

**MEMORANDUM**

Public Works Department

DATE: August 26, 2020

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

FROM: Ria Hutabarat Lo, Transportation Manager

SUBJECT: Citywide Bicycle Racks

RECOMMENDATION

Review and provide feedback on the proposed bike rack locations.

BACKGROUND

In May 2020, the City of Mountain View was awarded Santa Clara County Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) funds for the purchase and installation of 141 bike racks in locations throughout the City.

During the grant application process, the City committed to using inverted U-racks or inverted U-rack corrals under this program, as illustrated in Figure 1. These types of racks are described in the Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA's) Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) as Class 2 bicycle racks.

Figure 1: Class 2 Inverted U-Rack (left) and U-Rack Corral (right) along Castro Street



The City also committed to installing four racks in the lower-income area in the vicinity of Escuela Avenue and California Street and six racks within the area designated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as a community of concern. The latter area is bounded by Central Expressway, Rengstorff Avenue, Middlefield Road, and Farley Street.

The project must be completed by June 30, 2021.

ANALYSIS

Staff has reviewed AskMV requests for bicycle racks over the last five years. The following locations were identified by community members as in need of additional bicycle racks:

1. Mountain View Transit Center/Mountain View Farmers Market
2. Shoreline Amphitheatre
3. City Hall
4. Castro Elementary School

Based on this information and communications with City property tenants, other public agencies, and other City departments, a preliminary list of locations for 138 of the 141 bicycle racks to be installed under the program is provided and displayed in Table 1 and Figure 2.¹

Table 1: Preliminary Bicycle Rack Locations

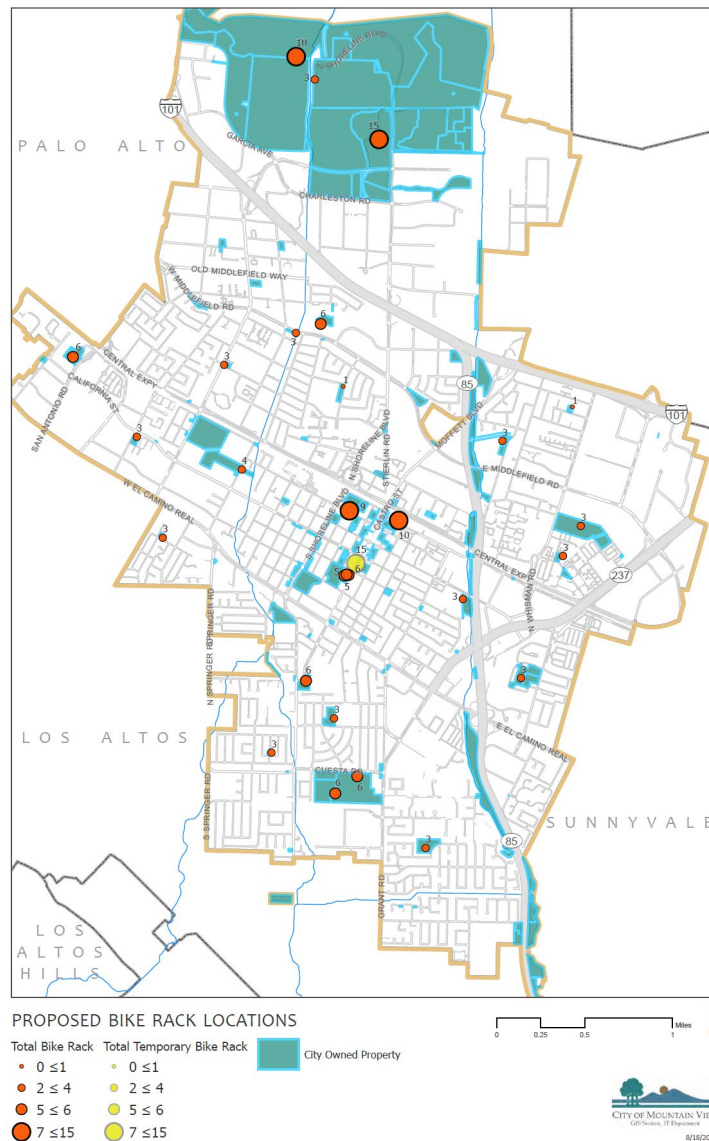
City Property	Location Description	No. of Racks	Bikes
City Hall	West of drinking fountain (pavers)	5	10
City Hall	Northeast of front entrance (pavers)	5	10
Shoreline Amphitheatre	Opposite entrance (leased to Live Nation, seasonal relocation)	15	30

¹ Information presented in Figure 2 is also available at <https://mountainview.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e1ec2950bb494a389b81bcde879e2dfd>

City Property	Location Description	No. of Racks	Bikes
<i>Castro Street</i>	<i>400 block (temporary installation of the above)</i>	15	30
Mountain View Transit Center	West of taxi rank (owned by Caltrain)	10	20
Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)	North of rock garden (leased to CSMA)	6	12
Police/Fire Administration Building	Southwest of front entrance (replace Class 3 racks)	9	18
City Hall	Front planter boxes (pavers)	6	12
Cuesta Park	North of gazebo	6	12
Cuesta Park	North of tennis court (replace Class 3 racks)	6	12
Whisman Sports Center (Crittenden MS)	Southwest of front door	6	12
Teen Center	West of front doors (low-income community site)	4	8
Fire Station No. 3	Back of corner (community of concern site)	3	6
Crittenden Middle School Bus Stop	Eastbound bus stop (community of concern site, requires concrete pad)	3	6
Chetwood Park	Opposite Whisman Station (relocate trash can)	3	6
Boathouse	Bike rack pad (with Boathouse project)	10	20
Cooper Park	Salmon concrete northeast of tennis courts	3	6
Eagle Park	Between restrooms (relocate trash can)	3	6
Varsity Park	Next to seats opposite playground	3	6
Whisman Park	Near tennis courts (replace Class 3 racks)	3	6
Gemello Park	Trellis pod	3	6
Mountain View Sports Pavilion (Graham Middle School)	East of front entrance	6	12
Klein Park	Concrete circle near raised planters	3	6
Michaels at Shoreline	Front entrance	3	6
Landels Park (Landels Elementary School)	Asphalt corner west of playground	3	6

City Property	Location Description	No. of Racks	Bikes
Bubb Park (Bubb Elementary School)		3	6
Sylvan Park	Trapezoidal concrete in front of toilets	3	6
Stevenson Park (Theuerkauf Elementary School)	Front path	1	2
Devonshire Park	Northwest corner near picnic tables	1	2
Municipal Operations Center	Near main building	3	6

Figure 2: Map of Preliminary Bike Rack Locations



More information on each of the above locations is provided in the following sections.

Transit Center

The Transit Center area is owned by Caltrain, and installation of new racks in this location will need to be implemented collaboratively with Caltrain. City staff is currently working with Caltrain on Transit Center bicycle access issues, including strategies for bicycle parking, bicycle or device share, and installation of a bicycle fix-it station (using a Healthy Cities grant).

Shoreline Amphitheatre/Castro Summer StrEATS

The Shoreline Amphitheatre is located on City property leased to Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. (Live Nation). Live Nation staff has expressed interest in bicycle racks to be placed in the vicinity of the front entrance. Due to restrictions associated with COVID-19, no events are planned at the Shoreline Amphitheatre for the next season. Staff is, therefore, proposing to temporarily install Amphitheatre racks along Castro Street in conjunction with Castro Summer StrEATS prior to moving the racks into their final position at the amphitheatre.

City Hall

Staff proposes placing bicycle racks near the drinking fountain east of the front door of City Hall and near the raised planters on City Hall Plaza. Given structural issues at this location, this installation is subject to engineering review.

Police and Fire Administration Building

The Police and Fire Administration building currently has Class 3 bike racks, which staff proposes to replace with Class 2 racks under this program. According to the VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines, Class 3 racks are never recommended because they are not secure and have a tendency to bend bicycle wheels. Examples of Class 3 bike racks are displayed in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Class 3 Bike Racks at the Police and Fire Administration Building (left) and Cuesta Park (right)



Fire Station No. 3 and Crittenden Bus Stop

Two potential locations have been identified within Mountain View's community of concern neighborhood bounded by Central Expressway, Rengstorff Avenue, Middlefield Road, and Farley Street. One is at Fire Station No. 3, and the other is the bus stop opposite Crittenden Middle School, where a concrete pad would also need to be provided.

Additionally, the Rex Manor Tot Lot also serves this neighborhood and could potentially accommodate one or two racks. However, this location is proximate to the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way and subject to San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) approval.

Schools and Sports Centers

City staff indicated that the AskMV ticket related to bicycle parking at Castro Elementary School was resolved a couple of years ago by providing Class 3 racks that had been in storage at the Municipal Operations Center.

The Mountain View Whisman School District has expressed an interest in Class 3 bike racks, which are preferred by the District due to their higher capacity and spatial constraints on school sites. Class 3 racks are less secure than Class 2 racks, and, according to the VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines, are never recommended.

From the perspective of commitments made under the TFCA grant, it would not be appropriate to provide racks that are inferior to what was committed. For this reason, staff is not proposing to provide new racks under the TFCA program to schools. Instead, the City could pass along older Class 3 racks that are replaced with new Class 2 racks at certain locations.

Additionally, new Class 2 racks are proposed for City property at Whisman Sports Center, which is located at Crittenden Middle School, as well as Mountain View Sports Pavilion, which is located at Graham Middle School.

City Parks and Shoreline at Mountain View

A number of potential locations have been identified and tentatively vetted by Parks and Open Space staff for installation of bicycle racks at City parks. Park locations include the Shoreline Boathouse, which is slated for renovation in the near future, and Michaels at Shoreline restaurant at Shoreline at Mountain View. In some park locations, such as Cuesta Park and Whisman Park, new Class 2 racks would replace existing Class 3 racks.

Teen Center

Four racks are also recommended for the Teen Center, which is located proximate to an area that is locally recognized as having disadvantaged, low-income, and minority populations. This area is located between Escuela Avenue, El Camino Real, Rengstorff Avenue, and Central Expressway. This area has high-quality racks at the Senior Center, and new racks have recently been installed in conjunction with the renovation of the Community Center at Rengstorff Park. Existing Class 3 racks at the Rengstorff Pool can also be expected to be replaced with Class 2 racks when the pool is redeveloped.

Figure 4: Stainless Steel Inverted U-Racks at the Senior Center



Community School for Music and Arts

The Community School for Music and Arts is located on City property near the San Antonio station. CSMA staff has tentatively expressed interest in bicycle rack installation at the site. This location could potentially be considered for art racks if funds permit and favorable bids are received.

Figure 5: Customized Racks on Castro Street (left) and Art Racks in Austin (right)



DISCUSSION

Staff seeks Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee input on the following questions:

- Do the proposed locations for bicycle racks reflect the greatest areas of need?
- Do the proposed quantities of bicycle racks reflect bicycle parking demand?
- Are there additional locations where bicycle racks should be considered?

NEXT STEPS

Staff plans to implement temporary installation of bicycle racks initially on Castro Street in conjunction with Castro Summer StrEATS.

Staff will continue to work with other agencies or entities (such as Caltrain, Live Nation, and CSMA) to obtain approval for any racks that are not located on City-owned and -controlled land.

Based on input from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, discussions with other agencies or entities, and analysis of each site, a final count of bicycle racks and corrals will be determined as a basis for obtaining bids for purchase and installation of the racks. In general, staff anticipates that racks will be powder-coated steel inverted U-racks with square tubing.

Bids may also be obtained for higher-end racks in selected locations. For example, stainless steel racks may be desirable in high-profile locations, such as City Hall and the front of the Teen Center. Art racks could also be considered for CSMA.

Installation is anticipated to occur in early 2021. Bicycle racks will be marked with stickers to indicate that they were provided under this program.

RHL/6/PWK
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cc: PWD