

Community Input Shapes the Future of Transportation on the Midcoast

Connect the Coastside 2020 Outreach Summary Report

Thank You

San Mateo County staff would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the public working draft of the Connect the Coastside plan (CtC), a Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan for the San Mateo County Midcoast. The goal of Connect the Coastside is to improve mobility and safety for residents and visitors of the Midcoast, and the input received from community members is vital to creating a strong plan that outlines the vision of transportation on the Midcoast.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the Connect the Coastside outreach efforts that took place from January through August 2020. This report:

- Provides an overview of the outreach efforts
- Summarizes the feedback on the draft Plan and proposed updates
- Presents the timeline for finalizing Connect the Coastside and previews additional opportunities for future input and involvement

Greater detail and additional materials relating to the outreach efforts, comments, and proposed updates to CtC can be found in the Appendices 1 through 7 of this report.

Background

The original stimulus for Connect the Coastside came from the [San Mateo County Local Coastal Program](#) (LCP) Policy 2.53, which requires the development of a comprehensive transportation management plan to address the cumulative traffic impacts of residential development on the Midcoast. Development for CtC began in 2014 and included creating development forecasts, projecting future traffic, identifying transportation deficiencies, and analyzing potential improvements and development constraints.

On January 15, 2020, San Mateo County released a public working draft of the Connect the Coastside Plan for public review and feedback. The Plan recommends programs and infrastructure projects to improve mobility and accommodate transportation needs due to future development and growth through the year 2040. The Plan's recommendations are focused on the areas surrounding Highway 1 and Highway 92 and includes the unincorporated Midcoast communities of Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton and Miramar.

The Connect the Coastside project team consists of staff from the San Mateo County Planning and Building Department working in collaboration with staff from the Office of Sustainability, County Manager's Office, the Department of Public Works and consultants from DKS Associates. The Plan has also been shaped with the help of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that includes Caltrans, City of Half Moon Bay, SamTrans, and many more.

Outreach Efforts

The bulk of recent Connect the Coastside outreach efforts took place from April to August 2020 and are summarized in this section. In-person outreach events were originally planned for March and April 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project team postponed and reimagined outreach efforts to ensure the safety of participants. The goals of the outreach efforts were to hear from as many different Coastside stakeholders as possible and to provide multiple ways to learn about and provide comments on the Plan. Several outreach opportunities focused on reaching a broad cross-section of Coastside stakeholders including youth, mono-lingual Spanish speakers, workers, renters, and low-income residents.

Listening to the Midcoast Survey

The project team reviewed findings from the Listening to the Midcoast Mobility **online survey**, led by the Midcoast Community Council and Supervisor Horsley's office. These findings helped to inform and shape the Connect the Coastside outreach efforts.

Updates to the Website

To share information and provide an opportunity for people to provide comments, the project team made the following updates to the Connect the Coastside website:

- Created and posted a **library** of past CtC [documents and meeting materials](#)
- Posted a recorded CtC overview **presentation**
- Developed and shared 7 **factsheets** summarizing the CtC proposed projects and policies
- Added a **comment box** for community members to submit comments and sign up for the CtC emailing list

Comments received through both the comment box and emailed to the project team are incorporated into the summary of comments and proposed changes, detailed in Appendix 7.

Virtual Community Meetings

Between May and June 2020, the Connect the Coastside project team held three virtual community meetings with Coastside community members to share information about the draft Plan and to gather community input to inform the Plan's goals and proposed projects. Each meeting included the following:

- Welcome from County District 3 Supervisor Don Horsley
- Presentation on Connect the Coastside
- Polls to learn about the participants and their transportation priorities
- Question and answer session
- Breakout rooms for small group discussions with feedback recorded by notetakers
- Report out to the larger group from the small group discussions
- Explanation of next steps for moving forward with the Plan

The three virtual community meetings were conducted in English and were not translated into Spanish, as the project team heard feedback that bilingual virtual meetings with real time translation did not provide the best experience for Spanish speakers. In total, about 132 community members participated across the three public workshops. Some participated in all three workshops while others attended one

or two. A detailed summary of the meetings and responses to questions are provided in Appendices 1 through 5.

<u>Meeting Date and Topic</u>	<u>Approximate # of Attendees</u>
5/30 Overview of Connect the Coastsides	40
6/15 Moss Beach, Montara	60
6/30 El Granada, Princeton, Miramar	32

Youth Group Meeting

The project team collaborated with the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) to host a virtual Zoom meeting on July 7, 2020 to connect with youth who live, work, and/or visit the Coastsides, hear about their transportation experiences and needs, and ensure that their needs are incorporated in CtC. The County provided an overview presentation on Connect the Coastsides similar to the May 30th virtual community meeting. Youth participants shared their perspectives on what’s working well and what is challenging when it comes to transportation, which Plan ideas are most important, how to improve access to their favorite places, and their vision for transportation on the coast. Students also responded to several poll questions about how they get around. Biking, walking and transit improvements were most important to this group who rely on family members and friends to get around since they cannot drive. Notes from youth meeting are included in Appendix 6.

<u>Outreach Method</u>	<u>Views and Responses</u>
July 7, 2020 Youth focus group	7 youth and 2 staff members from YLI

Spanish Language Outreach

To hear from monolingual Spanish speakers who live and work on the Midcoast, the project team used a combination of strategies to provide information about the Plan and ask for input. Outreach was designed to make participation easy and accessible by reaching people in places they already visited and by providing multiple options for participation. The Spanish language options for learning about Connect the Coastsides and providing feedback included:

- A Spanish language Connect the Coastsides **webpage**
- Seven Spanish language Connect the Coastsides **factsheets**
- A 20-minute recorded **presentation** in Spanish that provides an overview of Connect the Coastsides and was posted to the Spanish language CtC webpage
- Short (2-3 minute) **videos** in both Spanish and English posted to the ALAS and Coastsides Hope Facebook pages, describing Connect the Coastsides and asking for input
- A **paper survey** in Spanish and English distributed through the Coastsides Hope front desk and food distribution, ALAS food distribution, Pillar Ridge, and El Granada Elementary School lunch service
- **Phone and online surveys** conducted in Spanish

These efforts were successful in reaching a number of people, including:

<u>Outreach Method</u>	<u>Views and Responses</u>
20-minute recorded presentation	14 views
ALAS Facebook Spanish video & comments	137 views, 2 comments
Coastside Hope Spanish video & comments	77 views
Coastside Hope English video & comments	92 views
Paper Survey	25 returned, 16 in Spanish and 9 in English
Online Survey	8 responses
Phone Survey	6 phone surveys completed in Spanish

Montara Water and Sanitary District Board Meeting

On April 4, 2020, County staff presented information about Connect the Coastside to the Montara Water and Sewer District Board and received feedback. This feedback is incorporated into the summary of comments and proposed changes, detailed in Appendix 7.

Midcoast Community Council Meetings

The [Midcoast Community Council](#) (MCC) is an elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar. The MCC has played an important role in the development of Connect the Coastside, providing advice on how to reach the Midcoast community and providing feedback and guidance on the Plan. Two MCC meetings in the summer of 2020 solicited feedback from community members on the Connect the Coastside:

- **July 8, 2020:** County staff presented on topics that were not covered in the May and June 2020 virtual meetings, including proposed projects for Highway 92 and land use programs.
- **July 29, 2020:** The MCC held a special meeting to conduct a study session on Connect the Coastside for members of the community to provide feedback.

Feedback received during the MCC meetings are incorporated into the summary of comments and proposed changes, detailed in Appendix 7.

<u>MCC Meeting Date</u>	<u>Responses</u>
July 8, 2020	4 MCC members and 5 members of the public provided comments
July 29, 2020	5 MCC members and 11 members of the public provided comments

Summary of Comments & Proposed Changes

The project team received feedback on various topics in the Plan. Below is a summary of major themes we heard and a snapshot of proposed changes to update Connect the Coastside. The complete summary of comments and proposed changes to the Plan is available in Appendix 7.

What We Heard

In general, commenters were supportive of the recommended projects that create safer places to walk, bike, and take transit. These include:

- The Multimodal Parallel Trail
- Marked crossings of Highway 1 with other safety features like median islands and lights
- Safe routes to school
- Bicycle lanes and bicycle parking
- Shelters and benches at bus stops
- More frequent and express buses

Commenters were more divided on the Plan's recommendations to improve driving. There were different opinions about the following:

- Whether intersections should have roundabouts, traffic signals or any control
- Providing additional parking and where it should be located
- The roadway design treatments that are best for the Midcoast

Several commenters focused feedback on specific locations in Moss Beach, including the proposed recommendations for Carlos Street. Others had concerns about the transportation and land use data used to inform the Plan's recommendations and wanted to know more about the impact of projects on traffic congestion and emergency response. Several commenters highlighted inconsistencies between the recommendations in the draft Plan and other planning efforts, like Plan Princeton. Many commenters were concerned about how long it would take to implement projects and wanted to know more about how projects would be funded. A few commenters were interested in the land use policy recommendations and suggested making them mandatory.

Proposed Changes to Connect the Coastside

The project team will work to update the Plan to clarify the recommendations, planning process, and next steps. Below are some of the proposed revisions to the Plan:

- Ensure consistency with ongoing and past planning efforts (like Plan Princeton and the Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Study), including updating maps and project descriptions.
- Add a chapter to describe the history of Connect the Coastside, including past outreach efforts.
- Revise the Plan's goals and include more to address environmental sustainability, accessibility for all ages and abilities, emergency response, and evacuation.
- Update and/or change specific project recommendations including: revise Highway 92 bikeways recommendation to widened shoulders only; remove Highway 92 climbing lanes; change Highway 92 roundabouts to signals; removing the recommendation for the Moss Beach Park and Ride lot; recommend roundabouts on Highway 1 with additional description about necessary studies and approval from Caltrans; removing recommendation for bus stop at Carlos St / 16th St and re-routing bus.
- Expand the implementation chapter to include a potential timeline and phased approach for project implementation, including a description of the community engagement process that will need to accompany certain projects during future project-level implementation.

Next Steps

An estimated timeline of future meetings and actions on the Connect the Coasts Plan is provided below.

Estimated Timeline	Action
September 2020	Present proposed updates at a Midcoast Community Council study session
October 2020	Update plan
November 2020	Present updated plan to Midcoast Community Council
December 2020	Planning Commission workshop on updated plan
January 2020	Final updates the plan and environmental review documents
February 2021	Publish final draft and environmental review documents
February 2021	Midcoast Community Council meeting to consider recommendation on plan
February 2021	Half Moon Bay Planning Commission meeting to consider recommendation on plan
March 2021	Planning Commission meeting to consider recommendation on plan
April 2021	Board of Supervisor meeting to consider plan approval

To Stay Involved and to Learn More:

- Visit the County's [Connect the Coasts web page](#) to sign up for email updates and for detailed plan and meeting information
- Visit the [Midcoast Community Council webpage](#) for information on MCC meetings and documents related to CtC
- Share this meeting report with your networks and people who were not able to attend
- For questions on Connect the Coasts, please contact Katie Faulkner at kfaulkner@smcgov.org

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Virtual Community Meeting Summary

Appendix 2 - Response to Connect the Coasts Virtual Meeting Inquiries

Appendix 3 - May 30th Meeting Poll Data & Small Group Discussion Notes

Appendix 4 - June 15th Meeting Poll Data & Small Group Discussion Notes

Appendix 5 - June 25th Meeting Poll Data & Small Group Discussion Notes

Appendix 6 - July 7th Youth Meeting Group Poll Data & Discussion Notes

Appendix 7 - Summary of Comments on Connect the Coasts & Proposed Changes