

APPENDIX M

Focused Transportation Impact Analysis – Pedestrian Analysis



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 29, 2014
To: Rebecca Tolentino, City of Cupertino
From: Franziska Church and Ashley Brooks, Fehr & Peers
Subject: **Parkside Trails Pedestrian Focused Transportation Impact Analysis**

SJ12-1349.05

Fehr & Peers has performed a focused transportation impact analysis (TIA) on pedestrian activity at the Parkside Trails residential project located on Stevens Canyon Road in Cupertino, California. The proposed project would subdivide the vacant property to create up to 18 single-family homes. The purpose of the memorandum is to describe the change in pedestrian facilities near the Parkside Trails development and provide recommendations related to pedestrian access to the project site and surrounding uses.

EXISTING PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

Pedestrian facilities generally consist of sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian controls (signals) that support safe and efficient pedestrian movements. Since the site is currently undeveloped, there are no existing pedestrian facilities. The site is located adjacent to Stevens Creek Park and there are existing pedestrian travel patterns using foot paths on the site that will be influenced by future construction. For this analysis, these existing pedestrian travel patterns were considered along with the proposed on-site pedestrian facilities to determine if there are any potential pedestrian impacts based on the General Plan policies or the City of Cupertino Pedestrian Transportation Guidelines.

Currently, there are no sidewalks provided on either side of Stevens Canyon Road south of Miramonte Road including the roadway segment adjacent to the project site. An informal pedestrian foot path runs along the east side of Stevens Canyon Road that pedestrians currently use to travel to and from Stevens Creek Park. This pedestrian path on Stevens Canyon Road



connects to other informal paths and trails that pass through the project site extending into the park and connecting to the Rim Trail and ultimately the Stevens Creek Park parking lot. These informal paths and the entry into Stevens Creek Park are not officially supported by the City of Cupertino or Santa Clara County, since the paths traverse private property and the official access to the park is provided via the parking area.

PEDESTRIAN FACILITY CHANGES

The project, as shown on the April 11, 2014 civil drawings, would include the addition of a sidewalk on the east side of Stevens Canyon Road that runs the length of the property frontage from the northern edge of the project site to just south of the project driveway. A second sidewalk would extend along the south side of Street "A" from Stevens Canyon Road into the project site.

PEDESTRIAN IMPACT ANALYSIS

The General Plan for the City of Cupertino identifies existing pedestrian networks, improvements and/or related policies necessary to ensure that these facilities are safe and effective for City residents. There are two planning documents developed by the City of Cupertino for pedestrian guidance: City of Cupertino General Plan and Cupertino Pedestrian Transportation Guidelines. Both documents were evaluated to determine pedestrian impacts for the Parkside Trails development.

GENERAL PLAN ANALYSIS

The General Plan for the City of Cupertino identifies existing pedestrian networks and identifies improvements and/or related policies necessary to ensure that these facilities are safe and effective for City residents. Using the General Plan as a guide, significant impacts to pedestrian facilities would occur when a project or an element of the project¹:

- Creates a substantial increase in demand for pedestrian facilities where none currently exist or creates conditions that would lead to overcrowding on existing facilities;

¹ These are the same pedestrian significance criteria used in the Apple Campus 2 Environmental Impact Report.



- Conflicts with policies related to pedestrian activity adopted by the City of Cupertino for its respective facilities in the study area
- Conflicts with an existing or planned pedestrian facility; or
- Creates a challenging condition that currently does not exist for pedestrians, or otherwise interferes with pedestrian connectivity to the site and adjoining areas.

While the proposed 18-lot residential project will produce some additional pedestrian traffic on Steven Canyon Road, the volume would not be considered a substantial increase in pedestrian demand. Therefore, the proposed project does not create a condition that would lead to overcrowding of pedestrian facilities.

The proposed project and the associated pedestrian improvements do not conflict with the existing general plan policies for the study area and will substantially improve the existing pedestrian facilities on Stevens Canyon Road on the property frontage.

There is a planned pedestrian connection in the Cupertino Pedestrian Transportation Guidelines that will extend along Stevens Canyon Road between Miramonte Road and Stevens Creek Park. The project's proposed sidewalk along Stevens Canyon Road supports the creation of this connection.

The proposed development will eliminate the existing informal paths through the site, which could be considered as creating a new challenge for pedestrians. However, the City's policy does not apply to this situation since these paths have no official standing with either the City of Cupertino or the Santa Clara County. Therefore, the project has no significant impacts on pedestrians based on the General Plan policies.

CUPERTINO PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES ANALYSIS

The Cupertino Pedestrian Transportation Guidelines identifies the following five significance criteria to determine if a development has a significant impact on pedestrian safety, pedestrian access to the area, or circulation through the area:

1. **Consistency with the General Plan and Other Adopted Plans:** Does the project conform to the policies and best practices as described in the City's General Plan or other pertinent adopted plans?
2. **Permanent Travel Pattern or Access Changes:** Does the project eliminate any pedestrian facilities or otherwise alter pedestrian travel patterns due to any change to the



- roadway, sidewalks or pathway network (including but not limited to permanent roadway or sidewalk closures; elimination or relocation of sidewalks and crosswalks; elimination of office or historical easements or short-cuts used by pedestrians) or otherwise affect the routes pedestrians use to travel as directly as possible from origin to destination with no circuitous travel requirements?
3. **Impacts on Existing Pedestrian Facilities:** does the project affect the design of any existing pedestrian facility including but not limited to the width and/or design of sidewalks, roadway shoulders, bridges/overpasses or tunnels/underpasses?
 4. **Pedestrian Safety:** Does the project provide new pedestrian facilities that conform to the accepted design standards and guidelines, as promulgated by responsible agencies such as the City of Cupertino, State of California, or AASHTO?
 5. **Impact on Pedestrian Crossings:** Does the project impact the ability to easily and safely cross the street including the location and design of crosswalks; length of pedestrian phasing and signal cycle, pedestrian delay at signalized intersections; crossing difficulty caused by roadway widening, additional turn lanes, elimination of a median, provision for a free right-turn lanes, etc.?

As described above, the proposed pedestrian access is consistent with the General Plan policies. The project will displace some of the informal paths that currently pass through the site and connect with Stevens Creek Park; however, this is not considered a significant impact since the paths are on private property and are not officially recognized by either the City of Cupertino or Santa Clara County. The project has a positive impact related to the existing pedestrian facilities and pedestrian safety since it adds a sidewalk to Stevens Creek Road. The design of the proposed pedestrian facilities conform to the design standards use by the City of Cupertino, State of California, and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guidelines. The project has no impact on any pedestrian crossings. Therefore, the project has no significant pedestrian impacts based on the Cupertino Pedestrian Transportation Guidelines.

CONCLUSION

The proposed sidewalk along Stevens Canyon Road significantly improves the pedestrian experience and enhances pedestrian safety along this section of the roadway. The pedestrian improvements proposed along Stevens Creek Road support the City's plans to provide a pedestrian connection along Stevens Creek Road from Miramonte Road to Stevens Creek Park.



Our review of the General Plan policies and Cupertino Pedestrian Transportation Guidelines determined that there are no significant impacts on pedestrians.

Regarding the access to Stevens Creek Park, the applicant has indicated that they would agree to allow the public use of the A Street sidewalk to access Stevens Creek Park, if Santa Clara County were to create a formal entrance to the park from the sidewalk.