

Department Liaison: San Mateo County Department of Public Works 555 County Center, 5th Floor Redwood City, CA 94063 www.smcgov.org/publicworks

October 17, 2024

Supervisor Ray Mueller Hall of Justice 400 County Center Redwood City, CA 94063

## **RE: Draft SMC BPAC Recommendation for the Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study**

Dear Supervisor Mueller,

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMC BPAC) received an informational presentation of the Draft Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study (Study) for the County of San Mateo and City of Menlo Park. The informational presentation was followed by public comment and SMC BPAC member discussion. We appreciated the opportunity to review the Board of Supervisor's authorized Study, a study that expresses the Board's interest in improving bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure on County roads.

The Study acknowledges that "stakeholders have highlighted concerns about safety and mobility on these streets for more than two decades, with a focus on the lack of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities and high usage of the corridors by students traveling to and from nearby schools."

The extensive public engagement with the Study continued at the September SMC BPAC meeting. The BPAC received over 30 public comments regarding this study prior to the meeting and heard from over 30 speakers during the meeting.

While the long-term alternative, presented in the Study has received majority support in a previous survey, this alternative would require substantial dedicated funding. The Study developed less expensive quick-build pilot options to address the Coleman Avenue challenges faced by pedestrians and bicyclists.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Elaine Salinger, *Chair*John Langbein, *Vice Chair*Michael Barnes
Susan Doherty
Fred Zyda

Cristina Aquino (Alternate) Mark Lee (Alternate)

## **COUNTY**OF **SAN MATEO**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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2023 survey results on the pilot options:

45% of respondents supported the no through traffic pilot

22% supported the traffic calming pilot

15% supported the one-way Coleman pilot

10% supported the through restrictions pilot

8% supported none of the above

The public testimony at the September BPAC meeting was somewhat different:

45% of speakers supported one-way Coleman Avenue pilot option

16% of speakers supported traffic calming measures on Coleman Avenue pilot option

13% of speakers made general comments about the Study

13% of speakers supported maintaining existing conditions on Coleman Avenue

11% of speakers supported the long-term Coleman Avenue design alternative

2% of speakers supported the No Through-Traffic Coleman Avenue pilot option

Emails received by the SMC BPAC in advance of the September meeting were roughly 60% in support of the one-way Coleman option.

The variety of preferences for pilot options mostly share the same sentiment: that something be done to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety on Coleman Avenue. The SMC BPAC shares this sentiment and supports the County's quick-build effort to improve Coleman Avenue safety. A one-way pilot program received the most support per public comment at the September 17, 2024 BPAC meeting. The SMC BPAC is supportive of this option because it has dedicated space for bicycles and pedestrians.

Sincerely,

Elaine Salinger, Chair

County of San Mateo Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

cc: Ann Stillman, Department of Public Works Carolyn Bloede, Sustainability Department

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