

April 29, 2013

I ride from San Anselmo to the city several times a week. I know this tunnel will greatly enhance that riding experience for me and many other riders.

This is a vital North/South link and will take bicycles off the narrow and rough Camino Alto road. This easement should be for the benefit of all non-car transportation for Marin County.

I think it is shameful that the owners of property bordering this key transit link are fighting this.

Meade Boutwell

April 27, 2013

Dear GPAC:

I have lived in Mill Valley and biked in Marin for 16 years. Indeed, access to various outdoor activities, such as hiking, jogging, and of course bicycling, is one of the primary reasons I live in Mill Valley. I suspect many of you live here for similar reasons.

If you live in Mill Valley and want to leave the city on a road bike, passing over the Camino Alto hill is a requirement for probably 80% or more of the most popular rides. Unfortunately, passing over the hill will probably be the most unpleasant part of your ride, not because the hill is too steep or the scenery ugly, but because there is no shoulder, a lot of (impatient) traffic, and broken asphalt. I have been forced off the road several times. One time a driver did so intentionally, then proceeded to tell me I was required to stay to the right of the white line! As we all know, there is no space to the right of the line. Riding over the hill is dangerous for bicyclists and annoying to drivers.

I also commute to work most days. On the way home I often see tourists cycling over the GG Bridge, through Sausalito and across the bike path. When they reach Blithedale, they generally head to Tiburon. Yes, one reason is access to the ferry. But if the tunnel were open tourists could linger in Mill Valley, then continue north, enjoy Corte Madera, San Rafael, and take the Larkspur ferry back to the city.

I could continue. There are many reasons why opening the tunnel makes sense for bike riders of all abilities and ages, and I fully support that we do so.

Regards,

Philip Brewer

Dear GPAC,

I understand that GPAC removed language in the plan that supported "considering feasibility assessments" for opening the Alto Tunnel. I, as do thousands of other riders in Marin, strongly support the tunnel and ask that the opening of the tunnel be included in the General Plan. This tunnel is the best solution to provide a safe and separate bike/ped route between Mill Valley and Corte Madera/Larkspur and to connect safe biking routes from San Francisco to all of Marin. As a resident of this area for 35 years area, I ride Camino Alto regularly, and I can tell you it is dangerous. I saw one biker last year swerve to miss oncoming traffic coming into Corte Madera and crash on the pavement. He broke multiple bones and could have been killed.

The tunnel is a no brainer for safety, to increase ridership and reduce pollution, and to drive more business from tourists from San Francisco across Marin. Please put the language back in there before it moves forward to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

Yours,

Dan Brousseau
109 Evergreen Ave
Mill Valley, CA

May 1, 2013

Dear GPAC:

I can't attend tomorrow's meeting, but just to let you know that I completely support the Alto tunnel and at least a feasibility study.

The car and bike traffic on Camino Alto must addresses in some fashion. The road surface is uneven, there is no bike lane or shoulder, and there is a lot of traffic. For safety reasons an alternative must be discussed. Is a new tunnel the right answer, I do not know, but it is worth at least a look.

Tom Crowell

San Anselmo

p.s. I have personal experience being side swiped by a car, not on Camino Alto, while on my bike resulting in serious injury. I would not want anyone to have the same misfortune.

April 27, 2013

We need safe places to ride bikes, so people will get out of their cars and ride.

Susan Deardorff

April 26, 2013

Dear General Plan Advisory Committee Members:

It is extremely imperative that we go forward with the alto tunnel for the safety of hundreds of people of all incomes and ages and allow them to safely pass a traffic ridden and difficult roads (Meadowsweet and Camino Alto) to and from school and work. Currently, this is opposed by an entitled and inconsiderate few people who are not, and will not, at all be encumbered by the tunnel which will undoubtedly help many people.

Kevin Foley
Mill Valley

April 29, 2013

Dear MV General Plan Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for re-opening th Alto Tunnel, and to express my dismay that it has been deleted from the General Plan.

I live in Corte Madera, almost right above the tunnel route. As a bike rider and runner, I am very well aware of the danger presented by the narrow and winding Camino Alto/Corte Madera Ave. I would be very happy never to have to be on that road again unless I was in a car. Please re-consider the feasibility study for re-opening the tunnel. Please make it possible to travel on muscle power between Mill Valley and Corte Madera without risking your life!

Thank you,

Janet Furman
645 Chapman Dr
Corte Madera CA 94925

To: MV2040 General Plan Advisory Committee,

Regarding the Alto tunnel:

Though I am from Santa Cruz, CA, I visit friends in Marin several times a month. We always take bicycle trips and we all love to venture across Mt Tam and throughout the beautiful Bay shorelands, often stopping at Sam's Cafe in Tiburon. I think the Alto Tunnel would be a stunningly grand improvement over the steep and noisy Hwy 1, frontage bikepath which we currently use. The only other route - the Alto something or other road up the hill - is a scary deathtrap and I would NEVER willingly take a friend or relative over that road. BTW, we all love the new tunnel to San Rafael... job well done, Marin county!!! Subsequently, it's opened up China Camp as a destination for my family and friends.

In summary please put the Alto Tunnel back into the general plan.

William Hangen
314 Swift St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

April 28, 2013

To The MV2040 General Plan Advisory Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for re-opening the Alto Tunnel to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The Alto Tunnel is an essential link in the creation of a safe north-south transit corridor for pedestrians and cyclists. Currently, as you know, pedestrians and cyclists wishing to transit between Corte Madera and Mill Valley must make a long and arduous climb and descent, either along the side of Highway 101 by Horse Hill or along the sinuous blind curves of Camino Alto.

While a portion of the Horse Hill route is a segregated multi-use path, most of the route is on streets without any provision for cyclists and scant provision for pedestrians. The Camino Alto route is so dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists that it does not even merit consideration.

Putting aside for a moment any consideration of safety, the current available routes are simply too steep and long for many of us to walk or ride. The distance from Town Center to the Sloat Garden Center on East Blithedale via Horse Hill is 2.8 mi., and via Camino Alto 3.5 mi.; almost the entire distance on either route comprises steep ascents and descents. Not only would a route via the Alto Tunnel significantly shorten the distance, it would also provide a much more level and much more "doable" route for those of us on the far side of 60.

I have heard that some residents in Corte Madera have expressed concern that noise from users of the tunnel would disturb their peace and quiet, in which case I would ask, How much noise does a bicycle or a pair of walking shoes make? To answer this, one only has to take, as I do regularly, the multi-use path along Corte Madera Creek between Marin General Hospital and College of Marin or between Hwy. 101 and South Eliseo to know that the answer is, "precious little".

Some have stated that the cost of renovating and re-opening the tunnel would be excessive, yet no one seems concerned that we are spending \$700 million to widen Hwy. 101 between Novato and Petaluma (see "More work starts on Novato Narrows project, carpool lanes to be extended by end of year", Marin Independent Journal, 04/02/2013 04:57:04 PM PDT), or that CalTrans is proposing an expenditure in excess of \$150 million on the one-mile stretch of Hwy. 101 between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Tamalpais Drive (see <http://www.marinconservationleague.org/hot-topic-1/361-highway-101.html>). Some say that we should not spend millions on bike and pedestrian facilities because there is insufficient traffic to justify the expenditures; however, the 2010 County of Marin Study indicated that as many as 1,850,000 people could use the Alto Tunnel annually, providing Marin County residents with a safe, separate (from automobiles), and flat route between the Mill Valley and Corte Madera. The fact is, there is not a lot of pedestrian and cycle traffic in Marin County because the infrastructure is woefully and dangerously inadequate. As a cyclist who has been struck by a car, I can say with some authority that few are willing to vie with two- and three-ton motor vehicles driven by harried, rushed drivers on narrow, busy streets lined on both sides with

parked cars. Cities, counties and regions around the world that have invested in safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle infrastructure have seen dramatic increases in their use, proving that "if you build it they will come".

I urge you to reinsert the language in the plan that supported "considering feasibility assessments" for opening the Alto Tunnel, which was removed without adequate discussion at your April 25 meeting.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Harris
34 Woodoaks Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
(Daily user of the new Lincoln Hill Bike Path)

Dear GPAC members,

I live in Scott Valley, near the mouth of the historic Alto Tunnel, and have for more than two decades. I am writing to strongly support opening the tunnel for biking.

The reasons are almost self-evident for anyone with the values that our county espouses:

- It will increase safety. It is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt or killed riding over Camino Alto. The fact that the county knows this, but has dithered on a solution for decades, is really a shame.
- It will decrease traffic and pollution. There is abundant evidence, from across the world, that good bike facilities attract bike riders, just as massive highways attract cars. If our vision for Marin includes green spaces, clean air, and healthy people, we need to build the right infrastructure. The hill between Corte Madera and Mill Valley is one of the last obstacles to a serious bike strategy for Marin: Let's fix it!
- It creates options for kids. Owning a car should not be price for access in Marin. Today, it is.
- It will enhance our neighborhood. The bike path is a tremendous resource: It brings families together, connects people of different ages, facilitates healthy commutes, ties our towns together, and more. The tunnel will add markedly to those fine features.

Think back on the vision our leaders showed in 1976, when they dedicated the original bike path. It is used by hundreds of people every day, from kids to the elderly, the poor and the wealthy, jocks and strollers. We owe them great thanks: Isn't the best way of showing that to finish the job?

As a homeowner, a father, a taxpayer, and a resident of Marin dedicated to making it better, I would like to offer my strongest support for the Alto Tunnel.

Hal Harvey
6 Compton Circle
Mill Valley, CA 94941

HERBERT DONALD HERZOG

April 28, 2013

General Plan Advisory Committee
26 Corte Madera Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear Committee Members:

Re: Inclusion of Alto Tunnel in General Plan

I understand that reference to the Alto Tunnel was removed from the draft General Plan based on the testimony of a single opponent. The Alto Tunnel has been thoroughly discussed at several prior meetings and was repeatedly deemed important to include in the General Plan.

The Alto Tunnel is critical to many of the goals of the General Plan. It is the only non-motorized route to the rest of the County that will be accessible to kids, the elderly, the non-athletic, and the handicapped. It is the only route that will result in significant mode shift to non-motorized transportation and which will reduce greenhouse gases. The tunnel will provide emergency access to the remainder of the County and can even function as a fall-out shelter in case the unthinkable occurs. Reconstructing the tunnel for non-motorized multi-use will stabilize the existing collapsing tunnel and will restore support for improvements above and near the tunnel. If the tunnel is not restored, it will cost the taxpayers many millions of dollars to properly abandon the existing tunnel and protect the adjacent improvements. The tunnel is the key element in a non-motorized transportation network connecting a hundred miles of multi-use paths and is necessary to implement many of the goals expressed by the General Plan.

The Alto Tunnel **MUST** be addressed in the General Plan, and failure to do so will reduce the General Plan to little more than a collection of meaningless platitudes.

Yours truly,

H. Donald Herzog

April 27, 2013

Dear General Plan Advisory Committee:

As a regular bike commuter from Fairfax to Strawberry, I would use the Alto tunnel if it was available. I will be out of town on May 2nd, but I strongly support opening the alto tunnel. To me the reasons are obvious; safer cycling, less congested roads, less pollution, better health, and a more connected community.

Regards,

Mark Knowles.

Dear General Plan Advisory Committee,

I am a resident of the Alto neighborhood in Mill Valley and live right along the bike path parallel to Lomita Drive. I have been following the debate about the re-opening of the Alto tunnel for a long time and I wanted to write you--and to whomever else might be interested--to share my strong support for this project. I have read that some neighbors in either Mill Valley or Corte Madera along the bike path have opposed the re-opening of the Alto tunnel--but I am definitely not one of them! We want the tunnel open again!

My school-age children and I bike frequently all over our Mill Valley and even Corte Madera neighborhoods close by and beyond, and having the Alto tunnel re-opened would make it so much easier for us to bike back and forth between Mill Valley and Corte Madera. The bike path parallel to the highway is an unpleasant option that have no choice but to take and must suffer whenever we take it due to the constant, unpleasant highway noise and pollution. In addition, whenever we ride to Corte Madera and try to return via the neighborhood streets closer to Camino Alto away from the highway, the streets are so steep that my children simply cannot make the ride. Taking Camino Alto is also not a viable option for me and my children due to the traffic danger of taking this long, narrow and curvy road. So simply re-opening the tunnel would have a direct and positive impact on our family and our biking activities in terms of our recreational activities and the health and safety of my children.

I also want to share that while I expect and assume that there would be some kind of increase of foot and bike traffic along the bike path near our home, I would welcome it for a number of reasons. First of all, the greater the number of people out and about increases the general security of the area for my children for it means there are more people about to serve as the communal eyes and ears of the neighborhood. Secondly, it would probably increase the number of customers at the stores in the E. Blithedale mall by our home that we support and want to ensure their success. And finally, re-opening the tunnel would continue to improve the overall pedestrian-biking infrastructure of the county, reducing the number of cars on the streets, reducing traffic congestion and pollution, and increasing the likelihood of more people accessing Marin's wonderful outdoor resources and staying healthier.

I hope that the Alto tunnel will be re-opened in time for my elementary aged school children to enjoy before they go off to college! And if not for them, then simply for me and my wife to enjoy and take advantage of!

Sincerely

Daniel Kohn

April 30, 2013

Dear MV2040 General Plan Advisory Committee,

I am very disturbed to learn that the MV2040 General Plan Advisory Committee has removed language from Mill Valley's draft **MV2040 General Plan** that supported "considering feasibility assessments" for opening the Alto Tunnel.

As a Larkspur resident who sometimes rides a bike over the steep and dangerous Camino Alto connection between our two communities I have a strong interest in seeing the Alto Tunnel reopened one day for pedestrians and bicycles.

Just last week, my wife and I were in Washington DC and extensively used the bikeshare system there. We were amazed at how efficient and fun it was to hop on a bike, ride to a destination primarily on bikeways, then drop off the bike. The bikes are transportation bikes designed specifically for this purpose. They have comfortable, adjustable seats, lights, and great brakes. They are equipped with three speeds – enough to go up a modest grade, but not for climbing hills.

I was thinking about how such a system could work in Marin County, and immediately hit on the importance of opening the Alto Tunnel. Have you ridden a bike through the Cal Park tunnel? It changed everything in terms of connecting Ross Valley and San Rafael for non-automobile transportation, and without negative consequence to either community.

This is to request that you include in Mill Valley's MV2040 General Plan feasibility assessments for, and the possibility of, opening the Alto Tunnel. You well know that the purpose of preparing a general plan is to look forward. Please don't get stuck looking backward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Moller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Moller".

David Moller
36 Cedar Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939

April 30, 2013

Dear MV2040 General Plan Advisory Committee,

I understand that the MV2040 General Plan Advisory Committee has removed language from Mill Valley's draft **MV2040 General Plan** that supported "considering feasibility assessments" for opening the Alto Tunnel.

As a Larkspur resident who sometimes rides a bike over the steep and dangerous Camino Alto connection between our two communities I have a strong interest in seeing the Alto Tunnel reopened one day for pedestrians and bicycles.

This is to request that you include in Mill Valley's MV2040 General Plan feasibility assessments for, and the possibility of, opening the Alto Tunnel for bikes and pedestrians.

Sincerely,
Robin Moller
36 Cedar Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939

April 29, 2013

To the General Plan Advisory Committee:

My husband and I ride 2x weekly to and from Mill Valley to take care of our beloved mother/mother in law. Since both of us are fit, we can ride over the hill, but we're planning on a bicycle future that will accommodate those who are not fit, and will revel in the ease of TUNNEL-PEDALING (or walking). It is a big mistake to leave out non-motorized options in our County, when 'traffic' routinely sits as the number one Issue of Concern among polled residents.

The public health benefits and personal fitness derived from routine tunnel use go without needing further elaboration.

Please plan for the future, in this perennially aged and aging county. We can afford a tunnel but we can't afford delay.

JP

April 30, 2013

Dear General Plan Advisory Committee:

Thanks to bike-to-work day a few years ago I started biking to work on a semi-regular basis. I live in Sausalito & work in Corte Madera. One of the main reasons I don't bike more often is because of the hill between Mill Valley & Corte Madera. I always take the bike path & ride next to the 101. As I'm usually breathing very hard (& going slow) sucking those fumes in is never a very pleasant thought. Not to mention going up & down that hill - it definitely stops me from biking on a more daily basis.

After the tunnel opened between Larkspur & San Rafael I went thru that and was amazed at how lovely & fun it was. If the Alto Tunnel was opened I would be biking so much more. I firmly believe this would be a boost to biking commuters as well as people just out for a bike ride. I have another co-worker in my complex who comes from SF and we've talked about biking together. He has also said that part of the journey gives him pause. I urge you to open the tunnel - it would be a wonderful addition to this wonderful county.

Thanks,
Sue Plotnick
300 Napa St
Sausalito

I am out of town and cannot attend next GPAC meeting, but want to throw my support solidly behind the Alto Tunnel re-opening.

This is a must for those many that commute from Mill Valley/Sausalito to Larkspur/Corte Madera and vice versa.

Harvey L. and Lee Poppel

147 Gilmartin Drive
Tiburon, CA 94920

MICHAEL REX ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
1 7 5 0 B R I D G E W A Y
S U I T E B 2 1 1
S A U S A L I T O
C A L I F O R N I A 9 4 9 6 5
T 4 1 5 3 3 1 1 4 0 0
F 4 1 5 3 3 1 5 4 6 3
MICHAELREXASSOCIATES.COM

April 29, 2013

General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)
City of Mill Valley
26 Corte Madera Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

**RE: DRAFT GENERAL PLAN - MV2040
ALTO TUNNEL**

Dear Members of the GPAC;

It has recently come to my attention that it was decided at your last meeting to remove language in Mill Valley's Draft General Plan, which supported, "considering feasibility assessments" for reopening the Alto Tunnel. I am writing to request that you reconsider and restore this wording in the Draft.

It is essential that this tunnel be rebuilt as necessary to restore this key alternative transportation link between southern and central Marin. If we are ever going to succeed in getting people out of their cars, we must provide a meaningful alternative mode of transportation. The Alto Tunnel is an important part of this objective.

The Alto Tunnel is an essential connection in the planned North/South Greenway, which will provide a wise and necessary means for bicyclist to commute to work and services. Few other than athletes can ride over the steep Camino Alto/Corte Madera grade. A level route the Tunnel offers will allow people of all ages and skill levels to travel by bike and on foot. At multiple hearings and in a petition signed by over 2,000 people, the public has demonstrated they want this tunnel reopened.

The General Plan sets the community's vision for the next 20 years. Mill Valley cannot seriously address climate change and responsible land planning without including multi-modal transportation measures in its vision for our future. A reopened Alto Tunnel must be part of Mill Valley's long-term transportation goals.

I urge you to put the Alto Tunnel back in the Draft General Plan.

Sincerely,



Michael Rex, Architect

April 28, 2013

Dear MV2404 GPAC Members:

Please keep the alto tunnel in the mv2040 general plan! My husband and I ride our bikes all over the county and we're not getting any younger. Opening the tunnel will allow us to ride safely and longer into our old age.

We need as many walking and biking trails as possible. These trails build community and a positive healthy spirit in our county.

Carol Stern
Blake Richardson

Dear Council,

Our family of 4 (ages 50, 41, 9, and 12) strongly support the opening of the Alto tunnel. We are residents of Corte Madera and would use the tunnel for the following purposes:

- 1) Dad commutes on the bike to Sausalito daily and it would make his ride much safer than the current route where he was struck by a car last year (sent letter to IJ)
- 2) Family would go to Mill Valley on bikes to support local business such as Swirl, movie theater, etc...
- 3) Family would use tunnel in an emergency if roads were blocked - also tunnel could serve as emergency shelter/communications center in case of flood, earthquake, fire
- 4) Corte Madera business would prosper from MV residents riding to the Town Center and Larkspur
- 5) Son would ride to MV soccer games and practices (currently we must drive).
- 6) Reduce congestion on HWY 101 and traffic/parking in MV

Thank you for your serious consideration of our support for opening the Alto Tunnel.

Cheers,

Perry Robertson

Pamela Y. Stone



8 Escalon Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
Phone: (415) 381-1593
Fax: (415) 381-3876
E-Mail: yatstone@comcast.net

Dear General Plan Advisory Committee,

I support the opening of the Alto Tunnel and am dismayed to learn of the removal of language in the General Plan that supported the possibility of feasibility assessments for opening the tunnel. I hope that you will reconsider.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Y. Stone