

**Morgan Hill Transportation Master Plan**  
**Community Meeting #2**  
**Thursday August 29th, 2024**  
**Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center**  
**Meeting Summary**

The City of Morgan Hill hosted a community outreach meeting on August 29th, 2024, from 6:00 to approximately 7:30 p.m. to discuss and present information related to the City's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) effort. The meeting was held at the City's Community and Cultural Center, 17000 Monterey Highway in Morgan Hill. Fourteen community members participated in the meeting. Approximately one third of the crowd indicated it was their first meeting on the topic, approximately one third of the attendees indicated they are members of the Stakeholder Committee.

This was the second community outreach meeting with members of the public regarding this project. The previous community meeting was held in November 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to get input from the community members on the goals and vision for the Transportation Master Plan, project priorities by location, feedback on potential city initiatives, and prioritization of proposed projects for future funding.

When queried about the meeting noticing on the sign in sheet, the attendees who signed in indicated they had received the City's 411 notice and received direct emails as the highest frequency of noticing tools. One person heard about the meeting through word of mouth and others indicated the Chamber of Commerce emails were also seen.

**Staff Attendees:** City of Morgan Hill: City's Project Lead Chris Ghione, Edith Ramirez, Assistant City Manager, Jennifer Carman, Community Development Director, Adam Paszkowski, Principal Planner Nolan Ugalde, Engineer and Andrew Giba, Communications Specialist.

**Consultant Project Team Staff Attendees:** Robert Del Rio Hexagon Project Manager, Shikha Jain, Hexagon; Aaron Sussman and Ellie Gertler, Toole Design; and Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies.

**Meeting Summary:**

Eileen Goodwin, meeting facilitator, reviewed the agenda and explained how the meeting would include a presentation as well as workshop stations to collect input. Although not utilized, the team had prepared to simultaneously conduct the meeting in Spanish with translated materials. Eileen explained that the materials at this meeting and the previous meetings are available on the city website.

The meeting followed the following agenda:

- Welcome and Agenda Review
- Understanding the Plan
- TMP Vision and Goals
- TMP Process
- Project Information
- Project Funding
- Workshop Stations
- Wrap Up and Reminder of Community Survey

A community member inquired about additional input opportunities since the turn out was light to the meeting. Eileen responded that the community would be encouraged to participate in an on-line survey that requested similar input from the workshop stations at the community meeting. She highlighted that the survey would be available for much of September to encourage input. She also explained that the city team was scheduling small group sessions with community groups such as schools to gather additional input utilizing the survey questions.

Chris Ghione, Public Services Director, thanked and welcomed the members of the community to the second community meeting for the Transportation Master Plan effort (TMP). He made formal introductions of the city staff in attendance.

Chris made the following points about the city's need for a TMP which would help address:

- Changes in City's Population
- Travel Options for all Residents and Modes of Travel
- The City's First Comprehensive Review of Transportation
- Funding Mechanisms for Improvements

Chris highlighted that this comprehensive review of the City's transportation system would guide policy and investment decisions for Morgan Hill's transportation network over the next 10-20 years. Chris reviewed the process that was utilized to develop the projects and information the community would learn about and give feedback to at the meeting. He highlighted the steps in the process included traffic projections, needs assessments, identification of strategies and projects to address issues and prioritization of those strategies and projects. Chris read the TMP Vision to the group: ***"To create a safe, connected, and efficient transportation system for all residents and visitors of Morgan Hill."***

Robert Del Rio, Hexagon Project Manager, introduced the consultant team and Robert gave an overview of the TMP community engagement efforts including the previous community meeting and on-line survey, the utilization of a 22 member community stakeholder group to vet topics and information developed through the process. He explained the current engagement effort with a second community meeting, another on-

line survey and small community engagement meetings. Robert outlined how the project team utilized data from speed surveys, traffic counts, mode share, accident data, community input and other sources to verify issues and develop solutions. Robert emphasized that safety was the number one priority. Each proposed project has a safety element and purpose. He explained the other TMP goals include increasing transportation options to driving a single occupant car, access to regional transit and local destinations as well as congestion management. He clarified that proposed improvements vary based on roadway conditions and land use context. He added they were being suggested for four categories; pedestrian improvements, bicycle improvements, vehicle operations and traffic calming. He shared photos of some physical improvements that are being considered such as roundabouts and buffered bike lanes. Robert spoke on the topics of project prioritization and trade offs related to physical roadway space. He highlighted that these topics would be the subject of workshop stations.

Chris returned to explain the funding available for transportation projects and he reviewed city initiatives and programs that would not be physical improvements but could be undertaken, or enhanced, such as driver education and school programs.

Eileen reviewed the city website availability and the upcoming on-line survey logistics. She explained the survey would go live on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and run through September 22<sup>nd</sup>. She highlighted it would be available by QR code in both English and Spanish.

Eileen reviewed the five workshop stations, and the input requested at each. There was no “right order” to the stations. She explained that sticky notes, pens, maps and dots would be used to gather community input. She explained some of the stations would be asking for priority voting through dots (funding, initiatives and programs and improvement priorities) while others have discussion questions for feedback (bike and pedestrian facilities as well as vehicle operations and traffic calming).

## **Five Stations:**

### Bike and Pedestrian Facilities:

- Use of roadway right-of-way
- Improved safety versus improved congestion

### Vehicle Operations and Traffic Calming:

- Preferred intersection control
- Preferred traffic calming device on residential streets
- Improved safety versus improved congestion

### Improvement Prioritization:

- Street segment improvements
- Intersection improvements

### Programs and Initiatives:

- Select programs for the city to spend additional resources on

### Funding:

- Select projects for priority funding

Eileen explained that there would be about nine minutes per station allotted and for those who chose to stay there would be a wrap-up summary of the themes from each station. Those wrap up comments are highlighted below. Attendees were reminded the stations could be done in any order.

The members spent approximately forty-five minutes giving their input on the station topics. These are the report out notes from each station:

### **Bike and Pedestrian Facilities:**

Attendees who voted chose parking removal to provide bike lanes. They chose the safety of protected intersections even if it caused some vehicle delays. The attendees also requested safer street crossings around schools and better trail access.

Additional comments received at the station include:

#### **Intersections/crossings:**

- Question about loop detectors at signalized intersections; cycle length is too short for bicyclists if they are not detected at the intersection
- Desire for pedestrian detectors at signalized crossings that would extend the walk phase when pedestrians are in the intersection and shorten the walk phase when they have finished crossing the intersection

#### **E-bikes/Trails:**

- Improved signage desired to clarify the use of e-bikes on multi-use trails; this would inform non-cyclists that e-bikes are legal users, and establish which classes of e-bikes are permitted
- Trail access points need to better accommodate heavy e-bikes, especially West Little Llagas Creek Trail

**Location-specific comments:**

- All-way stop desired at Del Monte Ave and Main Ave
- Creating an all-way stop at Elm and Main Ave was a big improvement
- Desire for improved access to Walmart via Serene Drive from Main Ave
- Access to Madrone Channell from Diana Ave
- Crossing of Cochrane Ave to access the Madrone Channel is the “most dangerous intersection in Morgan Hill”

**Vehicle Operations and Traffic Calming:**

Attendees at this station preferred both curb extensions and traffic circles. The feedback was also split between traffic signals and roundabouts. There was a request for adaptive signals for Butterfield Blvd. however there were questions about how that would “really work.”

**Improvement Prioritization:**

The attendees enhanced the map and dot exercise with additional notes requesting focus on school crossings, curb cuts, no parking near school drop offs, and additional cross walks to access schools.

While the dots were scattered throughout the city, the intersection priorities with the most dots included:

- Depot Street/Main Ave.
- Monterey Road/Watsonville Road/Butterfield Blvd.
- Monterey Road/Wright Ave.
- Monterey Road/Burnett Ave.
- Monterey Road/Central Ave.
- Santa Teresa Blvd/Sunnyside Ave./Watsonville Road

The most dotted road segments included:

- La Crosse Drive
- Monterey Road from Vineyard Blvd. to Dunne Ave.
- Monterey Road from Dunne Ave. to Main Ave.

**Programs and Initiatives:**

Attendees highlighted most frequently the following programs: safe routes to school walk audits, developing traffic calming standards, enhanced pedestrian and bicycle

detection, and maintenance of existing and new sidewalks. There were several other programs that also received some votes.

**Funding:**

The projects requested for prioritization were related to traffic calming and roundabouts.

After the wrap up, Eileen reminded the community to spread the word about the survey and to sign-up for the email list.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

*Meeting summary prepared by Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies.*