

Puerto Suello Hill Pathway

Project Number: 2302 **X** PROJECT COMPLETED DECEMBER, 2010



LOCATION

West side of Highway 101 between Mission Avenue and the Puerto Suello Hill summit near Fair Drive (San Rafael)

COST

\$43,000,000 (part of larger freeway project)

FUNDING SOURCES

STIP \$10,346,000; CMAQ \$20,173,000; RIP \$2,065,000; TFCA \$884,700; Measure A \$16,111,300

COMPLETION DATE

December, 2010

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of the final phase of the Highway 101 Gap Closure project, a separated Class I pathway was constructed on the west side of the freeway. The path begins at Mission Avenue in San Rafael at Hetherton Street and ends at the south end of Merrydale Road and connects the northern end of the Puerto Suello-to-Transit Center Connector (Project 2007) with the Los Ranchitos Connector (Project 2008).

At its southern end, the path travels along Stevenson Street with a connection to the existing pedestrian overcrossing at Paloma Avenue. Continuing north, the path is adjacent to the freeway, separated by a concrete safety barrier and fencing. A bridge over Linden Lane has been constructed, along with a connecting path to the current underpass to connect with Grand Avenue. At the summit, a tunnel has been constructed under the southbound freeway on and off ramps to separate cyclists and pedestrians from this very busy interchange. The path ends at Merrydale Road with a connection to the new Class II bike lanes continuing to the north on Ranchitos Road. The path is lighted for its entire length.



The Puerto Suello Hill Path provides a grade separated connection between Merrydale road and Mission Avenue with a 12' wide multiuse pathway for pedestrians and cyclists.



Access to adjacent neighborhoods is provided, such as from Paloma Avenue and Pacheco Street. the path also connects with the Coleman overcrossing which provides a connection across Highway 101 to the Dominican neighborhood (above right, lower right).

For questions, please contact Bill Gamlen, Transportation Authority of Marin, bgamlen@tam.ca.gov or 415-507-2661.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The path provides a critical link in the North/South Bikeway providing an alternative for cyclists and pedestrians to Lincoln Avenue through this busy corridor connecting Terra Linda and the Civic Center with downtown San Rafael. Via Linden Lane or the Paloma Avenue overcrossing, one can get to Dominican University and the surrounding neighborhood without having to navigate Fifth or Mission avenues under the freeway.

“BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME”

The Ranchitos/Puerto Suello Hill corridor has seen significant increases in cyclist and pedestrian activity since completion of the multiuse pathway on the San Rafael side of the hill and the bike lanes on Ranchitos Road to the north. Weekday cyclist usage has increased 359% since 2007 while weekday pedestrian usage has increased 457% during the same period. However, weekend usage has remained relatively flat, suggesting that much of the increased usage is due to greater levels of utilitarian trips while recreational trips have remained stable. With expected completion of the Puerto Suello-to-Transit Center project anticipated in 2013 additional usage can be expected as a major gap through downtown San Rafael will be filled with a multiuse pathway connecting to the Transit Center, Fourth Street, and Mahon Creek Pathway .



The overpass over Linden Lane with both a ramp and stairway connecting to the Linden Lane path separates cross traffic while still providing connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods.



The tunnel under the Lincoln Avenue freeway ramps provides a safe separation from high-speed traffic for cyclists and pedestrians.



At the Puerto Suello summit, a connection to Ranchitos Road (Route 5) provides access to Terra Linda while the path continues towards North San Pedro Road and the Marin Civic Center via Merrydale Road.



ABOUT THE COUNTS

This corridor is one of 23 locations in Marin where pedestrian and cyclist usage counts have been conducted annually since 2007. Counts are conducted in September for weekday usage (4:00-6:00pm) and weekend usage (12:00-2:00pm). During these periods, a 'peak hour' was identified (one sixty minute period with the highest count during the two-hour period). The data in the charts reflect counts for the peak hour.

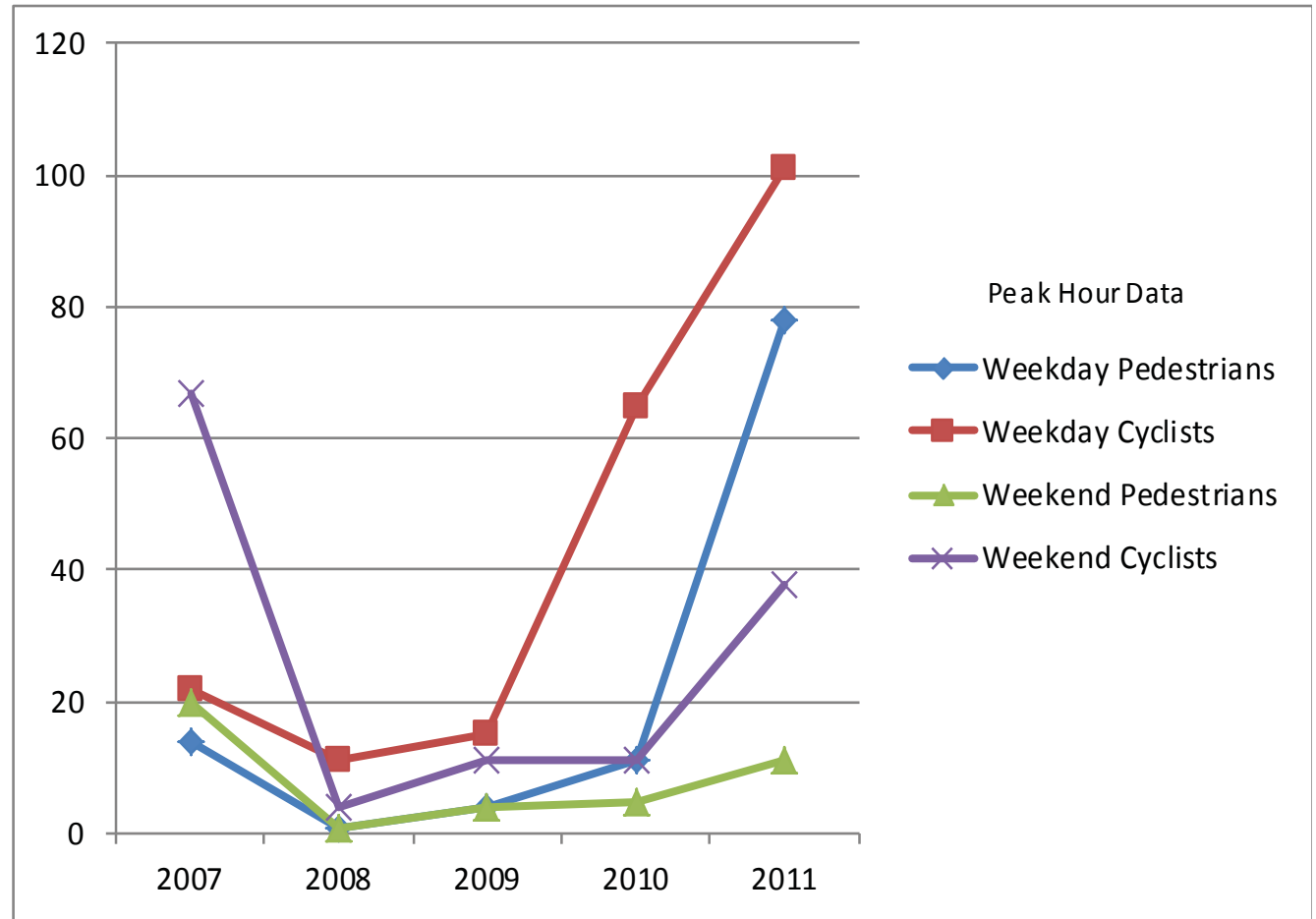
STATUS

Construction Complete

ABOUT WALKBIKEMARIN

WalkBikeMarin is an initiative by the County of Marin to help make Marin more healthy, livable, and environmentally sustainable by encouraging walking and bicycling as everyday transportation. This initiative was catalyzed by a recent \$25 million federal grant to fund the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP).

Revised January 2011



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