corte Madera into Mill Valley
- Disjointed route-No way finding signs
- Needs pedestrian connection from east side of Lomita to school and Community Center

### **Hwy 101 Noise/Sound Pollution....(7)**

- Northbound bicyclists blinded by car lights at night
- Air pollution along route, freeway noise
- Headlights from 101 are a hazard
- Noisy
- Light shield at path and better freeway separation
- Highway section unpleasant/unhealthy/noisy
- Smelly, noisy, less pretty

### **Other....(4)**

- Potential solution-overhang to US101
- Is it possible to make path through open space?
- Signage is very different- need more for Horse Hill
- Less known

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **Economic Impacts....(8)**

- Evaluate economic impacts to communities
- Evaluate impact routes would have on property values
- Add economic benefits
- Consider other ways money could be used
- Long term benefits
- Operations and maintenance costs
- Cost benefits of all routes including all operating and maintenance costs
- Cost of acquisition estimates

### **Green Benefits/Impacts....(14)**

- Cumulative impact in regards to entire north/south route
- Estimate potential to reduce auto traffic
- Evaluate potential to reduce greenhouse gases
- Add mode shift
- Sustainable
- Greenhouse gas benefit

- Compatible w/ public transit
- Mode shift
- Mode shift
- Mode shift
- Environmental impacts including climate change
- Environmental costs
- NMTTPP-mode shift as criteria

### **Quality of Life Impacts....(3)**

- Evaluate quality of life questions
- Evaluate enjoyment of each route
- Evaluate ability to affect/improve health

### **User Accommodation....(9)**

- Evaluate estimated number of users
- Evaluate estimated types of users
- Evaluate potential for emergency egress routes
- Ability to increase usage by different users
- Most popular for bike/ped
- Open to electrical bikes
- Propensity to use
- Survey of people using tunnel
- Address community of seniors

### **Other....(8)**

- Emergency access
- Bike parking
- Need for sound walls
- Connectivity to other modes
- Use study as evaluation criteria
- Property ownership/right of way
- Survey detail difficulties/issues
- Marin County - 8 criteria for bike paths
- Incorporate paradise overpass over 101 into study

## *Summary of Written Comments*

Summary of written and email comments received following March 4, 2009 public workshop, by April 1, 2009 comment deadline. *Page numbers listed refer to comment location in the compiled comments document – available for review upon request to Marin County.*

## **Alto Tunnel**

### Issues

- Far too costly to deserve allocation of funds. pg 1
- Clearly the most desirable route for bicyclists and pedestrians. pg 3
  - The only route that will result in significant transportation mode shift, is ADA accessible, usable by young children and by older adults, suitable for use by three-wheel cycles and by wheelchairs.
  - Well lit tunnels with video surveillance are typically crime and trouble free. Call boxes can be installed in the tunnel for additional security.
  - Existing alternate routes will remain available for anyone who is concerned about using the tunnel.
  - Has the highest initial cost. However, a properly constructed tunnel has a much longer useful life than the alternative routes, and the cost of reconstructing the tunnel can be amortized over many generations.
  - Reconstructing the tunnel as a bike and pedestrian route provides a significant public benefit while eliminating the risk of continuing collapse. The cost studies must consider the future expenses and liabilities associated with not reconstructing the tunnel.
  - The existing seepage at each end of the tunnel is a breeding ground for disease bearing mosquitoes. Tunnel improvements will include proper drainage and eliminate this hazard.
  - Alto Tunnel can be used as an alternative route for emergency vehicles in case of disaster.
- Cost would be too high. pg 4
- Counts conducted of bikers and walkers on Horse Hill and Camino Alto do not support a possible \$50-70 million cost. pg 5
- Drainage issue. pg 5
- Provides flat and easy connection. pg 8
- The large numbers of recreational cyclists could now also have the option of a Sausalito-Mill Valley-Corte Madera-Larkspur-Larkspur ferry loop, bring tourism dollars to more cities. pg 8
- This route fits ALL the ideals of the Non Motorized Transportation Study. pg 10
- Cost is big obstacle pg 10
- If Marin is serious about getting large numbers of people to walk or ride the few miles between Corte Madera and Mill Valley, the Tunnel is the only choice. pg 14
- Maintaining security in the tunnel will be a nightmare. pg 17
- Dangerous because a route without auto traffic will be ridden aggressively by packs of bicyclists. pg 18

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- The Alto Tunnel would be the ONLY way we would feel safe for our children to bike north of our neighborhood. pg 21
- Alto tunnel project will ease bike congestion on Camino Alto and make things safer for cyclists and motorists alike. pg 22
- The Alto Tunnel is clearly the safest, most level and most direct route for families. pg 24
- Using the Alto Tunnel would divert most of the bicycle traffic from both of these dangerous passages and reduce accidents and general animosity between motorists and cyclists in southern Marin. pg 26
- An engineering firm bid in excess of \$300,000 to study the tunnel alone. Considering this study is budgeted for \$250,000, the community is concerned that studying the tunnel route will use up all the resources. pg 30
- The tunnel runs under homes on both sides of the hill. These homeowners may need to be relocated and their homes purchased, which would be anywhere from ~\$1.5M for one home to \$5M+ if three homes had to be purchased. pg 30
- The rights-of-way, easements, etc. may require negotiation and purchase at considerable expense, but it is unlikely that the residents would be willing to sell them. pg 30
- Bringing all the bike traffic all the way down the multi-use path behind Edna Maguire will bring 1000s of people by causing safety and vandalism problems. pg 30
- We would not feel comfortable walking through a long, narrow tunnel that would have heavy two-way bike traffic through it, so this route would effectively serve only cyclists and no other users. pg 30
- Boring a collapsed tunnel in developed residential canyon neighborhood always comes with modern day problems of noise, traffic, earthquake protection, personal safety in addition to the normative problems involved in reconstruction. pg 34
- The analysis must show that a modification or re-engineering of the existing 101 corridor even when as costly as other corridor alternatives fails to link Mill Valley and Corte Madera to the established bicycle transportation plan. pg 34
- If a drive takes 5 mins and a bike commute takes 20-25 min over Horse Hill or Camino Alto, people aren't going to change their ways and will just keep driving. pg 35
- With the upcoming re-opening of the Greenbrae-San Rafael Cal Park tunnel (and with evidence from many other rehabilitated tunnels across the U.S.), I hope that our community can learn important methods to ensure the safety of users and surrounding neighborhoods. pg 38
- If we are, as a society and community, going to effect real change and institute sustainable transportation practices that impact the environment less we must fully embrace opportunities such as these. pg 40
- It is a much safer route, no exhaust pollution, a much faster commute.
- It neatly avoids any traffic, provides a level grade that a bicyclist of any level could ride on, and is a direct route. pg 43
- While the cost of opening the tunnel is undoubtedly large, its ability to increase ridership is as large. There is no doubt in my mind that a path through the tunnel would be a huge success for pedestrians and cyclists alike. pg 51

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- The railroad easement through our property is no longer valid and gaining access to the tunnel would require significant investment on the Town of Corte Madera, City of Mill Valley and/or County of Marin. pg 58
- It is important to note that the existing yet closed Alto Tunnel will continue to deteriorate and collapse thereby threatening homes that are located on top of the tunnels.pg 59
- The Alto Tunnel route will serve bicyclists going to the most destinations in Marin including the Larkspur Ferry terminal. pg 59
- Marin's non-experienced bicycle riders deserve to be able to bike the length of Marin in the fastest and safest possible way. The extension of the this linear park all the way to Larkspur should be a goal as it would be a huge asset to the public of this county. pg 63
- The tunnel would encourage more local shopping. pg 65
- Tunnels On Trails: A Study Of 78 Tunnels On 36 Trails In The United States, by the Rails To Trails Conservancy and sponsored by the County of Marin, shows overwhelmingly that reopened tunnels are embraced by their communities pg 78
- Tunnel would provide quick access for folks that want to ride up to Phoenix Lake (on Mountain Bikes) and beyond. pg 79
- Remember the amount of commuters you will be getting off the highways is tiny compared to the large groups of recreational bikers who will dominate this route. pg 83

### Suggestions

- Maintain Seasonal Wetlands (bobcat sighting last year, deer, Mallard duck pairings). Provide natural, maintained privacy barriers between path and homes. pg 7
- Route all drainage away from residences. pg 7
- No water fountains or stop areas (if this is to provide \$\$ for the town's restaurants, let bicyclists arrive thirsty and tired). pg7
- No exits onto Tunnel Lane (security and privacy reasons) pg 7
- Provide Dog Park area for pets and owners (a 'bicycle freeway' is no place for exercising dogs)pg 7
- Please include any problems with ownership, right of way, easements, etc. for the railroad right of way on both sides of the Alto Tunnel from Blithedale in Mill Valley to Tamalpais in Corte Madera. pg 27
- The study should include observation or other study of the behaviors and issues around the large numbers of bikers who use the Sausalito-MV multi-use path where it travels long Richardson Bay behind the Redwoods, MV Middle School and to the intersection of E. Blithedale. The stretch behind Edna of the path is used every day by young children walking and on bikes and scooters, moms with babies in strollers and people taking walks or walking dogs. These uses would not be compatible with the kind of bike traffic issues seen along Richardson Bay. pg 30
- Water drainage...there needs to be a good plan, because this is a heavy runoff area. The homeowners in this area should be protected. pg 37
- No Stop areas here (benches, water fountains, etc)...This is to be a bike path not a playground or park. pg 37
- Provide a natural privacy barrier between path and homes. pg 37

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- Lighting should not change the current state of the natural habitat for Wildlife as well as homeowners. pg 37
- As this would greatly increase multi-use traffic from Blithedale Avenue north, we recommend high-visibility signs to increase awareness of safe speeds and "path etiquette" when passing horses, dogs, strollers, etc. pg71
- mode separation between cyclists and pedestrians should be provided from East Blithedale through the Alto Tunnel to Tamalpais Drive in Corte Madera on this section of the North South Greenway. pg 87
- If funds can only be obtained for one tunnel, than it should be designed to accommodate a trolley and used by bikes and peds until the trolley line is put in place.

### Horse Hill Route

#### Issues

- The route most likely to be used by the greatest number of people. It is also the most expeditious, economical routes to develop. pg 1
- This is the least direct and the least desirable route. This route will not generate significant transportation mode shift. pg 2
  - This route requires riding with dangerous vehicular traffic and is unsuitable for young children.
  - The bike path portion of the route is at the base of a large landslide area which will need to be stabilized in order to protect the path. Landslide stabilization will require grading wetlands.
  - Riding in traffic and next to the freeway is unpleasant.
  - This route is too steep for ADA use or for use by young children.
  - There is a dangerous blind curve at the base of the dip in the bike path near Casa Buena Dive where opposing bikes meet at high speed.
  - In order to maintain momentum for the coming climb, bikes typically do not stop at the stop sign on Lomita Drive at Shell Road. The stop signs should be on Shell Road rather than on Lomita Drive.
  - The freeway on-ramp at Casa Buena Drive is very dangerous for bicyclists.
  - The acute turn at Meadowsweet Drive and the bike path is dangerous.
  - The intersection at Tamalpais Drive is very busy, dangerous, and unpleasant.
  - The various paths and roads involved have a limited life, require frequent maintenance, and are subject to relocation in case of roadway or freeway widening.
- Easiest route to fix. pg 6
- Ugly Corridor with traffic noise. pg 6
- Circuitous and difficult to find. pg 8
- Steep. pg8
- Already exists and is unpopular. pg 8
- The path along the freeway is unpleasant but is a Class 1 bikepath, wide and safe. pg 11
- These hills deter the very young, the old, and the vast ranks of riders in-between who would like to cycle between Corte Madera and Mill Valley pg 11

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- From Meadowsweet to the path going south, one must execute a sharp right turn while coming off a steep left. pg 13
- At dusk or later, car headlights shine brightly into the cyclist's eyes making visibility ahead very poor. pg 13
- The onramp to 101 from Casa Buena crosses the cyclist's path of travel at the bottom of a hill -- just when a cyclist is reaching top speed. pg 13
- At the bottom of the first stretch on the path, there is a blind curve where both northbound and southbound cyclists are going down hill. In other words, in both directions, cyclists are building up speed to make it up the next hill but the curve is blind. pg 13
- Least expensive to make improvements on pg 18
- Cyclists will always gravitate towards the more scenic, quiet, direct route over Camino Alto. Trying to make that route popular with cyclists will be throwing money away. pg 22
- Meadowsweet route is more pleasant than Casa Buena route due to freeway noise and fumes. pg 32
- Riding along the highway-facing frontage road and bike route is a considerable detour for most bicyclists, who are heading from the bike path in Mill Valley to the Ross Valley. Numerous bicycle studies have shown that a detour that is more than one-quarter mile out of a rider's way is considered much less desirable than a more direct route. pg 42
- in these economically tight times the Horse Hill/101 path is the one that can very easily be made great. pg 43
- The Horse Hill route is reasonably peaceful until one gets close to the Tamalpais Avenue/Town Center area, where there is always traffic congestion pg 45
- Inadequate barrier between highway and path. pg 55
- The Horse Hill / Highway 101 frontage route is not feasible. All of the County and community effort to improve signage and educate people to use Horse Hill has not significantly increased its use. pg 59
- No matter how you look at it, the horse hill route is a confusing detour from the existing bike path system. pg 64
- I never see small children on Horse Hill, but I often see stray dogs, lost deer or other hazards. pg 65
- Again, no parent would ever allow their child to ride a bicycle on Tamalpais Drive as it approaches Highway 101, it is simply too busy of a through fare which connects the two major shopping malls in central Marin County. Furthermore, even if one could traverse safely through the Tamalpais Dr / Madera Blvd congestion, continuing on Casa Buena Dr can be physically and mentally challenging, due to the elevation changes and the adjacent freeway traffic and onramp to 101 South. pg 85

### Suggestions

- Please focus attention, funding and improvement on Routes A or A1, which children and everyday people will be able to use. pg 1
- In light of the fact that the weakest part of this route is the narrow bike/ped path immediately adjacent to the freeway and the steep, inconvenient and unsafe hilly streets on either end of it; replacing this section with a safer, easier, more pleasant route could dramatically increase the value of the Horse Hill Route. pg 4

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- Some "tweaking" (improved signage, bicycle lane striping and perhaps minor civil work) could be made more attractive to cyclists and pedestrians. It is the most cost effective option. pg 11
- Repair/Repave Lomita
- Add lights along CA/CM, tunnel and Meadowsweet
- Improve signage all locations
- Ways to flatten and improve the path where needed to a Class A standard where it runs along Casa Buena Drive or perhaps on Meadowsweet (?) should be studied. pg 29
- Planting trees and landscaping would separate the path from the freeway improving the aesthetics and providing shade. pg 29
- The Lomita entrance can be made safer for bikers, as well as the intersection mid-way and the Corte Madera end with signaling and engineering improvements. pg 29
- If the multi-use path is built to travel along the stretch of Lomita by Horse Hill , it would provide a safe route for the many families who reside in the Alto neighborhood who currently can not bike or walk safely along Lomita to Edna Maguire Elementary and nearby schools. pg 29
- Access from the Sausalito-MV path down to Ashford has been put forward as another logical route which would take the "bike freeway" (MCBC term) along streets that already exist. Ashford to Dorsett to the area allotted behind the new 101 exit wall for a path and then connecting to the Horse Hill path would make use of existing streets and right-of ways which have relatively little traffic. This route would not compromise security or disrupt the four schools. pg 29
- Dangerous because of driveways with roadway-entering vehicles on the Corte Madera side. pg 38
- First, the peak would have to be reduced to match the grade of the freeway. Second, the steep decline and ascent at the north end needs to be eliminated. Ideally, this could be done by closing the non-conforming freeway entrance at Meadow Valley Rd. and using the on-lane for a barrier-protected path. That would still leave a hill going north that prevents the continuation to be at the freeway grade. pg 51
- The recently installed stop sign for southbound bicyclists at the Alto Hill bike path-to-Lomita Drive transition is a good attempt to mitigate the dangers of merging paths and the blind downhill corner just below it. However many cyclists do not stop at the stop sign or slow appropriately for the blind corner, unaware that this is a busy section. Appropriate signage or slowing techniques (Bott's dots?) should be considered.pg 71
- Widen and improve the north shoulder; clarify traffic patterns at schools to allow a safe zone for non-motorized users, post speed limit signs along the "high speed section" (along pasture fence). pg 71
- On the House Hill route, direct the pathway around the Edna Maguire School parking lot and improve the dangerous stop signed intersection at the bottom of the hill on the south side of the ridge. Add "sharrow" signs to the pavement. pg 89

### **Camino Alto/Corte Madera Ave. Route**

#### Issues

- Camino Alto is hazardous. pg1

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- When going northbound on CM Ave there is a new light at the intersection of CM Ave and Tamalpais (the first light you hit going north after the downhill section). This light does not appear to be sensitive to cyclists so you have to jump up on the curb to hit the button up there when there are no cars ahead of you. pg1
- This route is unsuitable for ADA use. pg 3
  - 2. Steep grades and heavy vehicular traffic make this route unsuitable for ADA use, for young children, and for users of three-wheel cycles or wheelchairs.
  - 3. Riding or walking with vehicular traffic is dangerous and unpleasant.
  - 4. The road is narrow, and widening the road will result in tree removal and significant environmental damage.
  - 5. The road crosses landslides which result in recurring longitudinal pavement cracks that are dangerous for cyclists.
  - 6. Widening the road to create bike climbing lanes or a separate bike path will require expensive retaining walls, buttresses, or elevated structures.
  - 7. This route requires bikes to make dangerous left turns at very busy intersections at each end in order to connect with existing bike paths.
  - 8. Athletic cyclists will continue to use this route regardless of alternate routes, but it is too steep and dangerous for non-athletic cyclists, and will not result in a significant transportation mode shift.
  - 9. Because of the steep and unstable terrain, this route will require expensive ongoing maintenance, and periodic reconstruction which must be considered in the cost analysis.pg
- Direct connection to Magnolia pg 9
- Relatively(but not that great) direct connection to Mill Valley bike path pg 9
- Improvements would aid active recreational cyclists pg 9
- Steep pg 10
- Narrow pg 10
- Lots of traffic pg 10
- A difficult route to travel by bike because of a lack of visibility around winding turns. pg 17
- A very difficult route to walk because it is too narrow and the cars take up the roadway and the bikes take up the shoulders. pg 17
- Frustrating for motorists when trying to pass cyclists who have no choice but to ride in the roadway due to the absence of any bike lane. pg 26
- Widening would necessitate removal of trees and shrubs, which make Marin County what it is. pg 41
- Widening shoulders doesn't address the fact that most of the cyclist accidents here are solo, i.e. caused by cyclists losing control at high speed pg 52
- there are many driveway entrances on Camino Alto that appear to be blind to oncoming traffic, so cars have to "nose out" to see - directly into the right hand margin of the lane that experiences the most bike use. pg 55
- Climbing from Corte Madera is hazardous because the space for bikes is so small.

### Suggestions

- This route exists and I doubt it can be improved. It seems the goal is to provide improvements. pg 10
- No funds should be spent here except on signage. pg 10
- Chapman is safer than Camino Alto. Consider Chapman in study. pg 12
- Repair asphalt on Camino Alto/CM ave. pg 14
- Widen/add lanes. pg 14
- Improve/alter meadowsweet access to Alto. pg 14
- Add striping and fog line to Alto. pg 14
- Improve drainage on CA and CM ave. pg14
- Repaving and maintaining the pavement on Camino Alto/Corte Madera Avenue would go a long way towards improving safety pg 18
- Camino Alto road route can be made somewhat safer with better signage, updated painting of road lines, and even a few signs about cars passing bikes, and bikes riding in single file. pg 43
- No improvements to Camino Alto will ever make this a safe route given the amount of motor vehicle traffic. pg 59
- We recommend "Horse Crossing" signs be placed where the Bob Middagh Trail crosses Camino Alto to the Alto Fire Road. pg 72
- Mill Valley, Corte Madera, and the County should review the improvements that are being made to Los Ranchitos in San Rafael. Camino Alto and Los Ranchitos are similar projects. Camino Alto should be widened on the uphill side by 5', at least, with a Class II Bike Lane. Ideally, there should be a minimum 3' Class II Bike Lane for cyclists in the downhill direction. (The Los Ranchitos project succeeded to build 5' Class II Bike Lanes on both the uphill and downhill directions for most of the length of Los Ranchitos.). pg 86

### Other suggestions

- Study other routes pg 17
- The East Blithedale route is quite wide with a few pinch points that are easily corrected, painted bike lanes seem feasible. The CM grade is quite wide on the Mill Valley side, not so on the CM side but the alternative to go through the neighborhoods from the peak to CM is a nice alternative for slower pace riding and the less experienced. I'm an avid, bike commuter to the city, I like most city riders, a growing population, gravitate towards wider streets with established marked bike ways. These sorts of improvements are low cost, and are a quick benefit for both existing corridors.
- While the route over Collins Summit could offer remarkable access to the Paradise area of East Corte Madera and the Strawberry area of Mill Valley with the installation of a east-west bike/ped over-crossing, such a non-motorized transportation infrastructure element is out-of-scope for the current study.
- Also, studying the Alto Tunnel option should include a conversion use study - if a safer and more direct route exists, then more residents of the Twin Cities, Mill Valley, and surrounding areas would definitely opt for it instead of their cars. The study should therefore take a look at side benefits such as lower carbon emissions, decreased traffic congestion, more new and

incremental commercial activity in the tunnel portal areas (how great would it be to WALK or ride to Maria Maria restaurant from Corte Madera, and then home again, after having a nice dinner...) pg 55

# DRAFT - Mill Valley to Corte Madera Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Study

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## *Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Notes*

**Date/Time:** Tuesday December 16, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mill Valley Community Center, Tamalpais Room, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley

### **Attendees:**

#### TAC Members

- Jill Barnes, Senior Engineer, City of Mill Valley
- Dan Dawson, Principal Transportation Planner, County of Marin DPW
- Debra Sue Johnson, PW Manager, Town Of Corte Madera
- Rob Ruiz, Chief of Parks, for Ed Hulme, Superintendent, County of Marin Parks and Open Space
- Bill Whitney, Assoc. Project Delivery Manager, Transportation Authority of Marin

#### Project Manager

- Carey Lando, Senior Transportation Planner, County of Marin DPW

#### Consultants

- Randy Anderson – Alta/LandPeople, Project Manager/PIC
- Ian Roth, Marin County Outreach Coordinator, Alta/LandPeople
- Victor Romero, P.E. Tunnel Engineer, Jacobs Associates
- Blake Rothfuss, P.E. Associate, Tunnel Evaluation Team Leader, Jacobs Associates

### **Meeting objectives:**

- Introduce TAC and consultant team members; establish communication channels and protocols;
- Review project goals and objectives - Identify state and federal required elements, applicable design and planning standards, any hot buttons and how to approach, project schedule and milestones;
- Collect background and base information, or identify steps to obtain;
- Review steps and responsibilities to prepare for next TAC meeting and first public meeting.

### **Notes:**

#### **Introductions**

- Attendees introduced themselves
- Carey reviewed role of TAC; to make sure we have accurate, current info.
- Carey review meeting objectives.

#### **Review Work Plan**

- Randy reviewed the overall Study scope, the three study alignments, and the anticipated product format and content.
- All three alignments will be studied, preliminary improvement plans prepared, evaluated based on cost and other criteria to be confirmed.
- Preferred alternative not likely selected. Decision would be up to agencies how/if to proceed.

- All communications through Carey – there can be joint briefings for agency officials and managers if desired.

### Comments:

- Bill – Make sure we are clear that we are not making a recommendation.
- Jill – Who will make the decision?
- Carey – Will be presented to Board of Supervisors. All communication will be through Carey.
- Jill – there will be only 2 public input opportunities?
- Carey – there will also be presentation to the Bd of Sups.
- Randy – Will have complete record of comments, response.
- Bill – County PW Director could make a recommendation to the board too.
- Carey – yes
- Carey – Plan will have detail for all three alternatives.

### **Review background documents and base info needed**

- Randy review the data needed for the study – particularly detail of roads under trees such as Corte Madera Ave/Camino Alto, environmental documents.

### Comments:

1. Jill is looking for SR2S environmental doc (forwarded later).
2. Bill – TAM might have Caltrans off-ramp project PSR.
3. Bill will pass along Marin Ferry info in a couple of weeks, also bike and ped counts for Twin Cities/Greenbrae. project
4. Debra Sue – has hi-res aerials w/housing footprints – Ian will pick up disk. Newest bike plan adopted in Sept. – on line in past week.
5. No current projects affecting the Study Area are known.
6. Carey – Talk w/ public safety officials – need contacts.
7. Debra Sue – Police, contact Sean Smith; Fire, contact Rodger Sprain. Noted serious accident, lawsuit.
8. Unpaved trail through open space, “Alto Bowl Open Space Trail” may be raised as an alternative (out of Study scope).

### **Organization and preparation for next TAC and upcoming public meetings**

- Randy described the presentation – an overview of alignments, opportunities, constraints, design concepts; breakout groups focused on tunnel, Camino Alto, Horse Hill/traffic issues.

### Comments:

1. Bill – Emphasize separate alternatives from beginning.
2. Randy – Will capture all comments and level of concern.
3. Carey – Website set up on walk/bike marin.org.
4. Blake – Breakout group concept – could show video of ex bike trail tunnel – unlit, unventilated – minimal design?
5. Victor- Ventilation not required? Highlight improvements.
6. Bill: show a high level of improvement as example per CalPark tunnel, I-80 tunnel in Seattle?
7. Investigate maintenance vehicle requirements – sweeping, etc.
8. CalPark tunnel has bath fan for ventilation. May need more.

9. Have a full size outline of the Alto tunnel size.
10. Could look at Puerto Suelo tunnel as example or look at N. Portal of Alta – could video inside.
11. Blake – tunnel would need to allow access for all types of users.
12. Jill - does the Study include a ped path along Camino Alto? Randy – Yes, but recognizing the significant constraints.

### **Summarize meeting input, review next steps**

- Randy/team members will follow up on data leads and contacts. January will be intense reconnaissance and analysis to prepare for late February Public Meeting.
- Late January or early February TAC meeting will be “dry run” for the public meeting.
- In approximately May a draft Study/preliminary design and cost product will be reviewed by the TAC, revised prior to public presentation.
- Important for all to stress that project is a study, not a plan, and that all communication go through Carey.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:30 pm.  
Prepared by Randy Anderson

## *Technical Advisory Council Meeting#2 Notes*

**Date/Time:** Tuesday February 17 at 2:30 pm

**Location:** Corte Madera Council Chambers, 300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera

**Attendees:**

TAC Members

- Jill Barnes, Senior Engineer, City of Mill Valley
- Dan Dawson, Principal Transportation Planner, County of Marin DPW (representing Project Manager Carey Lando, who was out sick)
- Ed Hulme, Superintendent, County of Marin Parks and Open Space
- Bill Whitney, Assoc. Project Delivery Manager, Transportation Authority of Marin

Consultants

- Randy Anderson – Alta/LandPeople, Project Manager/PIC
- Blake Rothfuss, P.E. Associate, Tunnel Evaluation Team Leader, Jacobs Associates
- David Parisi, Parisi and Associates, Traffic Engineer

**Meeting objectives:**

- Refine or confirm approach for public workshop;
- Review and refine route evaluation criteria;
- Review progress on route inventory and evaluation;

**Agenda Items**

**2. Review meeting notes from 12/16:**

- There were no comments

**3. Review script and presentation outline for public workshop:**

- Ed- should have shorter Open House portion of the agenda
  - TAC members might be considered biased as facilitators.
  - Have an Intro w/ impetus for the study - funding opportunities, both city councils passed motions to do feasibility study
  - Clarify what we will do with input
  - Have facilitator cover each route: Alto, Horse Hill, and Camino Alto
- Dan-
  - Overview map is missing part of the Sandra Marker trail alignment on former RR line
  - Route should follow SM trail, an existing Class 1 trail. Tunnel Vista trail
  - Class 2 route doesn't exist N. of Corte Madera
  - Corte Madera town label is in Larkspur
  - Meadowsweet & Casa Buena are not signed as Class 3 routes (they are designated routes on map only)
  - Intro should show 3 corridors, then existing bike network for context.
- Ed- Methodology slide should say:

- “Public review and input,”
- Agreed-upon criteria with public input
- Separate process, delete “if at all”
- Finalization of Alternative Study Report
- Report goes to DPW, decision making parties for information
- Technical feasibility study, not a political feasibility study.
- Dan- Include a profile of each route, length from pt A to pt B
- Jill/David-Horse Hill Route - Remove 1<sup>st</sup> constraint bullet
- Jill - City route sends users along Lomita to Ashford to Meadow (but the designated study route goes through school to path). Don’t show opps/constr but mention during photos
- David-
  - show should be more of a pt A to B virtual tour
  - Use full screen images
  - List conditions
  - Do Alto Tunnel last (it’s already designated as Alt B)
  - Describe maps-parcels etc
  - Fix Blithedale spelling
  - Traffic conditions-integrate into overall pres. - David has collision info
  - Show reported crashes before criteria, include existing usage on slide

#### 4. Review specific evaluation criteria and methods:

- Ed – mention ADA/sidewalks
- Call them Potential Criteria

#### 5. Review inventory and evaluation progress :

- Randy summarized progress on technical reports:
  - All routes inventoried, mapped
  - Traffic counts and model done – being reviewed and explained
  - Tunnel and geologic evaluation internal draft completed
  - RR row research – have good set of base/background data
  - Drainage studies – in progress
  - Emergency access meeting and requirements, input complete
  - Traffic and collision data collected
  - Environmental issues – preliminary findings (should be specifically highlighted – always a concern in Marin County)

#### 6. Summarize meeting input, review next steps

- Dan- Have deadline for comments
- and anonymous workshop comment letters
- Not specific response
- Clarify that Study product would be provided- no action needed or expected (as part of project scope)

## DRAFT - Mill Valley to Corte Madera Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Study

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- Blake- Any info on use or market for use by people with mobility issues? (contact the County's ADA Coordinator)
- Dan, Bill and David may act as facilitators or recorders at the workshop
- There should be separate facilitator and recorder for each station

The meeting concluded at approximately 4:00 pm.

Prepared by Randy Anderson

# DRAFT - Mill Valley to Corte Madera Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Study

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## *Technical Advisory Council Meeting#3 Notes*

**Date/Time:** June 1, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mill Valley Community Center, Tamalpais Room, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley

### **Attendees:**

#### TAC Members

- Jill Barnes, Senior Engineer, City of Mill Valley
- Dan Dawson, Principal Transportation Planner, County of Marin DPW
- Ed Hulme, Superintendent, County of Marin Parks and Open Space
- Bill Whitney, Assoc. Project Delivery Manager, Transportation Authority of Marin

#### Project Manager

- Carey Lando, Senior Transportation Planner, County of Marin DPW

#### Consultants

- Randy Anderson – Alta/LandPeople, Project Manager/PIC
- Blake Rothfuss, P.E. Associate, Tunnel Evaluation Team Leader, Jacobs Associates
- David Parisi, Parisi and Associates, Traffic Engineer

### **Meeting objectives:**

- Review key issues and info raised by public;
- Review draft Technical Study products – do they address scope, issues?
- Review/ refine/confirm preliminary improvement concepts
  - Are improvement concepts appropriate for setting, project objectives?
  - Agree on what will be designed, evaluated, estimated in more detail.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **7. Review summary of comments from March 4 Public Workshop and follow-up**

- *Wide range of comments- polarized around the tunnel; generally we have responded in the study and will in the evaluation. Not prepared to respond to the Homeowners detailed access research claims.*

#### **8. Review Draft Study Report and Technical Studies 5 separate documents: (20 min):**

1. Progress Draft Corridor Study Report, May 5, 2009.
2. Geotechnical Study (Jacobs – Attachment A)
3. Tunnel Feasibility Analysis/Hazardous Materials Determination (Jacobs – Attachment B)
4. Drainage Analysis (Nolte – Attachment C)
5. Environmental Analysis, biological and cultural resources (LSA – Attachment D)

- *Comments to be forwarded through Carey*

#### **9. Review Preliminary Improvement Concepts - (30 min):**

*Alta/ LandPeople presented a PowerPoint to highlight potential improvements for each route. TAC comments on segment-by-segment review of routes:*

## DRAFT - Mill Valley to Corte Madera Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Study

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General - Bill - use non-motorized funding to look into right of access issue

### Horse Hill Route (starting at Edna Maguire School)

Segment 2 – From Edna Maguire School along Lomita to Horse Hill Bike path

- Ed - Sidewalks not needed. Rural pathway OK, but not DG binder, street side path would tend to be parked on.
- Centerline striping, pavement repairs, bike lanes-uphill needed most.
- Carey- School area should be accommodating lowest level of users - kids
- Edna Maguire: check driveway/crosswalk/bike directionality
- Jill - School community has requested sidewalk (not DG) formalized in SR2S-at least to Shell. City tends not to do centerline striping unless there is conflict. Tends to facilitate speed.
- Ed - Potentially AC path-not AC curb. Have grade separation
- Not change stop sign at Shell - helps slow bikes down
- Bill- Sidewalks are good
- Dan- Bike lanes, or striped shoulders (1 line), can occur w/o center stripe where you have narrow ROW.
- David has seen this done in Contra Costa Co.
- Jill- Sharrows have been used by the City on Meadow & Miller

Segment 3 – Class I path running from end of Lomita along hwy 101 to Meadowsweet Dr.

- Plexiglass barrier is expensive
- K rail could also act as retaining wall.
- Bump fence out to widen-got narrowed when Caltrans did project that narrowed south end
- Use paddles that block headlights-put on top of K rail

Segment 4 – Case Buena Drive from northern end of Horse Hill Path to Roberts Avenue

- Meadow Valley- use 3 way stop
- David- traffic circle too tight here
- Ed – at Meadowsweet/Casa Buena, bump guard rail on SW approx 4' to west to reduce turn radius
- Open space label incorrect in this area

Segment 5 – From intersection with the northern end of Horse Hill Path and Meadowsweet Drive along Meadowsweet Drive to Sanford Street

- Ed- neighbors fought prior Meadowsweet widening proposal
- Meadowsweet needs white striping rather than red
- Carey- County. could use matting (as per White's Hill) to add a couple of feet
- Meet with Corte Madera Town Mgr about these and other improvements.
- Add C.L. striping on some curves
- Use sharrows

Segment 6 – From Tamalpais Drive along along Madera Blvd to Wornum Way

- *Tamalpais Dr- Madera Blvd to Wornum Wy. Class II bike lanes*
- *Jill ADA upgrade to sidewalk, driveways required? Depends on scope of improvements.*
- *Add sharrow*

### Alto Tunnel Route (incl. E.Blithedale intersection improvements)

#### Segment 1

- *Bike on-ramp on S. side David - have one at HS*
- *Ed- raise headwall and railing at creek for safety*
- *Have a curb ramp for bikes on the N. side (if tunnel is opened)*
- *Dan- Pull stop bar back-have crossing parallel with path*
- *Jill- No wouldn't want to move b/c would be longer for pedestrians*
- *David-Thinks intersection works well now*
- *Jill would not like sharrows on E. Blithedale because its not a bike route*
- *David- They are to facilitate connection from pathway to Camino Alto*
- *Ped/Bike Bridge in future if tunnel is opened*

#### Segment 7 – Railroad bed running from Vasco Court to Alto Tunnel

- *Like double paths concept*
- *Shoulders could be maintenance challenge*
- *Narrow bike path to 8'? - Ed would like 10'*
- *Separate path facilitates transportation*
- *Blake – buried culvert rather than ditch could allow more room for path*

#### Segment 8 - Alto Tunnel

- *Blake- 13' clear guaranteed in tunnel, could be 14'*
- *Show a cross slope to one side*
- *Bill-Cal Park tunnel has no line down middle – is 12'*
- *David- don't use C.L. striping in tunnel-show as shared space-don't use center line stripe on paths*
- *Consider smaller emergency turnarounds (e.g. hammerhead or shunt). To be taken back to public safety. Would allow us to get closer*
- *Cal Park tunnel-wanted full access for fire, police-side by side*
- *Hydrants-want on portal side*
- *In tunnel-use a "leaky wire" rather than a repeater*
- *Bill-take sprinkler out. What's going to burn in a concrete tunnel?*
- *Use standard pipe connections every 200'*
- *Ed-a maintenance vehicle could catch on fire. Ventilation closed circuit monitors?*

#### Segment 9 – Northern end of Alto Tunnel to Tamalpais Drive

- *No previous pavement – it increases maintenance cost and eventually fills with debris*
- *There are slope failures that have created claims on north side. Placement of path can help avoid these areas*
- *Ed- Businesses want parking on Montecito for customers accessing across crosswalk to rt.*

- *Need wayfinding on N side along existing Sandra Marker Trail*
- *Ed - keeping bikes on Montecito is a better option- same as alignment on N side*
- *See C.M's plans for plaza*

### Camino Alto/Corte Madera Avenue Route

#### Segment 12 – Camino Alto from E. Blithedale to Corte Madera City Limit

- *Dan- Do people really walk over?(yes – some do)*
- *Ed - 9-15' shoulder width would be overkill. People cross at OS gate at City limits.*
- *Dan- Climbing lane would be adequate*
- *David- Narrow 14' lanes to 12'*
- *Existing path not likely to be politically feasible to remove*
- *Jill - Class II bike lanes on both sides is in MV bike plan; serves kids riding to school, following parents*
- *Dan- Bike lanes on downhill side a bad idea. Bikes won't stay in bike lane due to speed*

#### Segment 13 – From Mill Valley/Corte Madera city limit to Redwood Avenue

- *Ed- Back in parking seems problematic*
- *David- No example of back in parking in County but proposed along Miller. It is being proposed/implemented across nation (e.g. Santa Rosa) and has shown to be much safer*

### **10. Summarize meeting input, review next steps**

- *These comments will be reflected in proposed improvement concepts to be reviewed by the TAC in August prior to public review*
- *A separate meeting will be set w/ Corte Madera Town Manager to obtain input in light of Debra Sue Johnson's departure from the Town.*
- *A second meeting with Public Safety staff will be held to review alternative tunnel access and other design concepts.*