
From: Daniel Hulse
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2024 5:44 PM
To: City Council
Subject: 5/28 Council Meeting - Consent Items 4.7 and 4.8

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Dear City Council,

As a cyclist, I'm writing to express support for Consent Items 4.7 and 4.8, which will both make progress towards the overall goal of creating a safe, extensive, high-quality bicycle network in Mountain View.

On Item 4.7, California Street is a very central bike route in our city and gets a lot of use, and I'm really glad we're working to improve it. When I used to bike this street on my way to work, I had a lot of stressful interactions with (1) busses and shuttles running into the bike lane to drop people off (2) cars parking or loitering in the bike lane, and (3) cars moving into the bike lane to turn. I hope that adding more protection to the lane and the intersections will resolve these issues and I'm glad staff has moved to extend this project beyond the original scope—in the future, I hope we can further extend it to Del Medio.

On Item 4.8, Middlefield Road is a very high-opportunity corridor for bikes because of all the space available on the road and all the development expected to go on in this area. Right now, this neighborhood is surrounded by freeways that make it difficult to get in and out of on bike or on foot. While there are already bike lanes on Middlefield, these lanes are often blocked (legally!) by an occasional parked car, which makes for very stressful interactions with vehicle traffic. Putting in class IV bike facilities and protected intersections will improve this situation immensely. I'm also happy to see the protected crossing at the light rail station, which should really improve the usefulness of that connection. One major change I would make to this project, however, would be to expand the scope to include a better connection to Stevens Creek trail. Right now, this connection is extremely limited because the entrance is on the south side of Middlefield, on the opposite side of the sidewalk. The result of this is that you can only really use the trail connection if you are biking (not walking) to the east entering or exiting the trail, or walking from the east, on the south side of middlefield. A good connection to Stevens Creek trail would truly unlock the potential of this project to improve the AAA cycling network in our city by making it possible to use these lanes as a part of a larger trip to or from the north or south of the city. There are a number of ways to implement this in the scope of a complete streets project (better crossings, moving the sidewalk to the south side, combined facilities, another trail entrance, etc), and I really hope that can happen as a part of this project. I also hope that in the future we can work on improving Middlefield on the other side of Moffett to eliminate the parking/bicycle conflicts inherent to the shared bike lane there.

P.S., I was really happy to see that Middlefield Complete Streets, Moffett Complete Streets, and El Camino Intersection Improvements won their MTC OBAG3 grants. Kudos to staff for taking the time to advocate for these projects. I'll also call attention to the fact that our city's early compliance with state housing law likely improved our standing in the grant selection process. This was a major win for our city, bringing in over 8 million dollars in funds from the regional level—keep up the good work, and happy bike month!

Sincerely,

Daniel Hulse