

Mountain View begins yearlong construction on Stevens Creek Trail



Written by Refugio Garcia - Special to the Town Crier

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2011



Photo Refugio Garcia/Special To The Town Crier

Molly Neycan of Morgan Hill enjoys riding her bicycle on Stevens Creek Trail, which will be extended by another quarter of a mile.

Plans to extend Stevens Creek Trail from Yuba Drive to Mountain View High School became reality when officials broke ground March 5 amid cheers and support from outdoor enthusiasts.

The trail is currently open from Shoreline Park to Yuba Drive. City officials expect the extension to be completed in a year or less.

Representatives from the city of Mountain View, Santa Clara County and the state of California joined a large crowd of walkers, joggers and bicyclists to celebrate the beginning of construction, which will stretch the trail another quarter of a mile from the Sleeper Avenue trailhead access point over

Highway 85 to the intersection of Dale Avenue and Heatherstone Way.

Speakers at the event commended the city of Mountain View for continuing the project despite the ongoing onslaught of budget cuts.

“I want to congratulate the residents of Mountain View for putting this trail together,” said Assemblyman Paul Fong, representing the 22nd Assembly District. “I didn’t receive any letters from Mountain View complaining about anything.”

In January, the Mountain View City Council awarded the \$4.1 million contract to begin construction on the extension.

State and regional grants totaling more than \$1.7 million – including an \$800,000 River Parkways grant from the California Natural Resources Agency – will finance a large share of the work, according to Robert Kagiya, Mountain View principal civil engineer.

“What stood out was (Mountain View’s) performance on past grants,” said Polly Escavedo of the California Resources Agency. “It’s the commitment of the administration to preserve and to restore the natural resources of our beautiful state.”

Supporters are confident the trail extension will be well used for recreation, commuting and students traveling to schools.

“It’s one more reach into another neighborhood over (Highway) 85, and more distance to run,” said Kathy Bettman, member of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Board of Directors.

Sunnyvale residents Deb and Brent Halford said the new extension would make their bicycle ride to Shoreline a bit more fun.

“It’s awesome, and it’s a really nice ride,” Deb said.

The trail’s design provides implementation in defined segments of Reaches. Reaches 1, 2 and 3 are already open to the public. The section beginning construction is Segment 2 of Reach 4.

Mountain View Mayor Jac Siegel reminisced about the dedication ceremony two years ago for the previous segment.

“This part had been talked about, and here we are today,” Siegel said.

City Manager Kevin Duggan explained that visual improvements are included in trail plans.

“Although it’s a freeway overpass, there are going to be hundreds of plants and trees planted as part of the creek restoration,” he said. “We look forward to seeing you all in a year when we open this trail.”

1 Comment

Comment
by **Frank**

1
at Wednesday, 23 March 2011 22:32

The first two paragraphs are completely wrong. There have been two extensions past Yuba Drive over the last 3-4 years so the trail is open from Shoreline Park to Sleeper Avenue. This extension goes from Sleeper to Dale/Heatherstone. It does not go to MV High School.

The third paragraph is correct and it contradicts the first two.
