



PLANNING DIVISION
CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
PHONE: (650) 877-8535
E-MAIL: PLANNING@SSF.NET

CITY COUNCIL 2024

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August 21, 2024

Patrick Gilster, Director of Planning and Fund Management
San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

RE: Support for the South San Francisco Alta Loma Middle, Buri Buri Elementary, Parkway Heights Middle, and Ponderosa Elementary Schools Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Projects

Dear Mr. Gilster:

I am writing on behalf of **the City of South San Francisco Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)** to express my strong support for the proposed safety improvements aimed at enhancing bicycle and pedestrian safety around Alta Loma Middle, Buri Buri Elementary, Parkway Heights Middle, and Ponderosa Elementary Schools. These improvements are not only crucial for the safety and well-being of students, families, and residents but are also aligned with the recommendations from Safe Routes to School Walk Audits conducted in April 2023 and March 2024.

The planned improvements at **Alta Loma Middle** and **Buri Buri Elementary Schools**, which include curb extensions, high-visibility crosswalks, speed tables, transit stop enhancements, and the transformation of Del Monte Avenue into a Bicycle Boulevard, are designed to address both real and perceived safety concerns that have prevented parents from allowing their children to walk and bike to school. By constructing these improvements simultaneously, we can maximize efficiency and minimize disruption, ensuring that the benefits are realized as quickly as possible.

At **Parkway Heights Middle School**, the inclusion of curb extensions, corner islands, high-visibility crosswalks, speed humps, and the upgrade of the bike facility on Chestnut Avenue to a protected bikeway will greatly enhance safety and encourage more students to walk and bike to school. These improvements also incorporate accessible features that benefit pedestrians of all ages and abilities. The addition of transit stop improvements further underscores our commitment to providing safe and accessible transportation options for all members of the community.

Similarly, the planned enhancements around **Ponderosa Elementary School**, such as curb extensions, corner islands, high-visibility crosswalks, speed humps, and hardened centerlines, will address critical safety concerns and help create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. These measures will not only reduce vehicle speeds but also improve visibility and overall safety for everyone using the streets in these areas.

All these schools are located within equity priority areas, ensuring that these critical safety improvements benefit communities that need them the most. Furthermore, these projects contribute directly to the City's Vision Zero Policy and address key safety challenges identified by parents and school staff.

These proposed improvements align with our community's commitment to promoting safe, active transportation options for students and families. By investing in these projects, we are not only improving the safety of our streets but also encouraging healthy, sustainable modes of transportation that will benefit our community for years to come.

I strongly urge you to consider funding these vital safety improvements. The impact on our community, particularly our students, will be profound, and the benefits will extend far beyond the immediate area. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support of safe, livable communities.

The **BPAC** supports this important safety project and asks that you approve the request for the Cycle 7 San Mateo County Transportation Authority Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Grant. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Signed by:



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Darryl Yip, Chair

City of South San Francisco Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee