



# South Palo Alto Bikeways Project

## Planning and Transportation Commission Meeting

July 14, 2021

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)

# Presenters

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Joanna Chan  
City of Palo Alto



Steve Davis, PE  
Fehr & Peers



Sylvia Star-Lack  
City of Palo Alto



Philip Kamhi  
City of Palo Alto

# Agenda

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- Project Overview & Background
- Potential Improvements
- Engagement Summary
- Preferred Concept
- Next Steps

# PTC's Action Tonight

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1. Provide feedback on whether the project should be continued.
2. Provide feedback and recommend the preferred concept plan to Council.



# South Palo Alto Bikeways Project

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## Project Overview & Background

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)

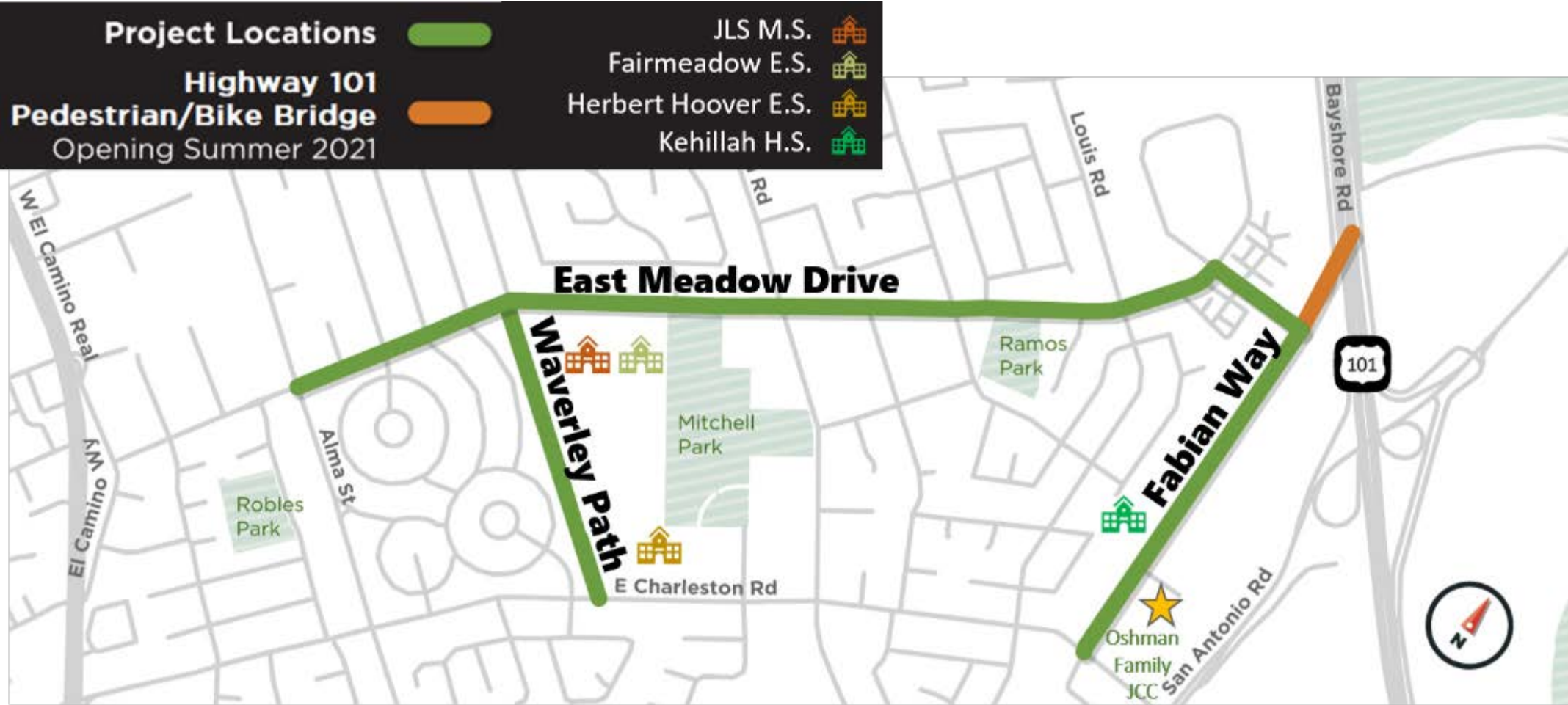
# Grant Objectives and Requirements

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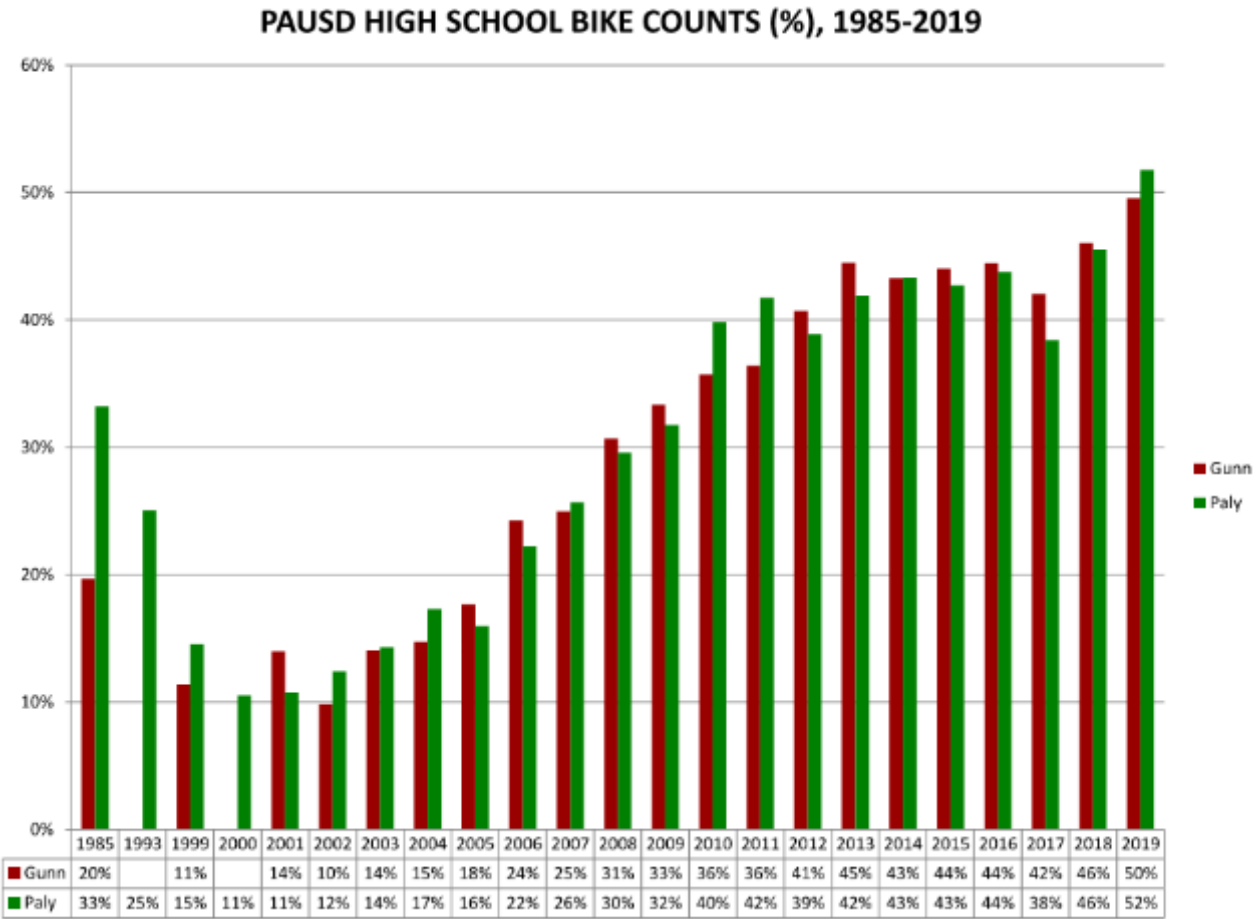
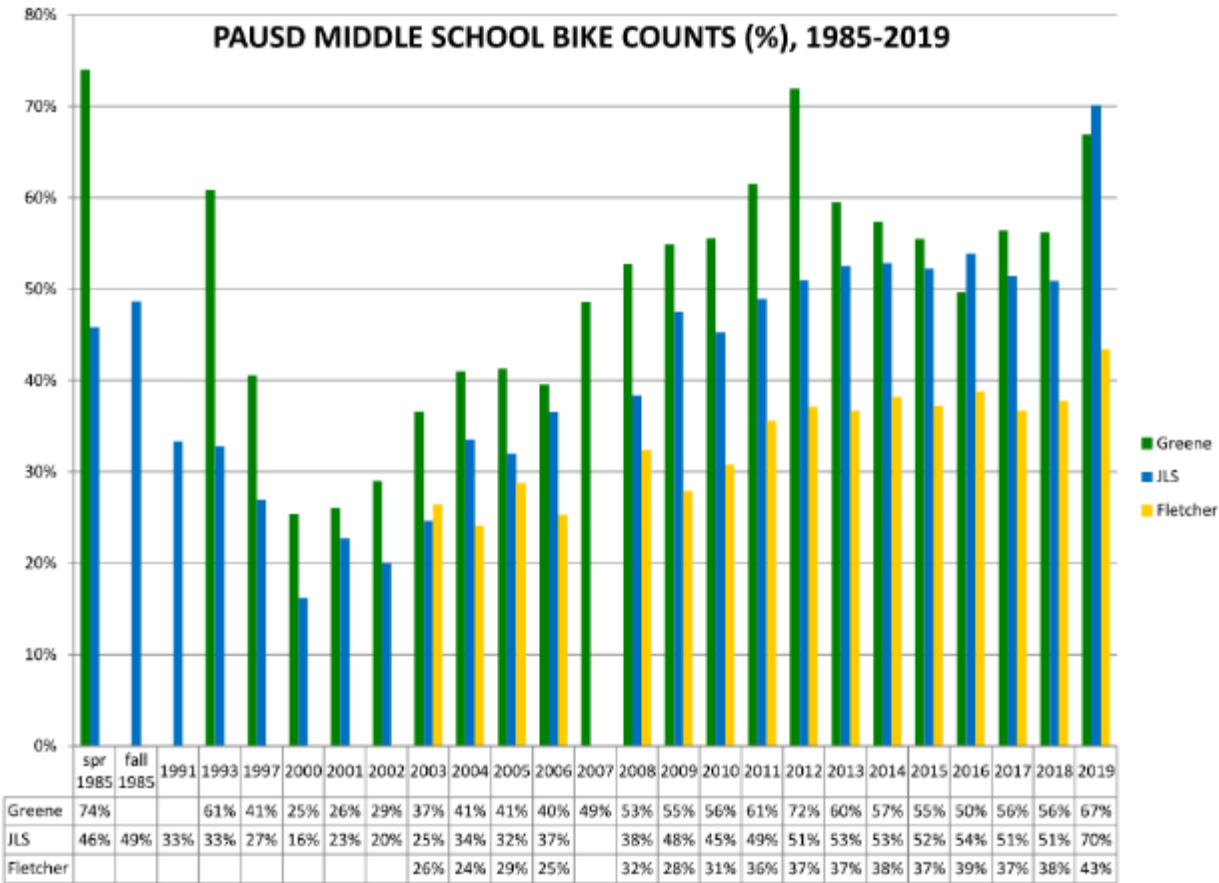
- Improve bicycle facilities on 3 segments
  - Waverley Multi-Use Path
  - Fabian Way
  - East Meadow Drive
- Protected bicycle facilities
- Obligate by January 31, 2023



# Project Segments

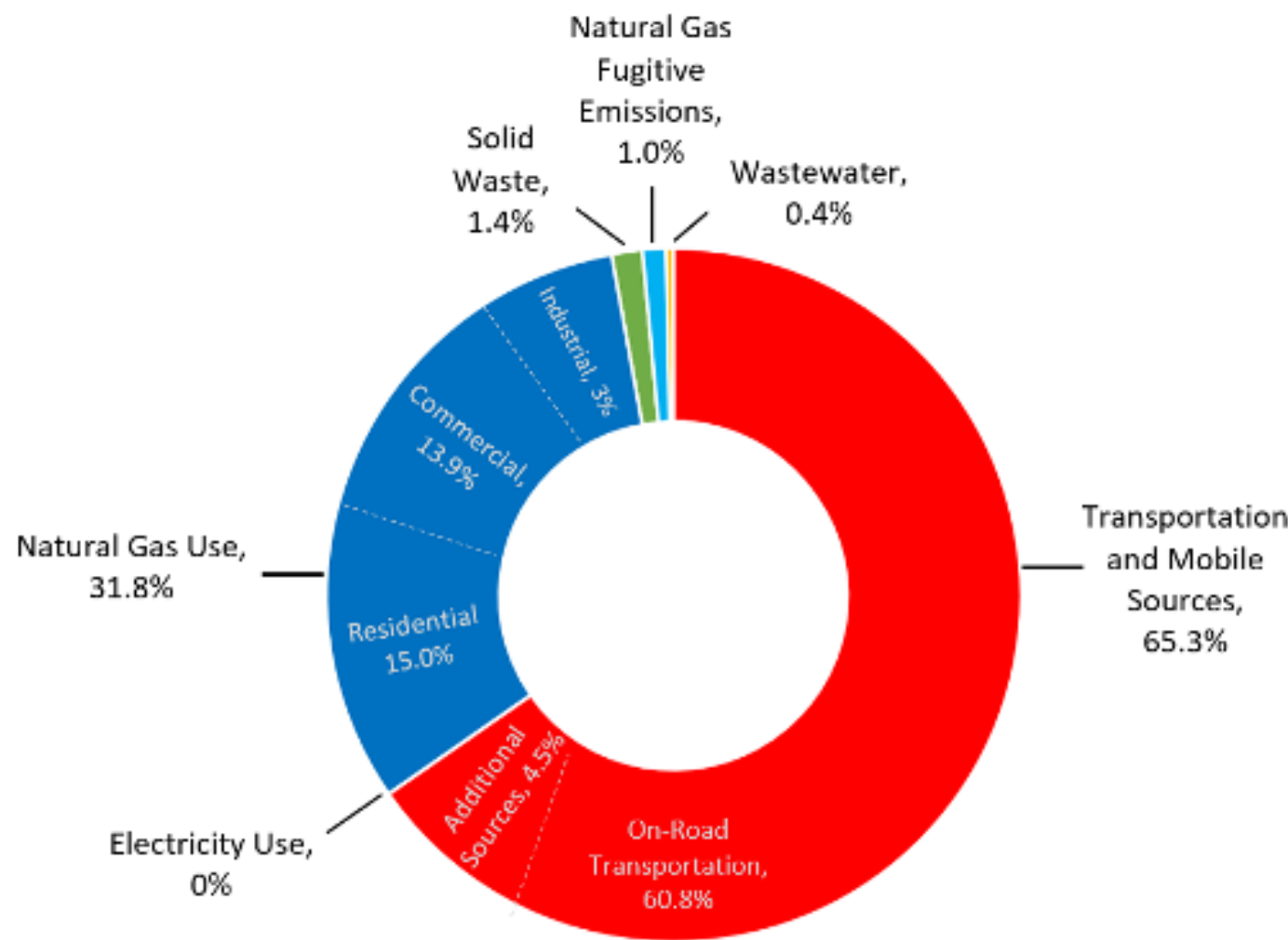


# Students Cycling to PAUSD Middle and High Schools (%)





# Palo Alto 2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector





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Existing Conditions

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)

# Existing Conditions – Waverley Multi-Use Path

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- Bumpy and narrow path causing student injuries
- Widening where feasible to accommodate the high flows and varying speeds of cyclists and pedestrians
- Repaving and grading



Photo: View of Waverley Bike Path.

# Existing Conditions – Fabian Way

- Enhance bicyclist visibility and safety
- Opportunity to improve school commute route
- 5 collisions involving bicycles\*
- 1 collision involving pedestrians\*



Photo: View of Fabian Way bike lane



Photo: View of shared bicycle and parking lane on Fabian Way

\* Source: Transportation Injury Mapping System Data, 2015-2020



# Existing Conditions – East Meadow Drive

- Bike lane in door zone
- Enhance bicyclist visibility and safety
- School commute corridor and popular bike route
- 13 collisions involving bicycles\*
- 3 collision involving pedestrians\*

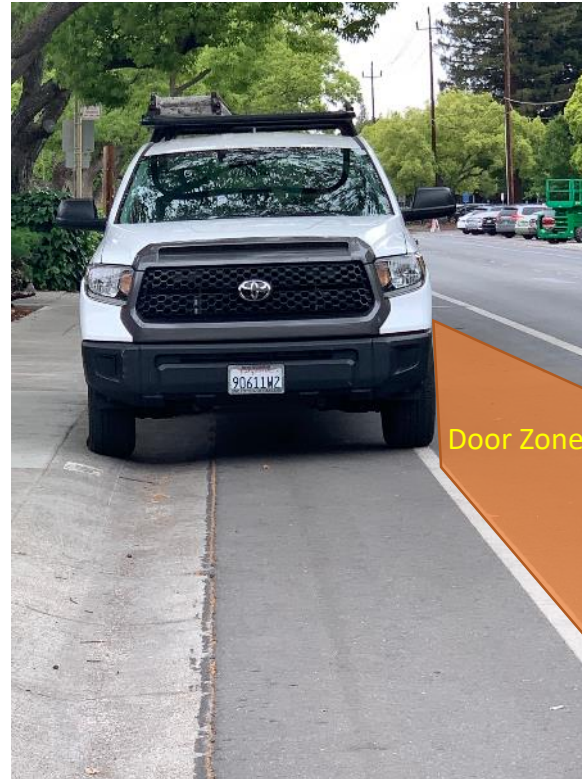


Photo: View of a large vehicle parked on East Meadow Drive



Photo: View of westbound bicyclists on East Meadow Drive crossing Middlefield Road

\* Source: Transportation Injury Mapping System Data, 2015-2020



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# **South Palo Alto Bikeways Project**

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Potential Improvements

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)



# Types of Bikeways

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Standard bike lane



Photo: Los Gatos-Almaden Road in Los Gatos

Buffered bike lane



Photo: East Charleston Road east of Carlson Court

# Types of Bikeways

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## Protected bike lane

Bollards or curb delineators



Photo: Blossom Hill Road in Los Gatos

Concrete barrier



Photo: McClellan Road in Cupertino

Landscaped concrete barrier



Photo: Mission Boulevard in Hayward



# Types of Bikeways

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## Parking-protected bike lane



Photo: Blossom Hill Road in Los Gatos



Photo: Arastradero Road west of Coulombe Drive

# Types of Barriers



Photo: Bollards or delineators



Photo: Concrete curbs



Photo: Bike bollards



Photo: Decorative fence



# Types of Barriers

- **Artistic fences**



Photo: Fence decorated with bike parts



Photo: Decorative fence with leaves



Photo: Fence decorated with knit flowers



Photo: Decorated bollard and guard rail



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# South Palo Alto Bikeways Project

## Engagement Summary

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)



# Engagement Methods

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Material/Event	Date	Notes
Project Webpage	Launched 4/28/21	Data forthcoming
Email Blasts	Throughout	Data forthcoming
Facebook Posts	4/28/21; 5/12/21; 5/24/21	Data forthcoming
Instagram Posts	4/28/21; 5/12/21; 5/24/21	Data forthcoming
Twitter Posts	4/28/21; 5/12/21; 5/24/21	Data forthcoming
NextDoor Posts	4/28/21; 5/20/21	Data forthcoming
Mailers	Distributed 5/3/21	Approx. 3500 sent
Doorhangers	Distributed 5/3/21	Approx. 150 hung
Flyers	Distributed 5/3/21	Approx. 300 distributed
Posters	Distributed 5/3/21	Approx. 15 posted

# Engagement Methods

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Material/Event	Date	Notes
Online Survey	5/13/21 – 5/31/21	258 responded
Introductory Webinar	5/13/21, 6:30pm-7:30pm	31 attended, 57 online views
School Communities Meeting	5/19/21, 5:00pm-6:00pm	7 attended
CSTSC Meeting	5/20/21, 10:00am-11:00am	4 attended
Virtual Route Tour #1	5/22/21, 11:00am-12:30pm	10 attended, 44 online views (45 in English, 11 in Spanish)
Virtual Route Tour #2	5/27/21, 6:30pm-8:00pm	13 attended, 20 online views (23 in English, 6 in Spanish)
PABAC	6/1/21, 6:30pm-8:00pm	16 attended
Engagement Summary Webinar	6/22/21, 6:30pm-8:00pm	15 attended, 11 online views (6 in English, 5 in Spanish)

# Engagement Consideration

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## Goal of this engagement phase:

- Assess community support for protected bicycle facilities (grant requirement)

## **These considerations may have impacted the assessment of community support on the project:**

- Constrained project timeline
- Limited resources and ability to pivot to other methods (such as short videos)
- Limited school-based engagement opportunities
- Low webinar attendance
- Survey could be active longer
- Survey was crafted to determine grant requirement

# Webinar Feedback Received

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## **Waverley Multi-Use Path**

- Consider a lower fence, rigid delineation is necessary for safety
- Do not remove any trees

## **Fabian Way**

- Concerns about visibility with the parking protected bike lane
- Inquiries about the types of users
- Ensure coordination with the Charleston/Arastradero project

## **East Meadow Drive**

- Biking is particularly difficult at school arrival and dismissal times
- Concerns about visibility with the parking protected bike lane
- Concerns for reduced parking

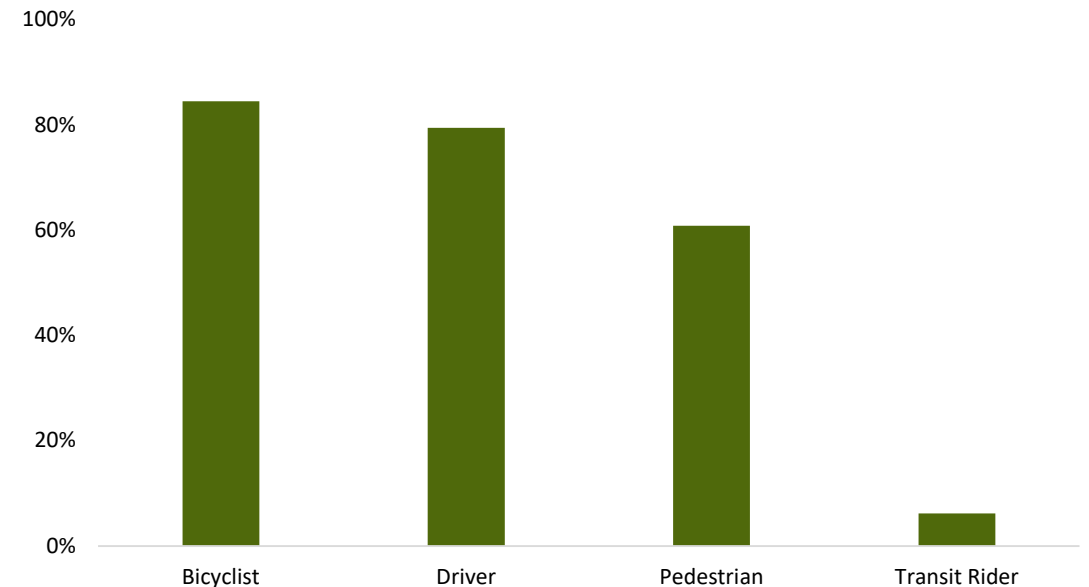
# Survey Feedback Received

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258 survey responses

- 94% live in Palo Alto
- 68% of households have students under 18 that bike to and from school
- 81% of respondents bike for recreational activities
- Over 50% of respondents bike for utilitarian trips (e.g. shopping, commuting)

How Respondents Use the Corridors



# Webmap Summary – Waverley Path

Total Comments 17



Widening Needed

12



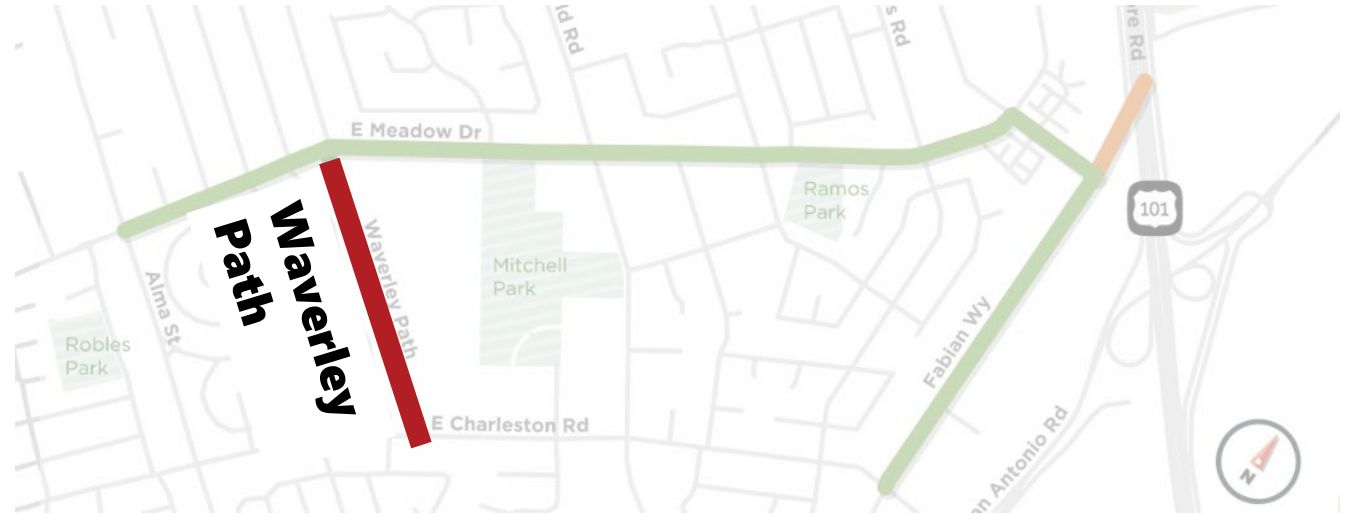
Adequate Bikeways

2



Other Comments

3



- Safety concerns at parking lot crossing by bike racks
- Widen at tree roots and fire hydrants
- Need a path to the park
- Keep barrier between Waverley path and parking lot for children's safety
- Concerns about accessing Charleston



# Webmap Summary – Fabian Way

Total Comments 11



Protected Bikeway Needed

6



Buffered Bikeway Needed

1



Adequate Bikeways

0



Other Comments

4



- Bicyclists feel unsafe biking here
- Difficult for children to bike here
- Concerns about left turns and crossings at Charleston
- Wayfinding for Highway 101 Ped/Bike bridge needed

# Webmap Summary – East Meadow

Total Comments 50



Protected Bikeway Needed

9



Buffered Bikeway Needed

4



Adequate Bikeways

22



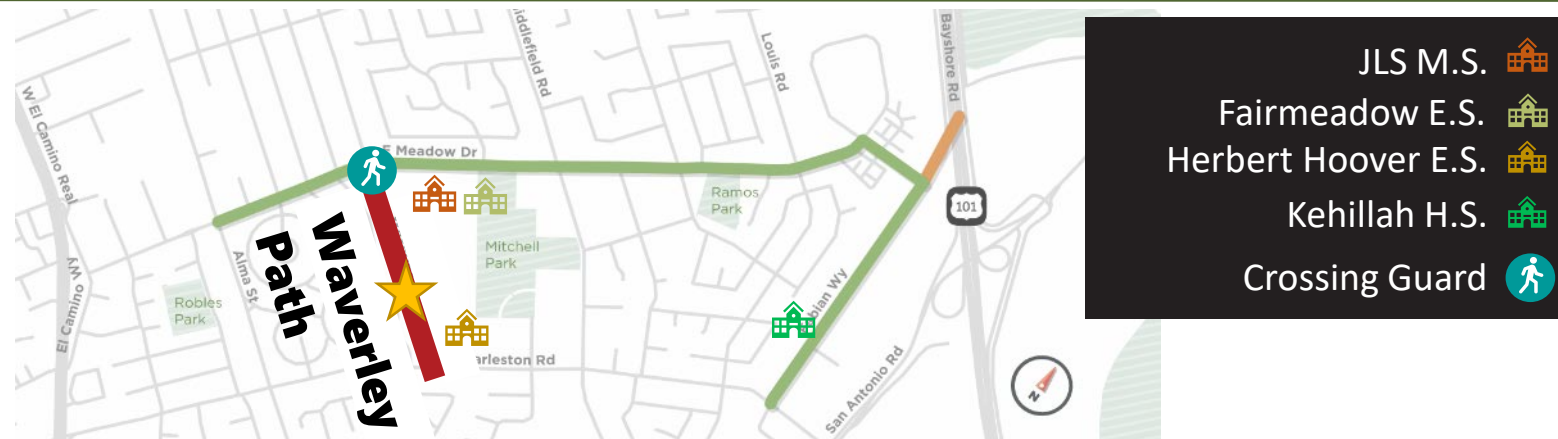
Other Comments

15

- Concerns about cars making right turns and conflicts with parked vehicles
- Concerns about bollards
- Concerns about Alma and Bryant intersections
- Biking is particularly difficult at school arrival and dismissal times
- Bike lanes are heavily used by Gunn students



# Waverley Multi-Use Path



**Option 1** - Widen path into grassy strip at pinch points, where feasible

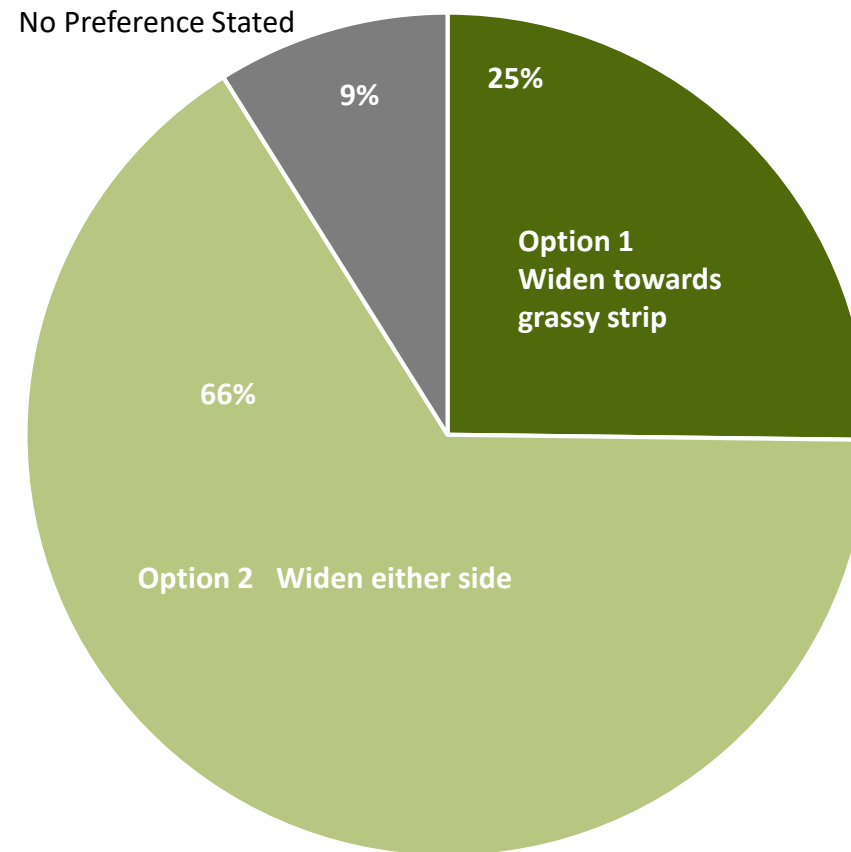


**Option 2** - Widen path towards either side, where feasible



# Community Preferences – Waverley Multi-Use Path

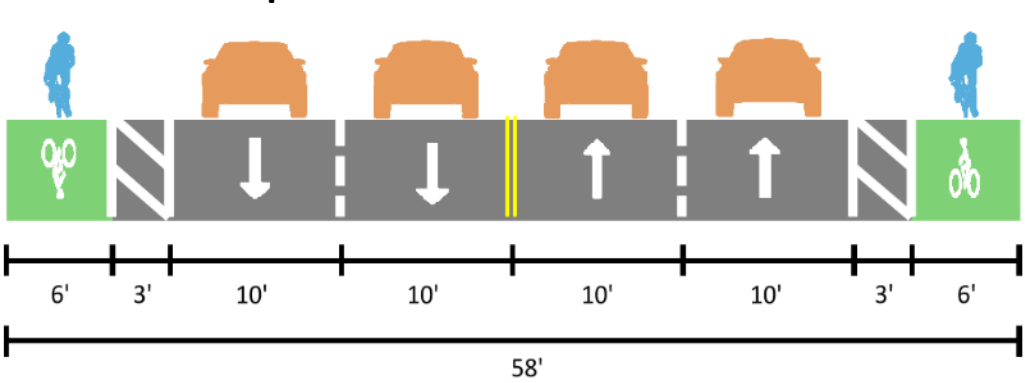
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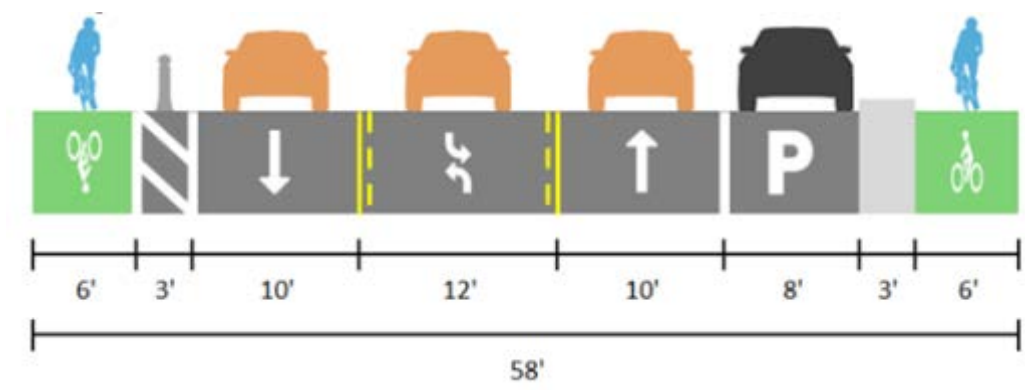
# Fabian Way



Option 1 Buffered Bike Lanes



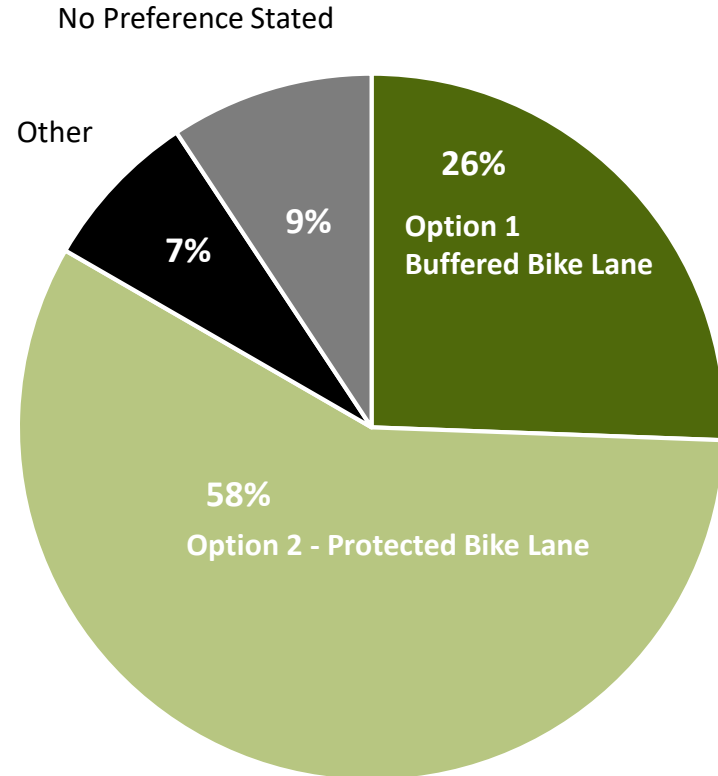
Option 2 Protected Bike Lanes



Fabian Way looking east, towards US 101

# Community Preferences – Fabian Way

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## Other

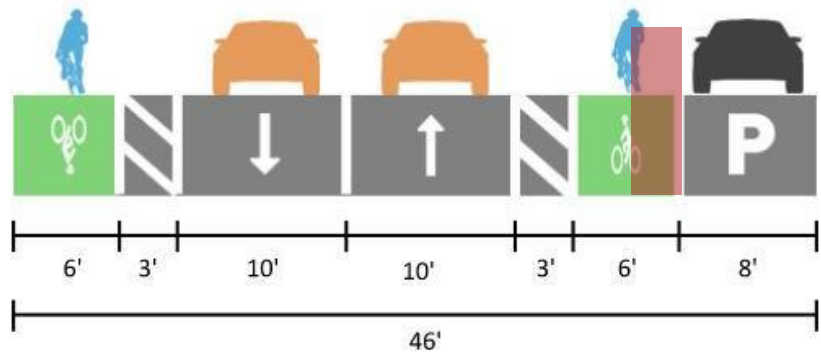
- **Leave as is** (3.5%)
- Safety concerns about bollards
- Parking unnecessary on Fabian
- Concerns about visibility with the parking protected bike lane



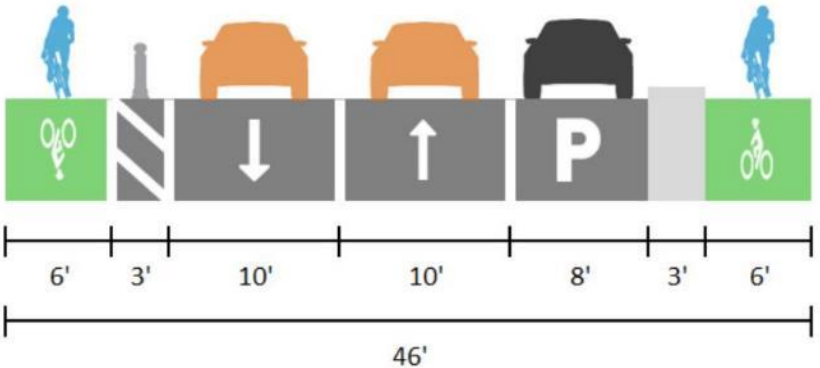
# East Meadow Drive



Option 1 Buffered Bike Lanes



Option 2 Protected Bike Lanes

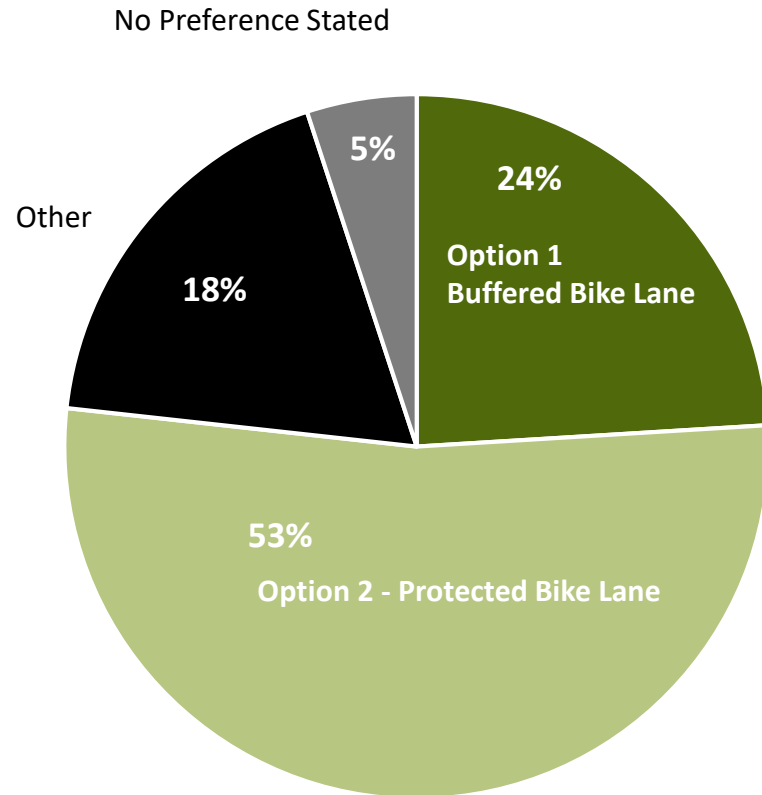


Door Zone

East Meadow Drive looking north, away from Fabian Way

# Community Preferences – East Meadow

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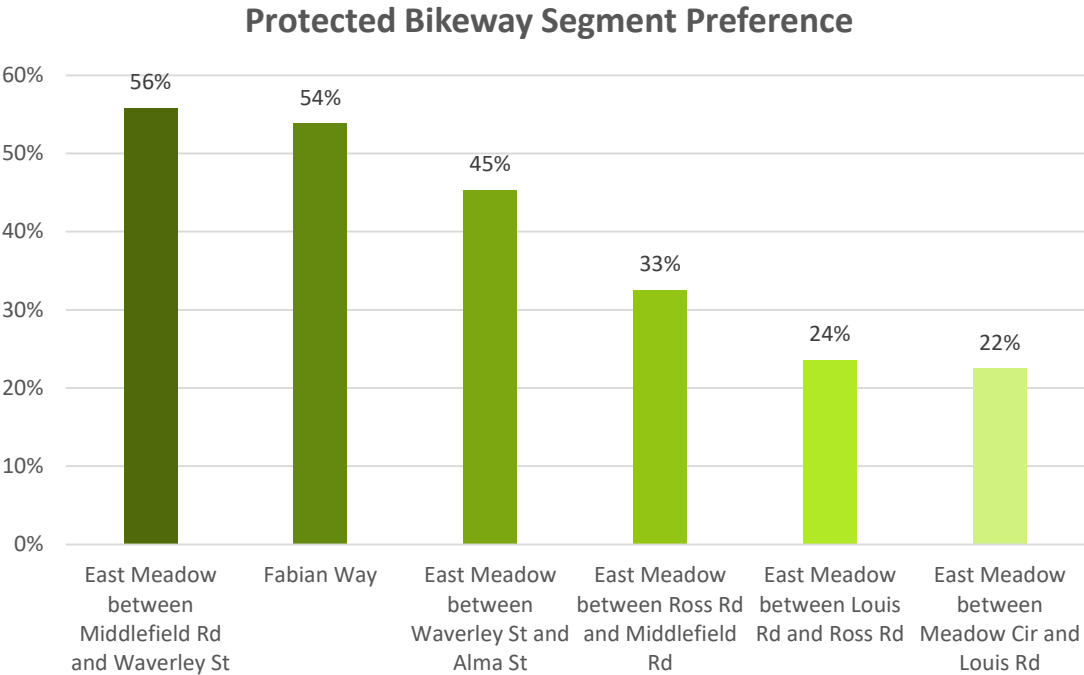


## Other

- **Leave as is to preserve parking (9%)**
- Safety concerns about bollards
- Want clarification of how parking will be impacted
- Adobe Creek crossing needs to be better addressed

# Protected Bikeways

On which corridor would you prefer to see protected bikeways?





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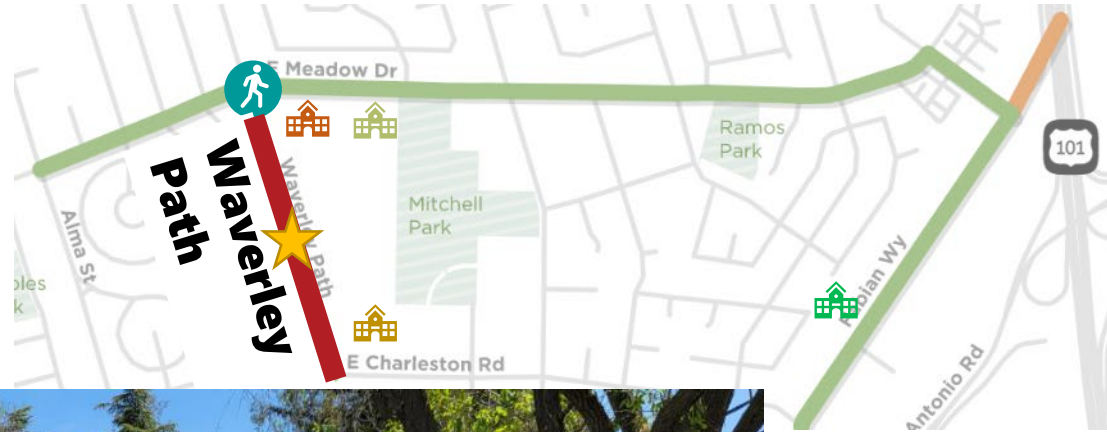
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Preferred Concept

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)

# Waverley Multi-Use Path

Preferred Design – Widen Path on Either Side

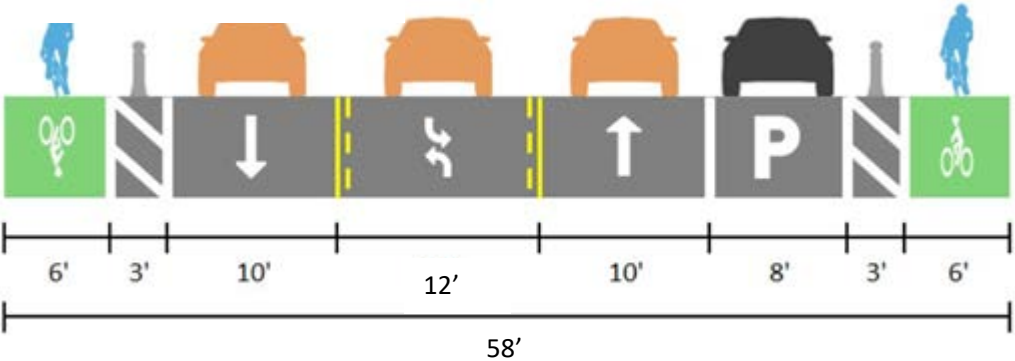


- JLS M.S. 
- Fairmeadow E.S. 
- Herbert Hoover E.S. 
- Kehillah H.S. 
- Crossing Guard 

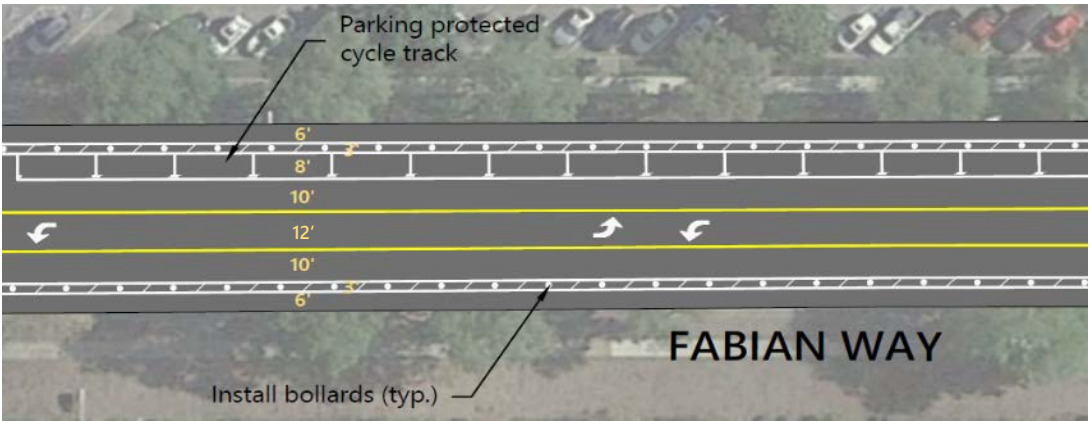


# Fabian Way

## Preferred Design - Protected Bike Lanes



Fabian Way looking east, towards US 101



# East Meadow Drive – Challenges & Considerations

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- Survey did not explicitly provide an option to retain the existing conditions
- Survey responses indicate general support for protected bikeways between Alma Street and Middlefield Road
- Open comments received on survey and during webinar indicate a preference to preserve parking
- Physical space does not allow buffered/protected bikeways **and** retention of parking on both sides of the street
- Existing parking lanes are too narrow, causing encroachment onto sidewalks or into bike lanes



# East Meadow Drive – Ad-Hoc Resident-Organized Meeting

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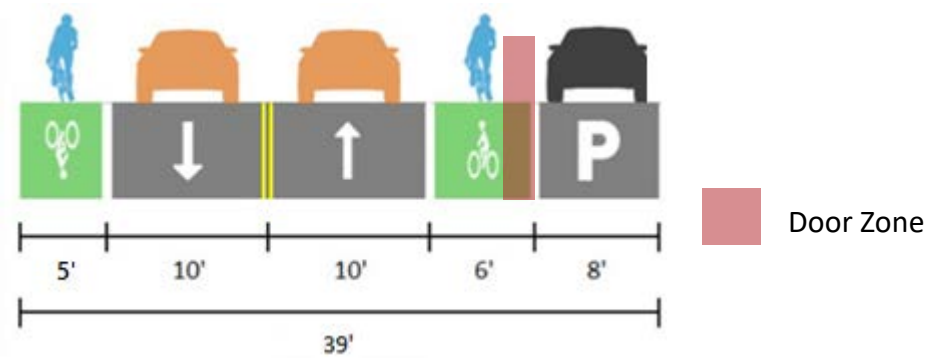
- Over 30 participants
- Concerns:
  - Outreach process
  - Project rationale
  - Parking supply and convenience
  - Ramos Park access
  - Increased vehicle and bicycle interaction during the morning peak commute on the north side
- Design consideration:
  - Retain parking on the south side east of Middlefield (further outreach required)



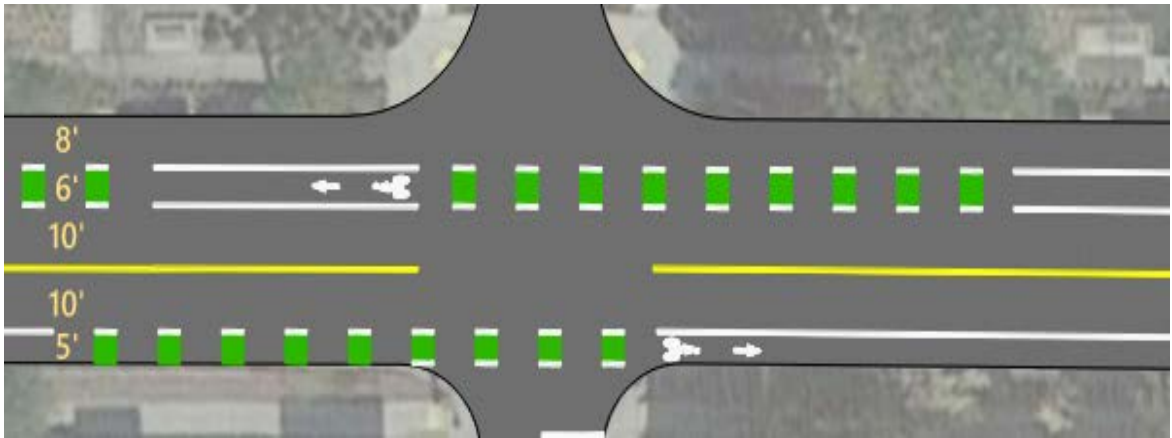
# East Meadow Drive - Location #1

Between East Meadow Circle & Fabian Way

Preferred Design – Retain Parking



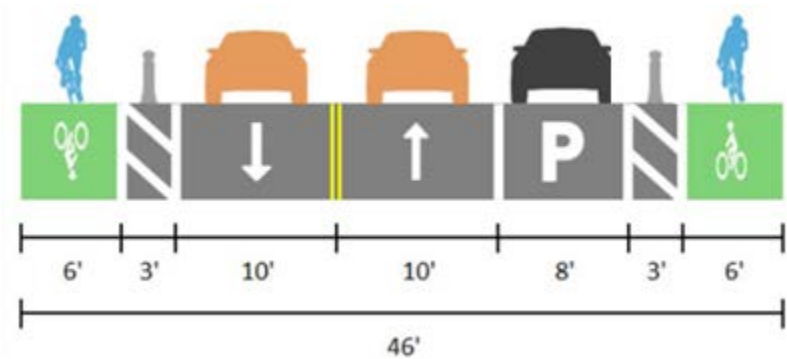
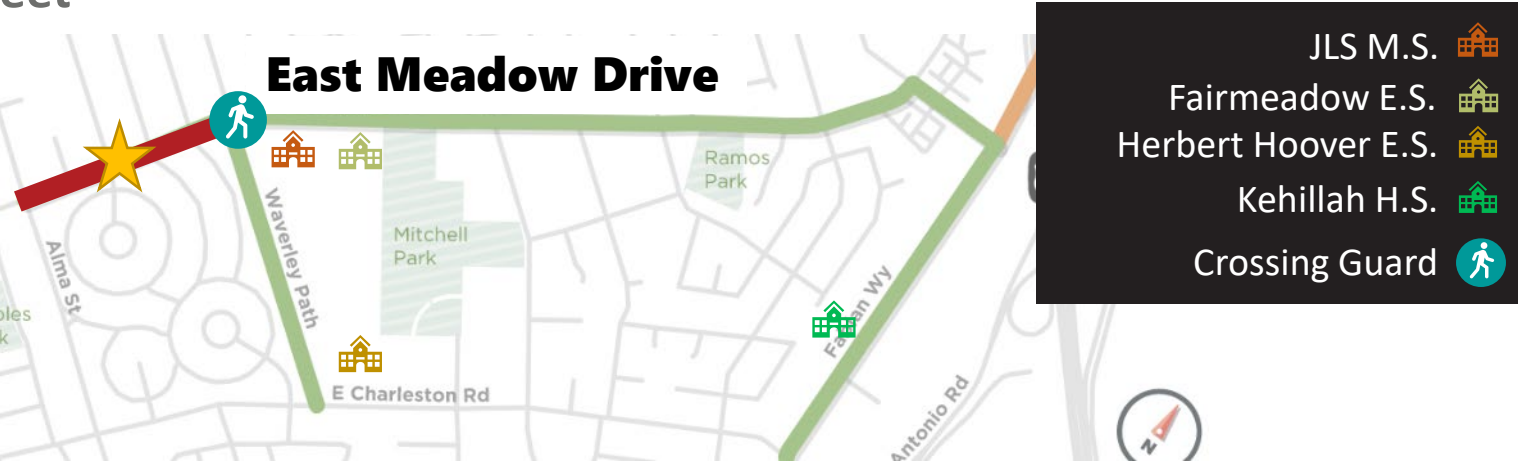
East Meadow Drive looking east, away from Fabian Way



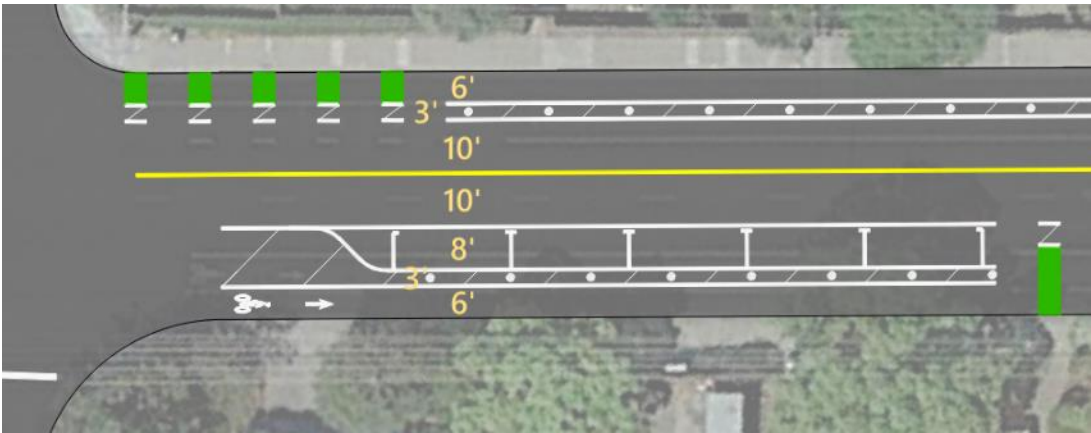
# East Meadow Drive - Location #2

Between Alma Street & Waverley Street

Preferred Design - Protected Bike Lanes



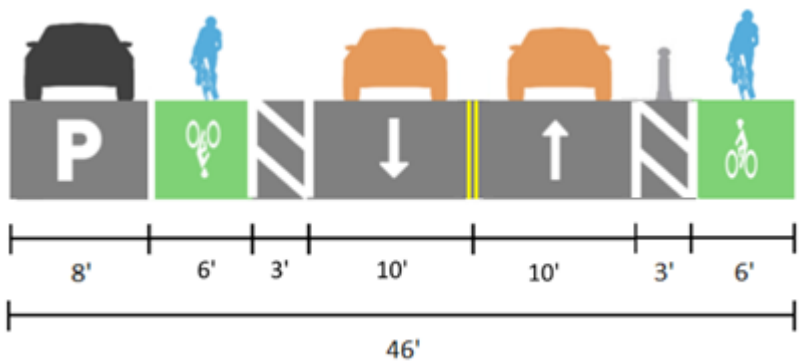
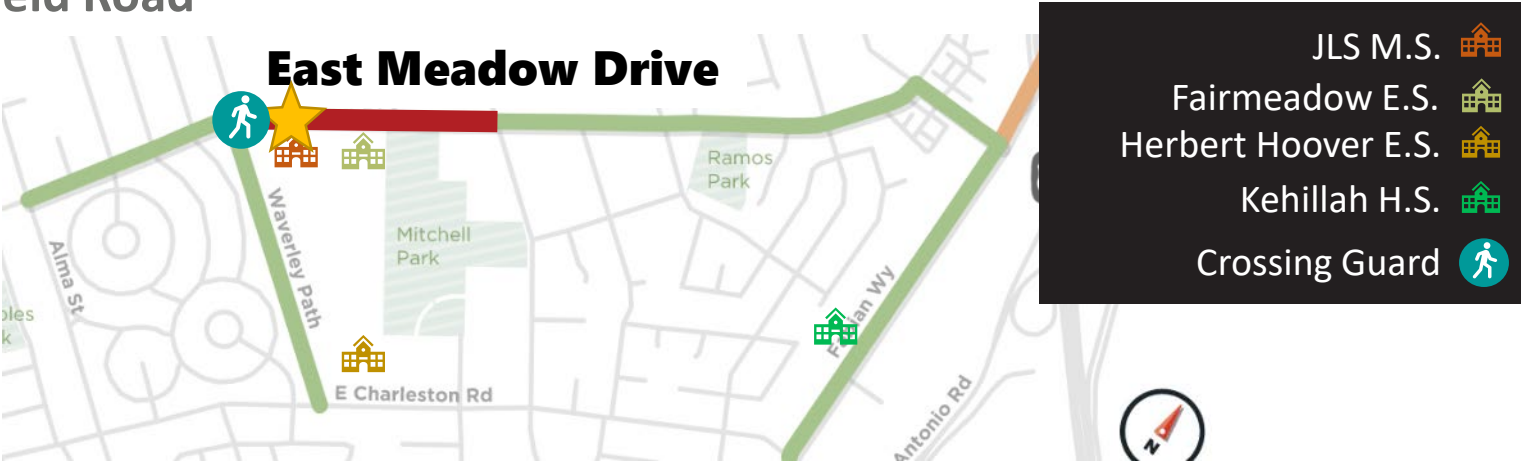
East Meadow Drive looking east at Ramona Street



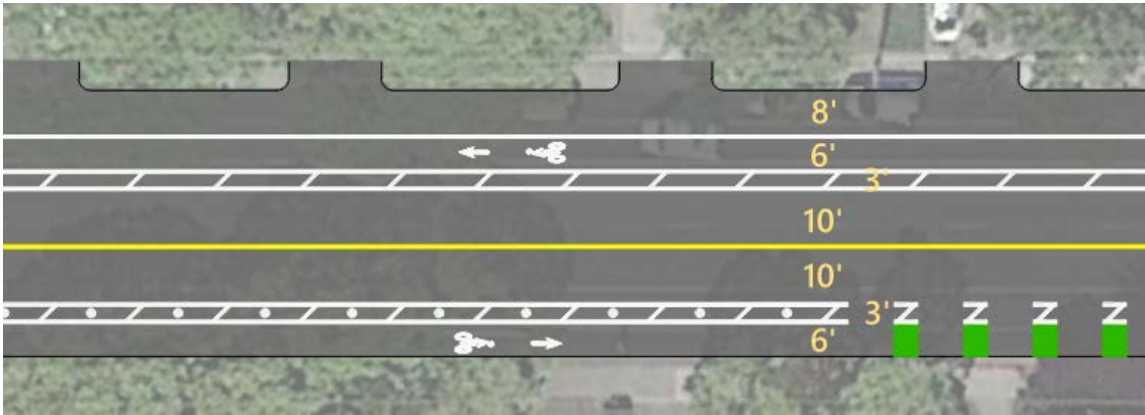
# East Meadow Drive - Location #3

Between Waverley Street & Middlefield Road

Preferred Design - Protected Bike Lane and Buffered Bike Lane with Parking



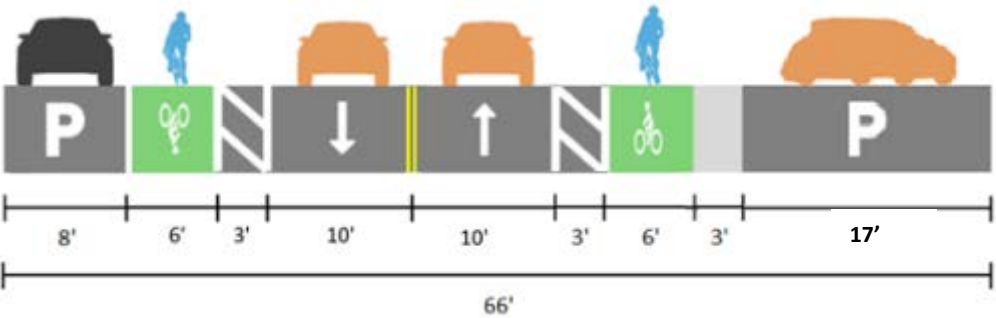
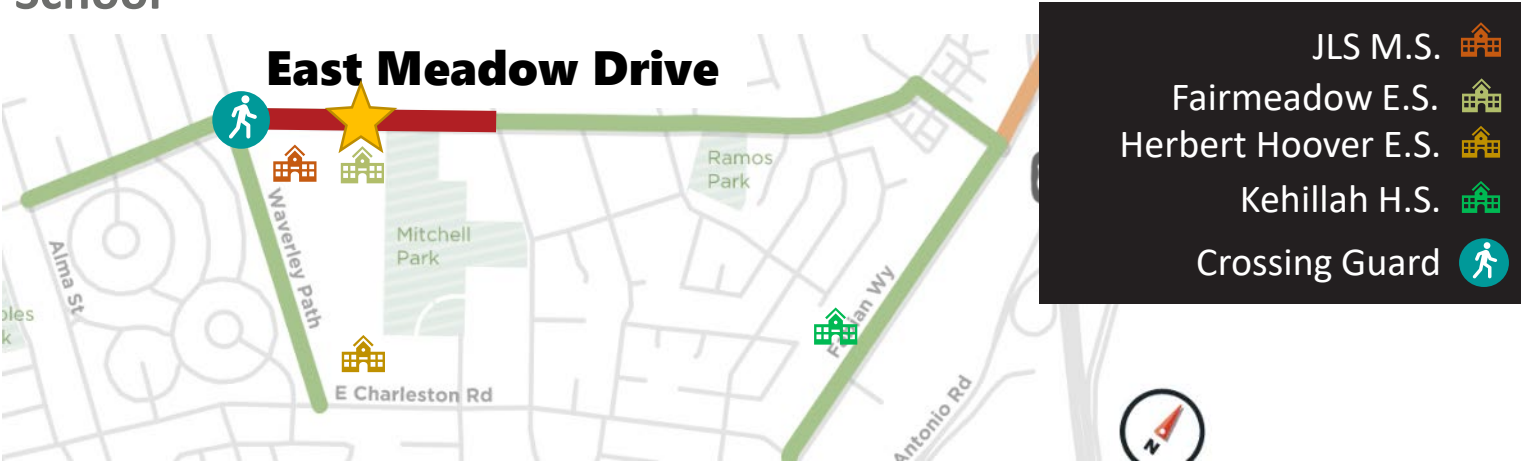
East Meadow Drive looking east adjacent to JLS



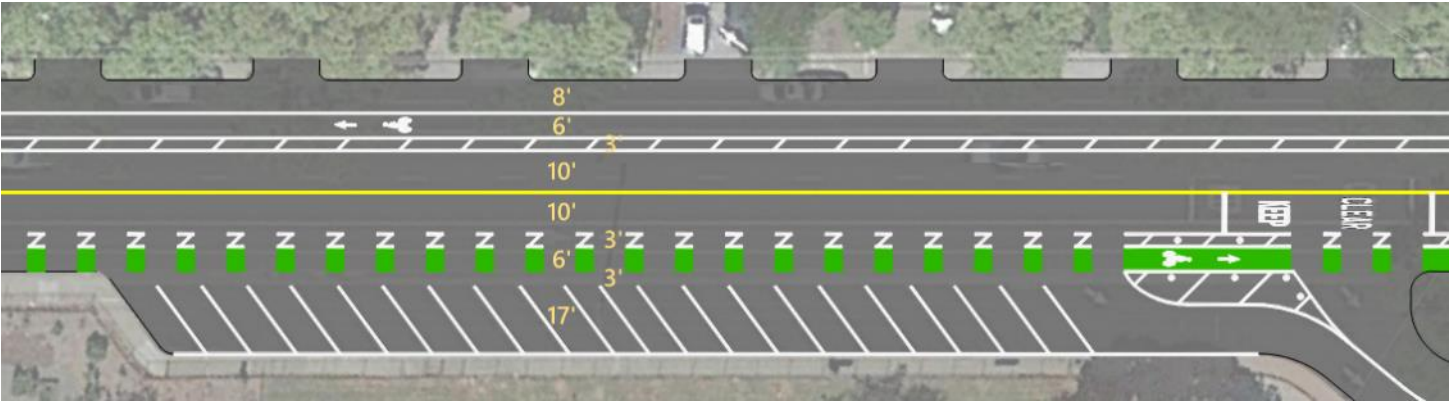
# East Meadow Drive - Location #3

Adjacent to Fairmeadow Elementary School

Preferred Design - Protected Bike Lane and Buffered Bike Lane with Parking



East Meadow Drive looking east adjacent to Fairmeadow

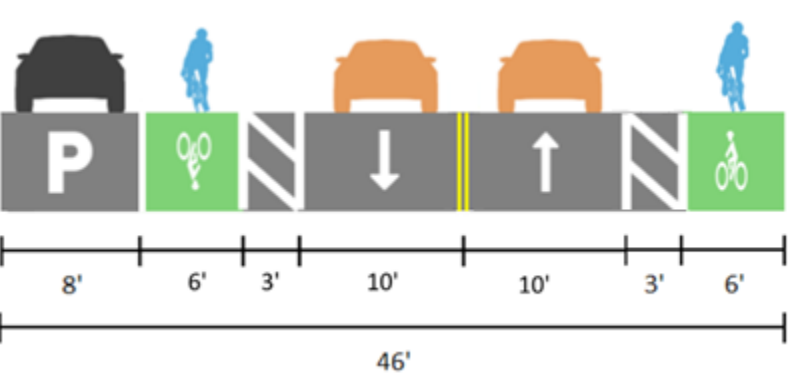
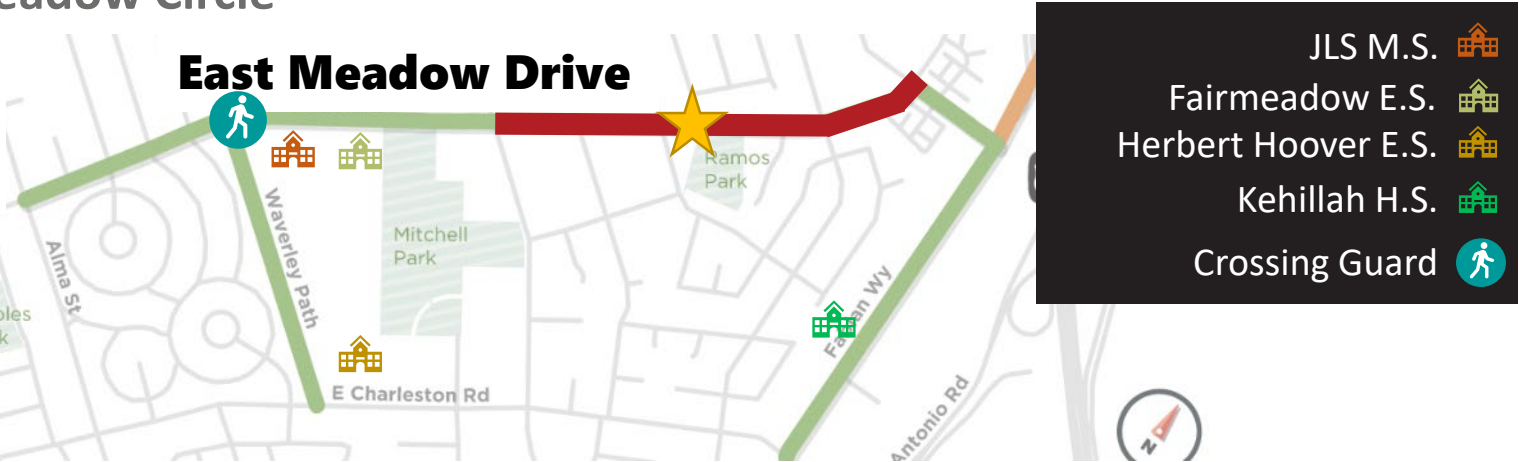




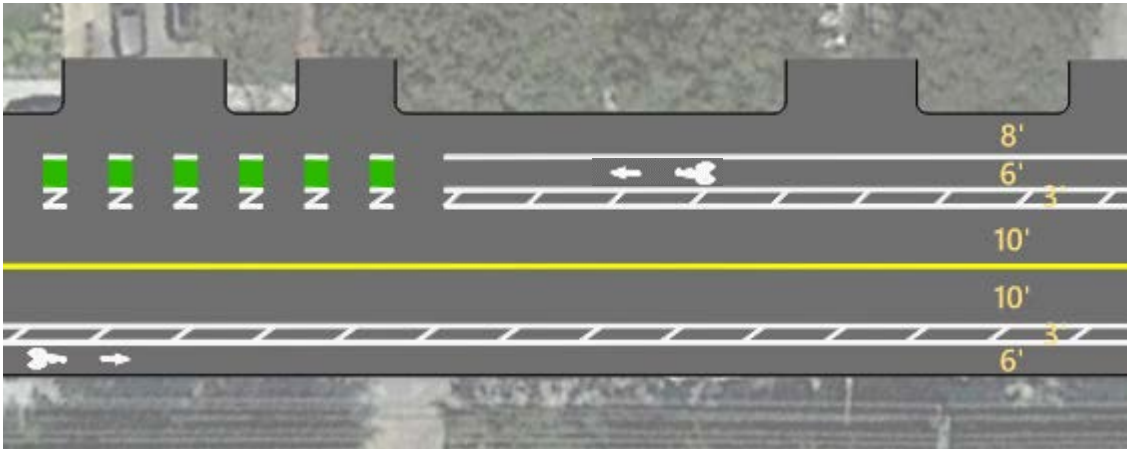
# East Meadow Drive - Location #4

Between Middlefield Road & East Meadow Circle

Preferred Design - Buffered Bike Lane and Buffered Bike Lane with Parking



East Meadow Drive looking east at Arbutus Avenue





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Next Steps

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)



# Next Steps

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- August 9 - City Council Meeting
- Fall - Initiate Design Phase
  - Perform detailed traffic and parking studies
  - Engage community on desired types of bikeway separation, parking reconfiguration, and other design options
  - Implement temporary treatments



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# Thank you!

[cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways](https://cityofpaloalto.org/bikeways)