



January 9, 2012

Menlo Park Planning Commission
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94303

Subject: Support for Completion of the Bay Trail and Area Bicycle Improvements

Dear Chair Bressler:

I write on behalf of the Moffett Park Business Group (MPBG) to express our support for Menlo Park to complete the Bay Trail and to improve bike lanes in the area. This will not only provide Facebook with another means to meet its reduction of car traffic, but, will benefit other commuters who work along the Peninsula and South Bay.

By way of reference, the MPBG is a consortium of major employers in the Sunnyvale Moffett Park area, including NetApp, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Yahoo!, Jay Paul, Juniper Networks, Detati, Labcyte, Luxim, Rambus and Infinera: just over 14,000 employees represented. We advocate for transportation improvements and support transportation demand management efforts that improve the environmental and economic health of the area. A core value of our organization is to support projects that help our member companies achieve these goals. The importance of completing the Bay Trail not only connects people to facilities in Menlo Park, but to other destinations along the Peninsula and the South Bay, such as the Moffett Park area. For many of the employees who commute from the Peninsula to work sites located near the Bay Trail, safe, year-round bicyclist passages are limited. Completion of the Bay Trail in the Menlo Park area would provide another safe route for more people to use for their commutes.

For worksites like Moffett Park and the new Facebook site, cycling can be a very cost effective mode of increasing alternative transport to the site. In the last few years, improvements for cyclists in and around Moffett Park include the bike lanes on Borregas and Bordeaux, completion of two bike/ped bridges on Borregas and the opening of the Bay Trail behind Moffett Field. This section of the Bay Trail now connects Shoreline Park and the Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View to Sunnyvale, the Moffett Park area, and beyond to Santa Clara and San Jose. The safe, year-round improvements for Moffett Park from bike lanes, bridges and the trail are real and measurable. The bridge to Moffett Park drive was completed in April of 2009, and September bike counts in the 2009 VTA Annual Monitoring and Conformance Report released in February of 2010 showed bike traffic along Moffett Park Drive at Borregas had increased 99% over the previous year without the bridge. The cumulative impact of the bike lanes, bridges and trails can be seen in the trends from the transportation survey conducted annually by MPBG since its founding. Typically over 10,000 round-trip, weekday commutes are reported. Our 2011 annual survey, based on 16,740 round-trip, weekday commutes was conducted in October, one year after the Bay Trail opened. Bike commuting has now risen to fourth place as an alternative mode in our surveys, trailing van/carpools, employer shuttles and the VTA bus.

The proposed completion of the Bay Trail and bike infrastructure improvements can have a similar impact for the Facebook site, located as Moffett Park is, near the Bay Trail and a non-walkable distance from Caltrain. As the MPBG has seen, improved bicycle access diverts some employees from using their cars for their commutes. Hence this is an important tool to provide Facebook for their successful reduction in traffic congestion.

These improvements will also serve other commuters in the area, to motivate them to bicycle to work, including the commuters in the Moffett Park area. As a result, cars will be taken off the road, resulting in reduced traffic congestion and a cleaner environment for those who live and work in the area.

For these reasons, MPBG wants to convey our support for the Planning Commission Staff Report recommendations to improve bicycle circulation and to encourage securing funding for completion of the gap in the Bay Trail near the Facebook site. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Haywood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K".

Kerry Haywood
Executive Director

Cc: MPBG Board of Directors