



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/13/2023
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Cebrian called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Altman, Behroozi, Cebrian, Cole, King, Kollmann, Silverstein
Absent: None
Staff: Assistant Engineer Matthew Hui, Assistant Public Works Director – Transportation
Hugh Louch, Senior Transportation Engineer Kevin Chen

C. Reports and Announcements

Staff Chen reported out on City Council actions related to transportation since the August 24 Commission meeting.

The Commission received clarification on Altschul Avenue bike lane project.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Regular Business

E1. Accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for August 24, 2023

ACTION: Motion and second (Behroozi/ Cole), to accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for August 24, 2023, passed 4-0 (Altman, King, Kollmann abstaining).

E2. Adopt a resolution to install no parking zones on El Camino Real to facilitate a new bus stop for SamTrans route ECR (Staff Report #23-013-CSC)

Staff Chen and SamTrans Senior Planner Chris Duddy made the presentation (Attachment).

- Adina Levin spoke in support of the project and requested clarification regarding circulation, signage, and timing of the new crosswalk at El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue.
- Monica Pilotzi spoke in opposition of the project.
- Elisa Spurlin spoke in opposition of the project.

The Commission discussed parking and business impacts, safety and visibility concerns, alternative

bus stop locations, speed, reliability and parking utilization data, transit service population size and demographic, transit priority signal implementation, additional standard and accessible parking spaces on El Camino Real, and a new crosswalk at El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue.

ACTION: Motion and second (Silverstein/ Cebrian), to adopt the resolution and instructed staff to explore and prioritize additional standard and accessible parking spaces on El Camino Real, passed 4-3 (Altman, Behroozi, King dissented).

E3. Evaluate Commission subcommittees to support City Council and Commission priorities

Staff Chen introduced the item (Attachment).

The Commission discussed the 2023-24 work plan, long-term priorities with near-term actionable tasks, future opportunities to revise the work plan, project priorities, subcommittee structure and responsibilities, and commissioner interests.

ACTION: Motion and second (Cebrian/ Behroozi), to dissolve the existing subcommittees and form the following subcommittee and members:

- Transportation Corridors Subcommittee (Behroozi, Cole, Silverstein)
- Safe Routes to School Program Evaluation Subcommittee (Behroozi, Cebrian, Silverstein)
- Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Subcommittee (Altman, Cebrian)
- Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project Subcommittee (Cole, King),
passed unanimously.

F. Informational Items

F1. Update on major project status

Staff Chen provided updates on San Mateo County's Ringwood/Coleman Avenues study, Altschul Avenue bike lane project, and Belle Haven traffic calming plan construction.

Commissioner Behroozi provided updates on the Willow Road bike lane conditions.

G. Committee/Subcommittee Reports

None.

H. Adjournment

Chair Cebrian adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer



Implementing the ECR Bus Speed and Reliability Study



Complete Streets Commission
9/13/2023

Agenda

- Study Overview
- Bus Stop Change in Menlo Park

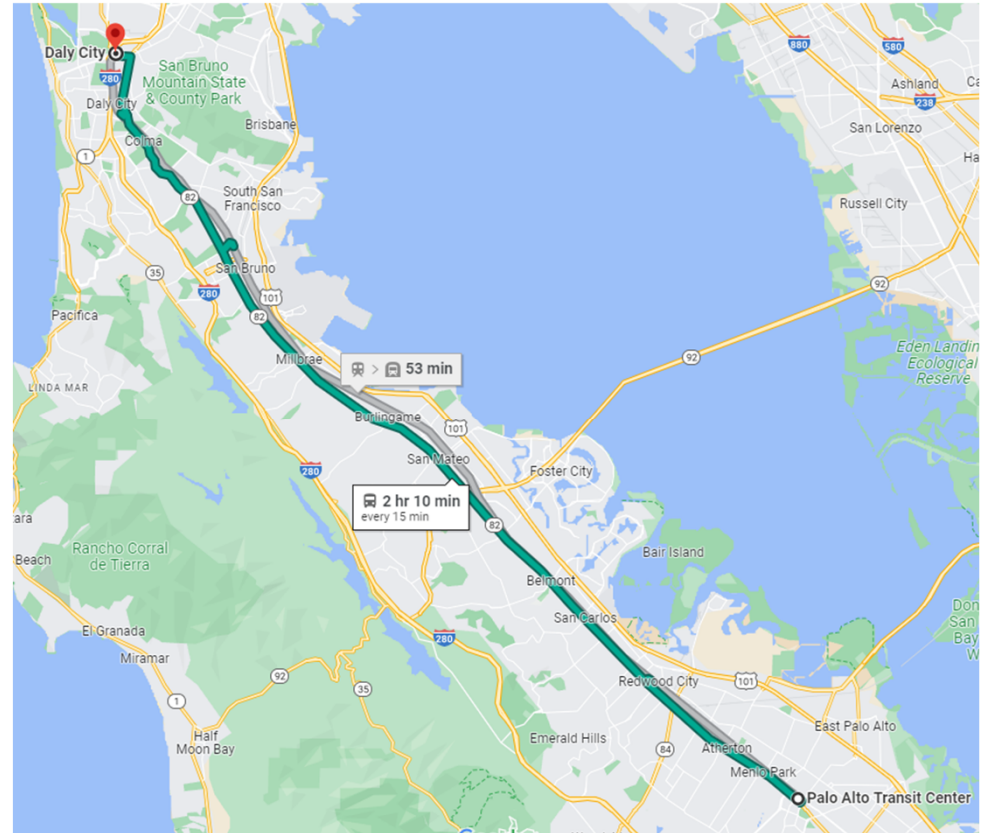


Route ECR: Daly City – Palo Alto



Backbone of the SamTrans system

- Route ECR serves 13 cities across 28 miles and has over 100 bus stops in each direction
- Provides connections to BART, Caltrain, Muni, VTA



ECR Study Goal and Outcomes

Goal

- Reduce bus travel times and improve bus reliability on El Camino Real

Desired Outcomes

- Harness existing Transit Signal Priority (TSP) on El Camino Real (SR-82)
- Better driving experience for our bus operators
- Improve route efficiency and reallocate resources
- Attract new riders and support ridership recovery



Key Findings

1. Speed and reliability challenges on Route ECR **exacerbate inequitable mobility outcomes and present a barrier to attracting riders.**
2. **There is no single bottleneck on El Camino Real.** Bus performance is the product of over 100 stops, 150 traffic signals, and 28 miles of street conditions spanning 13 cities.
3. **Faster bus service is possible.** Travel times decreased 15 to 25 percent during COVID shelter-in-place orders due to reduced traffic congestion and fewer stops occurring.
4. Changes to achieve faster and more reliable bus service are **popular among riders.**



Recommendations from the Study

ECR Study was finalized and adopted by the SamTrans Board in December 2022. We are now in the implementation phase of the recommendations approved by the Board.

Phase I (Now)

1. Relocation of stops, primarily from near-side to far-side of intersections to make the TSP function on the corridor and increase the speed and reliability of the transit vehicles
2. Rebalancing of stops to increase the speed of the transit vehicles.

Phase II (Later)

1. Working with Caltrans and jurisdictions to implement active and passive transit/pedestrian priority measures (bulb-outs, queue jumps, etc.)



El Camino Real & Oak Grove Ave (southbound)



- Relocate southbound stop from the far-side of Oak Grove Ave to the far-side of Santa Cruz Ave
- Paint red curb at new stop location (~4 spaces)
- Relocate bench to new stop





Questions



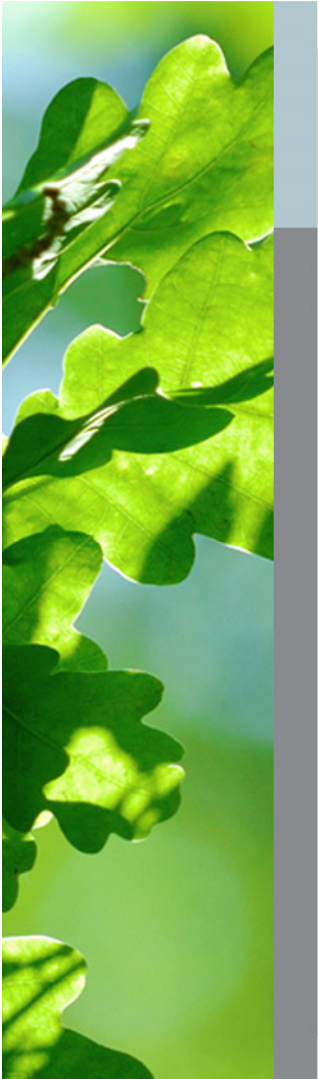
Millie Tolleson – tollesonm@samtrans.com



CSC WORK PLAN

The Complete Streets Commission provides advice and recommendations to the City Council on realizing the City's adopted goals for Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the Climate Action Plan. It provides transportation-related input on major land use and development projects, to promote safe transportation infrastructure and alternative modes of transportation.

1. Advise the City Council on the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan:
 - Evaluate and propose key transportation corridors for project prioritization
 - Advise and make recommendations on the Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project and the pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing
2. Provide input and recommendations on the City's major development projects by evaluating them based on impact on public streets, safety, and transportation accessibility, especially bicycle/pedestrian/public transportation accessibility.
3. Advise and provide input to the City Council on citywide transportation policies/programs:
 - Evaluate driveway stopping sight distance policy
 - Update the transportation impact analysis guidelines to include multimodal study metrics
4. Support the Council's ongoing initiatives to improve access to Downtown and support downtown businesses.
5. Support the implementation of the Safe Routes to School strategy and advocate for community engagement, program continuity and design implementation:
 - Evaluate the current state of the Safe Routes to School program
6. Advise on the City Council's role as a stakeholder with regard to regional multimodal and transportation demand management programs projects to increase sustainable transportation for Menlo Park.



SUBCOMMITTEES (MEMBERS)

- Downtown Access and Circulation (Altman/Cole)
- Multimodal Metrics (Altman/Behroozi)
- Safe Routes to School Program (Behroozi/Cebrian/King)
- Transportation Master Plan Implementation (Altman/Behroozi/Cebrian)
- Zero Emission (Cole)