



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning  
Mountain View, CA 94041

October 20, 2013

Mountain View City Council  
City Hall, 500 Castro Street  
PO Box 7540  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: New bicycle lanes in the area around Mountain View High School

Dear Mayor Inks and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) would like to express support for an initiative established by the Mountain View High School Environmental Club, under the direction of club president Ray Uyeda, to establish new bicycle lanes adjacent to the school on Truman and Bryant Streets. Truman and Bryant are the primary streets for accessing the school, but there are no bike lanes. And, currently, one bike lane exists on Bryant between Grant Road and Truman. We believe that the appropriate review process should include the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), the Council Transportation Committee (CTC), and the City Council. We also encourage councilmembers and staff to assist the students and the school as they explore options for adding the lanes requested through the initiative (for example, regarding funding through the Transportation Development ACT (TDA), Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Safe Routes to School, or with assistance from local businesses, such as Google.

We believe that this is an important initiative not only because it increases the number of bicycle lanes in the city, but also because the lanes will improve safety for students bicycling to and from school. It should be noted that, while bicycling numbers are on the rise among MVHS students, participation during the recent Carbon Free Commute Day (CFCC) could indicate dissatisfaction with the biking experience around campus as student enter their later years of high school.

Further, because improving bicycle and pedestrian mobility in Mountain View is one of three top priorities for City Council this fiscal year, the time is right to move the initiative forward.

Finally, we believe that supporting projects undertaken by students encourages youth participation in civic activities; essential, given that the youth represent the future of our community.

In the words of Ray's MVHS group: "People under 20 are more likely to use alternative transportation – Let's help them to find a better way to travel short distances."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Bena Chang

for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

### **Background and reference information**

Current bike lanes adjacent to MVHS:



- Mountain View High School has 1,800 students.
- About 200 students ride a bike to school every day, and biking has increased 20% in four years.
- During the late 1990's and early 2000's, 10% of MVHS students biked to and from school.
- During the most recent Earth Week celebration, 230 bicyclists (7% of the student population) were counted. By comparison, no more than 200 biked in the past five years for Earth Day.
- Mornings are especially chaotic and most students arrive before first period. The problem is exacerbated because there are no clearly marked lanes for bicyclists.
- The students claim that there have been many near misses, and the installation of bicycle lanes did not lead to an increase in crashes, despite the probable increase in the number of bicyclists. The most likely explanations for the lack of increase in crashes are reduced vehicular speeds and fewer conflicts between vehicles and bicyclists after installation of these lanes.

- According to data collected through Carbon Free Commute Day (CFCC), which was held on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 290 bike rides were tallied, and the percentage of students biking was higher among lower-grade students:

Grade 9	39%
Grade 10	29%
Grade 11	20%
Grade 12	12%

- Origination points were as follows:

Central Los Altos/Los Altos Hills	40%
South Mountain View	50%
Central Mountain View	5%
North Mountain View	5%
Los Altos	0%

- MVHS CFCC-day bike counts (since the program started):

