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LA Stevens Creek Trail planning delayed for further input on route

By Eliza Ridgeway

Trail planners explore undeveloped water district land bordering the south side of Highway 85 to determine which route to follow along Stevens Creek as it crisscrosses the highway.

The public release date for a proposal mapping the Stevens Creek Trail through Los Altos has been pushed back and might not come before the Los Altos City Council until next month, according to city staff.

Because one recommended option would encroach on Mountain View and Sunnyvale's borders, staff sent the draft report to those cities for comment before presenting a public report.

City staff, consultants and trail boosters have been walking the creek corridor proposed for a trail to evaluate how and where it could cross Highway 85 and avoid residential backyards.

Engineering Services Manager Jim Gustafson said that the report includes several alternatives, ranked in preference based on community meetings and staff research, as well as preliminary cost estimates.

The Stevens Creek Trail project envisions a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the southern border of Los Altos from Mountain View High School to Foothill Expressway, generally following the course of Stevens Creek but diverting to stay on public rights-of-way. The trail will join a network of trails stretching from the Bay to the Santa Cruz Mountains.

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