

30- Day NOTICE

The County of San Mateo
plans to remove the crosswalk on
Santa Cruz Avenue
near Palo Alto Way in
West Menlo
on or after July 15, 2009.

If you have any questions or concerns
regarding this project, please contact the
Department of Public Works
650-363-4103.

A public hearing is scheduled for
Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at
9:30 AM at
400 County Center in
Redwood City
Board of Supervisor's Chambers
1st Floor.

Department of Public Works



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

555 COUNTY CENTER, 5th FLOOR • REDWOOD CITY • CALIFORNIA 94063-1665 • PHONE (650) 363-4100 • FAX (650) 361-8220

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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JAMES C. PORTER
DIRECTOR

June 4, 2009

Dear Property Owners:

Subject: Removal of Crosswalk on Santa Cruz Avenue near Palo Alto Way

The County of San Mateo is again considering the removal of the midblock crosswalk at Santa Cruz Avenue near Palo Alto Way for pedestrian safety purposes. In 2007, the County contacted local residents regarding the removal of this crosswalk, but because of a large number of protests, the Board of Supervisors decided to delay the removal of the crosswalk until the Department could address your concerns for a safe alternative.

Since then, the Department has completed a sidewalk improvement project, updated its signals with countdown push buttons, and has been coordinating with SamTrans to relocate the bus stop near Menlo Commons to Campo Bello Lane and Santa Cruz Avenue. While we understand that the sidewalk relocation may be inconvenient for some people, we believe removal of the crosswalk and the relocation of the bus stop to a signalized intersection will provide improved pedestrian safety overall.

We plan to propose the removal of the midblock crosswalk to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The Board of Supervisors' meeting will be held at the San Mateo County Hall of Justice, 400 County Center in Redwood City. The Board's agenda will be posted online at www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/BoardOfSupervisors the Friday before the meeting.

Any comments you wish to provide before Monday, June 29, 2009 will be taken into consideration before we make our final recommendation. If you have any comments or questions regarding the aforementioned proposal, feel free to contact Diana Shu of my staff at:

**San Mateo County Department of Public Works
Attn: Traffic Services
752 Chestnut Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 599-1414
email: dshu@co.sanmateo.ca.us**

Sincerely,

James C. Porter
Director of Public Works

Attachment A
Summary of Responses from Property Owners
Revision 1
July 3, 2009

On June 4, 2009 staff sent a notice to remove sidewalk to residents in the adjoining areas of Palo Alto Way and Santa Cruz Ave. The required notification area is a 300-foot radius or an entire block, whichever is greater. Staff notified property owners within an 800 foot radius. In addition, staff posted signs at both ends of the crosswalk designating the day and time of the public meeting. Both the notice and the posting are included at the end of this attachment. While response to the notice was small (less than 5%), several protests were received from the adult community near the crosswalk concerning both the crosswalk and the adjacent bus stop. A summary of responses is provided below:

Responses from Property Owners:

Number of letters sent = 390 (plus 150 flyers delivered to 2140 Menlo Commons).

Number of responses received (to date) = 18

Action	In favor	Opposed	No comment	Total
Remove Crosswalk	3	12*	3	18
Remove Bus Stop		5*		N/A

* Some individuals objected to both the removal of the crosswalk and the removal of the bus stop, resulting in the cumulative stated opposition exceeding the number of responses received.

Reasons stated in opposition to removing crosswalk:

- (1) New sidewalks are too narrow to accommodate a walker, wheelchair, stroller, and small children and there is no bus shelter at Campo Bello.
- (2) Crosswalk at Campo Bello is not safe because of the alignment of the roadway
- (3) Need to keep bus stop at Menlo Commons
- (4) Persons with disabilities cannot walk to the Campo Bello bus stop
- (5) Not enough parking at Menlo Commons and there is therefore a need to park across the street.
- (6) There is no other access from Vine Street, Leland Street, and Stanford Avenue other than Palo Alto Way, directly across from the existing midblock crosswalk on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Staff comments to the above stated concerns:

- (1) New sidewalks were built to a minimum width of 48 inches. ADA requires a minimum of 36" for wheelchairs. There is no bus shelter at Campo Bello.

- (2) Accident records show that there have been approximately 2 collisions at the intersection of Campo Bello / Alameda de Las Pulgas/ Santa Cruz Avenue. Both accidents were due to a “failure to stop at a red light” (accidents occurred in 2006 and 2009).
- (3) Several residents opposed the removal of the crosswalk in conjunction with the removal of the bus stop. All of these residents live in Menlo Commons, a 55 and older community, which is situated on same side of the road as the bus stop. SamTrans reported that there were 45 riders in the month of April this year. It appears that most of these riders live in or visit people living in Menlo Commons. Staff believes that based on the limited usage of the bus at this location and the availability of SamTrans paratransit services for those who require this service, that the relocation of the bus stop to Campo Bello, where riders can immediately access improved sidewalks or a signal controlled intersection, will allow for a higher level of protection for pedestrians crossing Santa Cruz Avenue.
- (4) Several residents of Menlo Commons stated that they could not walk to the Campo Bello bus stop due to disabilities. When asked why they did not consider SamTrans paratransit, one resident stated that she thought it was too inconvenient to reserve paratransit services in advance. Information regarding SamTrans paratransit is available at this website: <http://www.samtrans.com/rw.html> or by calling SamTrans at 650-508-6241.
- (5) Staff believes this is a temporary inconvenience. The resident who commented indicated that Menlo Commons was planning to renovate one of the on-site parking garages. There is no parking on the Menlo Commons or southbound side of Santa Cruz Avenue. (Based on more recent discussions with residents at Menlo Commons there are now indications that there may be insufficient parking spaces for the multi-resident facilities located on the west side of Santa Cruz Avenue.)
- (6) Staff collected data on pedestrian traffic but has not been able to verify a significantly high level of pedestrian traffic at this crosswalk. An average of 1 to 2 pedestrian per hour has been determined on various days. However, respondents claim that students cross the street to go to and from nearby schools. This has not been confirmed. A few respondents have indicated that they take daily walks in the Vine Street, Leland Street, and Stanford Avenue area behind Santa Cruz Avenue because of the quiet streets and low volume of traffic.

At the writing of this report, staff is still engaging with the community and in particular with residents of Menlo Commons who have concerns with the relocation of the bus stop and the removal of the crosswalk. Any additional comments received prior to the Board’s meeting on this matter will be shared with the Board by Public Works staff. Because of the resurfacing project scheduled for Santa Cruz Avenue in the summer of 2009, staff would like to determine whether or not to reinstall the crosswalk after the resurfacing project.