



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COMPLETE STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
AMENDED AGENDA
FEBRUARY 08, 2024
41 MILES AVENUE
RJ BRYANT SERVICE CENTER
7:30 AM**

*Alice Miano, Chair
Jeff Suzuki, Vice Chair
Bill Ehlers, Commissioner
Eric Miller, Commissioner
Jeff Thompson, Commissioner
Vacant, Commissioner
Rushil Sharma, Youth Commissioner*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Town of Los Gatos strongly encourages your active participation in the public process. If you are interested in providing oral comments during the meeting, you must attend in-person, complete a speaker's card, and return it to the staff. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please list the item number on the speaker card. The time allocated to speakers may change to better facilitate the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting in-person, you are welcome to submit written comments via email to ppwcomment@losgatosca.gov.

Public Comment During the Meeting:

When called to speak, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Chair may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Town meeting.

Speakers at public meetings may be asked to provide their name and to state whether they are a resident of the Town of Los Gatos. Providing this information is not required.

Deadlines to Submit Written Comments:

If you are unable to participate in person, you may email with the subject line "Public Comment Item #_" (insert the item number relevant to your comment). Persons wishing to submit written comments to be included in the materials provided to the Commission must provide the comments as follows:

For inclusion in the agenda packet: 11:00 a.m. the Friday before the Commission meeting.

For inclusion in the agenda packet supplemental materials: by 11:00 a.m. on the day before the Commission meeting.

Persons wishing to make an audio/visual presentation on any agenda item must submit the presentation electronically, either in person or via email to ppwcomment@losgatosca.gov by 3:00 p.m. the day before the Commission meeting.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CONSENT ITEMS *(Items appearing on the Consent are considered routine Town business and may be approved by one motion. Members of the public may provide input on any Consent Item(s) when the Chair asks for public comment on the Consent Items.)*

1. Approve Complete Streets & Transportation Commission Regular Minutes of January 11, 2024.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission on any matter that is not listed on the agenda and is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. To ensure all agenda items are heard, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment. Each speaker is limited to three minutes or such time as authorized by the Chair.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

2. Youth Commission - Rushil Sharma (Verbal Report)

3. 2023 Priorities (Verbal Report)

- A. Transportation Demand Management – Commissioners Thompson & Ehlers
- B. Senior Services Transportation – Chair Miano, Vice Chair Suzuki, Commissioner Thompson (need to reduce by one member until full commission)
- C. General Traffic Safety – Chair Miano and Commissioner Miller
- D. Public Written Comment*

Reminder: Final reports due in May 2024 and each topic sunsets

4. PPW Department Report

- A. Shuttle Service / Via Follow Up - Nicolle Burnham (Verbal)
- B. Beach Traffic - Nicolle Burnham (Attachment Beach Traffic FAQs)
- C. Highway 17 / Route 9 Interchange Project Update - Gary Heap (Verbal)
- D. Shannon Road Bike/Ped Project Update - Gary Heap (Verbal)
- E. Pedestrian Signals at Main and Santa Cruz - Mike Vroman (Verbal)
- F. Future Agenda Items (Attachment)

Recommendation: Receive update and provide information attached

5. VTA BPAC - Commissioner Miller (Verbal Report)

6. Consideration of Date Change for March Meeting*

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT Next meeting scheduled: March 14, 2024

ADA NOTICE In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's Office at (408) 354- 6834. Notification at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting date will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR §35.102-35.104]

*Amended to add Item 3.D. – Public Comment and Item 6.



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COMPLETE STREETS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 02/08/2024

ITEM NO: 1.

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMPLETE STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2024**

The Complete Streets and Transportation Commission of the Town of Los Gatos conducted its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Ehlers, Vice Chair Alice Miano, Commissioners Erik Miller, Jeff Suzuki, Jeff Thompson and Youth Commissioner Rushil Sharma.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approve Complete Streets & Transportation Commission Minutes of December 14, 2023.
MOTION: Motion by Vice Chair Miano to approve Consent Item 1. Discussion started by Vice Chair Miano on item 4.B.
Seconded by Commissioner Thompson.
VOTE: Motion passed 5 ayes; 1 abstained (Sharma).

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Youth Commissioner Report - Rushil Sharma (Verbal Report)
Youth Commissioner Sharma verbally reported on biking safety testing at Mike's Bikes. Commission discussed. Also reported that the high school would be adding recycling bins to campus.
3. CSTC 2024 Leadership (Verbal Report)
 - A. Elect 2024 Chairperson
Chair Ehlers nominated Vice Chair Miano to 2024 Chairperson.
Seconded by Commissioner Thompson.
VOTE: Unanimous.
 - B. Elect 2024 Vice Chairperson
Commissioner Ehlers nominated Commissioner Suzuki to 2024 Vice Chairperson.
Seconded by Chair Miano.
VOTE: Unanimous.
 - C. Elect VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Representative
Commissioner Ehlers provided an explanation of the BPAC position. Commission discussed. Vice Chair Suzuki nominated Commissioner Miller to the VTA BPAC.
Seconded by Chair Miano.
VOTE: Unanimous.
4. 2023 Priorities (Verbal Reports)
 - A. Transportation Demand Management – Commissioners Ehlers and Thompson
Commissioner Thompson verbally reported on this item.

- B. Senior Services Transportation Task Force – Chair Miano, Vice Chair Suzuki & Commissioner Thompson
Vice Chair Miano verbally reported on this item.
- C. General Traffic Safety – Vice Chair Miano
Chair Miano requested a Commission member join this ad hoc. Commissioner Miller volunteered.

8:20 a.m. Youth Commissioner Sharma left.

- 5. PPW Department Report - Gary Heap (Verbal Report)
Director Burnham introduced Special Project Manager Rose to the Commission.
 - A. Los Gatos Creek Trail Connector at Highway 9 (Sean Rose)
Special Project Manager Rose verbally reported on this item.
 - B. Highway 17 Overcrossing at Blossom Hill Road (Sean Rose)
[Highway 17 Bicycle & Pedestrian Overcrossing | The Los Gatos CA Official Site!](#)
Special Project Manager Rose verbally reported on this item. Commission discussed the following items: raised curbs, retaining walls, crosswalks and bike lanes on the southside of the vehicle bridge.
 - C. Shannon Road Bike/ Ped Project Update (Gary Heap)
Town Engineer Heap verbally reported on this item. Commissioner Thompson thanked Town Staff for all the outreach on this project.
 - D. Future Agenda Items (Written Report – Attachment)
Recommendation: Receive update and provide information attached.
Director Burnham verbally reported on this item.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Thompson suggested new agenda items: new crosswalk law and new priorities for 2024. He also indicated his appreciation of the Shannon Road changes.
- Commissioner Miller was also appreciative of the bike lane on Shannon Road.
- Commissioner Ehlers suggested the installation of road signs on Shannon Road indicating that bikes may use full lane.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting as approved by the Complete Streets & Transportation Commission.



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COMPLETE STREETS &
TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 02/08/2024
ITEM NO: 3.D.
ADDENDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2024
TO: COMPLETE STREETS & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: NICOLLE BURNHAM, PPW DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: PUBLIC WRITTEN COMMENT

REMARKS: PUBLIC WRITTEN COMMENT

Attachments:

1. Public Comment Received Between 11:01 a.m., Friday, February 2, 2024, and 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 5, 2024.

PREPARED BY: NICOLLE BURNHAM
PPW Director

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:09 PM
To: PPW Comment <PPWComment@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Transportation Item 3 busses

MEETING DATE: 02/08/2024
ITEM NO.: 3.D.

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

I live up Old Santa Cruz Hwy.

There's literally NO transportation up here for non driving people or students anywhere. We cant afford to uber every day. And I am caring for my elderly grandparents with Alzheimer's so I can't just drive off anytime I want. I need busses! We used to have the 27.. not now! We need it back!

~Keri Bridges

Old Santa Cruz Hwy.

From: [Dana Juncker](#)
To: [PPW Comment](#)
Subject: Feb 8th meeting comment
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 10:06:38 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Re: Item #3

As a resident of the Summit Rd area, we used to have a VTA bus stop that was utilized by high school students and the disabled.

It used to go all the way to the library area. What happened?

Then I'd see the Hwy 17 Express bus drive right by the Summit area and stop near the post office and wonder why it didn't stop at the Summit Rd area?

Now that's even gone. And the buses that used to sit in front of the library don't even stop there. The closest VTA stop is over off of Winchester Blvd.

Why has Los Gatos stopped all public transportation? It's shameful that the Summit area of your town gets ignored consistently. It's shameful that all busses have disappeared.

I spoke to the customer service dept for the Hwy 17 Express this morning who said the service ceased in Los Gatos because she had heard it was because the town didn't want the homeless being dropped off there. A sentiment I can understand but still, to cut off the community from public transportation is abhorrent.

There used to be a bus that came up to Redwood Estates for the high school kids that cost a lot of money to use.

Then Covid came and it hasn't been reinstated. Why? Where did all the Covid grants go?

I urge the council to request the VTA to reinstate busing service to Los Gatos and to the Summit Rd area. It is discriminatory to the disabled, it's discriminatory against people who don't drive or can't afford a vehicle and it's not environmentally friendly.

Thank you,

Dana Juncker, Los Gatos/Summit Rd resident
(408) 828-3909
summitvending@gmail.com

The Issue

Q: What is the problem?

A: The volume of traffic going over Highway 17 exceeds the capacity of the roadway. Traffic congestion on Highway 17, and other roadways, has historically been an issue for the Town during peak commute periods and during the summer months ("Beach Traffic"). However, population is increasing in the South Bay and surrounding areas and the corresponding increase in vehicular use has exacerbated these historic traffic patterns to the frustrating levels we face today.

Q: How many days per year does the Town experience beach traffic?

A: Beach traffic typically occurs on weekend days when we are experiencing high temperatures. This occurs typically 10 to 14 days per year.

Q: Why doesn't traffic stay on the freeway?

A: In addition to the increases in vehicular use, the creation and mass adoption of mapping applications is directing vehicles to local streets never intended for highway/arterial overflow traffic. To avoid the congestion on the freeway, the mapping applications suggest using local roadways which creates the local congestion. The congestion compounds as the bigger local streets get congested and the mapping applications then further direct drivers to smaller and smaller streets.

Q: Does the Town understand that the traffic impacts the quality of life for local residents?

A: Yes. Town staff fully appreciates, and experiences alongside our community, the challenge of beach and other traffic. Town staff is a collaboration of public sector professionals with deep knowledge of the community who strive to alleviate problems in Town as they arise. As residents provide their concerns and insights, staff evaluates each concern carefully to determine if suggestions are legal, feasible, and do not create unintended consequences elsewhere. Too often, what seems like a viable suggestion simply makes the situation worse somewhere else in Los Gatos.

Q: Did the Winchester Bike Lane project worsen beach traffic?

A: No, the Winchester Bike Lane project removed a northbound lane on Winchester. The southbound direction is affected by beach traffic.

Town Actions

Q: In the past, the Town has closed South Santa Cruz Avenue at Wood Road. Why isn't that happening this year?

A: As with many efforts to manage the traffic, changes in one area often shift the impact to another part of Town. This is exactly what happened with the pilot closure at Wood Road. Residents on the east side of Los Gatos Boulevard in the area of Kennedy Road were impacted as a result. In addition, the pilot closure created a more traffic on Highway 9, making driving to downtown to visit local businesses very difficult.

Q: Can the Town post signage on the freeways advising drivers to stay on the freeway?

A: Yes, the Town has worked with Caltrans in the past to use changeable message boards for such messaging as suggested by residents and the Council. This is an option we can pursue again. In addition, there are also times when the Town has used its message boards to inform drivers that is faster to stay on the freeway than use Town streets.

Q: How can the Almond Grove neighborhood (the area generally bounded by Highway 9 to the north, Santa Cruz Avenue to the east, Massol Avenue to the west and Broadway to the south) be better protected from beach traffic?

A: The Town has posted no right turn on Saturday (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) signs from streets west of Santa Cruz Avenue to discourage cut through traffic in the Almond Grove neighborhood. Some of the mapping apps acknowledge this restriction in their algorithms and others would not make the change.

Q: Will the Town be restricting turns into the Almond Grove area on Tait, Massol, and Ridgecrest?

A: Past resident feedback indicates that some Almond Grove residents like this idea and some residents do not. The Town does not plan to implement this again.

Q: Has the Town worked with the mapping apps to discourage cut through traffic in Town neighborhoods?

A: Yes, the Town worked with Apple Maps, Google, and others to inform them of our neighborhood street designations to discourage the apps from sending traffic down those streets. Unfortunately, the business model for these apps conflict with the Town's concerns for cut through traffic and the companies did not want to modify their algorithms any further.

Q: Why can't the Town just ask the mapping applications to not show cut through routes?

A: The Town, similar to many jurisdictions, has asked for this consideration and in some instances has received it. Each mapping application has its own mapping model and algorithm, but the business model for each firm is in gaining customers by providing information on travel routes. If one application did not do it, another may attempt to in order to gain a competitive advantage.

Q: What are the mapping applications that show cut through routes?

A: The major applications are Waze, Google Maps, Tom Tom, Inrix, and Apple Maps.

Q: Can the Town limit traffic to local traffic only?

A: "Local Traffic Only" signage is advisory only and not enforceable by the Los Gatos Monte Sereno Police Department. The mapping applications do not recognize this signage in their applications, making the effort ineffective.

Q: I have heard that other cities like Los Altos had success with "Local Traffic Only". Why are we different?

A: In reviewing the work in Los Altos with that city's staff, it appears that effort was done on a trial basis with Waze and showed promise initially but then fell apart as the applications adjusted.

Q: Can the Police Department increase enforcement of traffic laws?

A: The Police Officers that are on duty have specific responsibilities, some of which include enforcing traffic. At times, heavy calls for service impact the ability of Officers to provide traffic enforcement. Much of the time not spent on specific calls for service is committed to traffic enforcement.

Q: When Officers are available, can't they just control an intersection to move the traffic through?

A: Controlling an intersection often takes two Officers, about a third of the force on duty. But often even with that, the congestion is such that there is nowhere to move the vehicles. Officers are paying attention to vehicles blocking intersections and will be citing violators as staffing allows.

Q: What if I see another driver violating the rules of the road?

A: Violations must be observed in person by an Officer in order for a citation to be issued. Residents can report traffic concerns to beachtraffic@losgatosca.gov or by phone to 408-354-6810. A staff member will respond to calls and emails.

Q: How can public safety vehicles access neighborhoods affected by beach traffic?

A: Public safety agencies have the ability to access neighborhoods during periods of heavy traffic by using the opposite lane and other tactics.

Q. Why can the Town close North Santa Cruz Avenue for events like the Promenades, but not close it for weekend beach traffic?

A. Closing North Santa Cruz Avenue even for a couple of hours for a special event is costly to the event organizers and impacts the surrounding neighborhoods. Under certain conditions, the Town has approved special events to close North Santa Cruz Avenue or other downtown streets. The intent of the events is to welcome people to enjoy the offerings of downtown.

A few years ago, the Town tried a one-way pilot on North Santa Cruz and learned that the mapping applications pushed the traffic onto side roads and then back to downtown since all drivers still need to access the same on-ramps. The pilot exacerbated the issue and created a bigger bottleneck at intersections

where the roads were closed. This also reduced access to downtown parking for customers seeking to attend an event or visit downtown merchants.

Other Ideas

Q: Can the Town close the onramp at Highway 9 or the off-ramp at Lark Ave?

A: No. The Town does not have the authority to close freeway or highway ramps or road segments. Those are under the purview of Caltrans. The Town has asked about the potential for those closures in the past and Caltrans has said they will not consider it.

Q: If the Town could do so, would closing the Highway 17 off-ramp at Lark Ave help?

A: Much of the cut through traffic is entering the Town from smaller streets and not from these freeway exits. This creates a challenge as each time traffic is impacted on those streets, the mapping programs derive an alternate route. Analysis of the traffic patterns in Town demonstrate this as traffic builds. Specifically, as one area gets impacted, the mapping programs incorporate a new route. In the early part of the traffic buildup, this results in some relief on the road that was first impacted. As volumes build, this changes, and ultimately all routes become impacted.

Q: Can the Town close roads and allow only residents access?

A: No. California Vehicle Code Section 21101.6 prohibits this approach.

Q: Can the Town close roads for safety reasons?

A: The Police Chief can close roads for safety only in the most extreme circumstances. Where passage on a roadway is possible, including the use of oncoming travel lanes for emergency vehicles, the roadway may still be safe. Our public safety Officers have deep knowledge of the Town and are constantly adjusting their response deployment models to adapt to any changes in their operational environment.

Q: Why doesn't the Town close more roads?

A: As previously stated road closures can only occur under extreme circumstances. In addition to the need for an evaluation of safety, closing one road most often creates unintended consequences on other adjacent or nearby roads as drivers and the applications guiding them seek alternatives.

Q: Can the Town charge tolls on local roads?

A: No. The State regulates the charging of tolls and tolls are not allowed on local streets and roads.

The Future

Q: Wouldn't widening Highway 17 solve the problem?

A: The Town's adopted General Plan 2040 directs staff to support projects that would reduce congestion on Highway 17. One such project is a Highway 17 Congestion Management Project that Town staff is working on with Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). Still in the early stages of planning, this project may modify Highway 17 between the Lark Avenue and Highway 9 exits to improve

movement of vehicles on Highway 17. More information about the project is located here: www.vta.org/sr17corridor. Town staff is also looking at opportunities to improve Highway 17 on and offramps to aid in the merging of vehicles. Vehicle merges create slowdowns and could help with the freeway traffic.

Q: What can the residents do?

A: Residents may wish to consider adjusting their vehicular transportation through Town earlier in the morning or later in the evening on weekends. On mild summer days, walking and biking may be a way to enjoy the beautiful trails and bike paths in Town and to accomplish errands, dine in Town, shop, or meet with friends and family.

Q: What will the future hold for the roundabout on South Santa Cruz Avenue at Wood Road where the closure has been in past years?

A: The Town Council decided a number of years ago to not pursue the construction of a roundabout after discussions with Caltrans, the high cost of the project, and other factors.



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COMPLETE STREETS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: 02/08/24

ITEM NO.: 4.F.

DATE: January 31, 2024
TO: Complete Streets and Transportation Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Parks and Public Works Department Report

RECOMMENDATION:

The purpose of this information is to provide the Commission and members of the public a look at anticipated future agenda items.

BACKGROUND:

Potential future agenda items are presented below. This report will be updated monthly to reflect any items going on in the Parks and Public Works Department.

ANALYSIS:

March	PD Report
	Safe Routes to School Report
	Capital Budget Update
April	2024 Roadway and Curb / Gutter Project

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact

Attachments:

1. None

PREPARED BY: Nicolle Burnham
Director, Parks and Public Works