

Hercules Circulation Element Update



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1 SUMMARY

December 7, 2016 | Hercules Council Chamber



Workshop Overview

Workshop Overview

On December 7, 2016, the City hosted the first community-wide workshop on the Circulation Element Update.

The workshop included community dialogue and an interactive exercise to discuss the assets, opportunities and challenges of the city's current circulation networks.



Workshop Overview

The workshop was an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the current roadway network, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and transit in Hercules.

The following is a summary of both the workshop and the input received from the community.



Introduction and Presentation

The workshop began with a welcome from Hercules Planning Director Holly Smyth, followed by a project overview presentation by consultant Josh Pilachowski of DKS. This was followed by a group discussion facilitated by Dan Amsden of MIG.



- Identify/Evaluate/Prioritize Projects
- Address Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs
- Include Complete Streets Concepts
- Facilitate Access to Transit Centers
- Maximize Vehicle Level of Service
- Adapt to Changing Technology

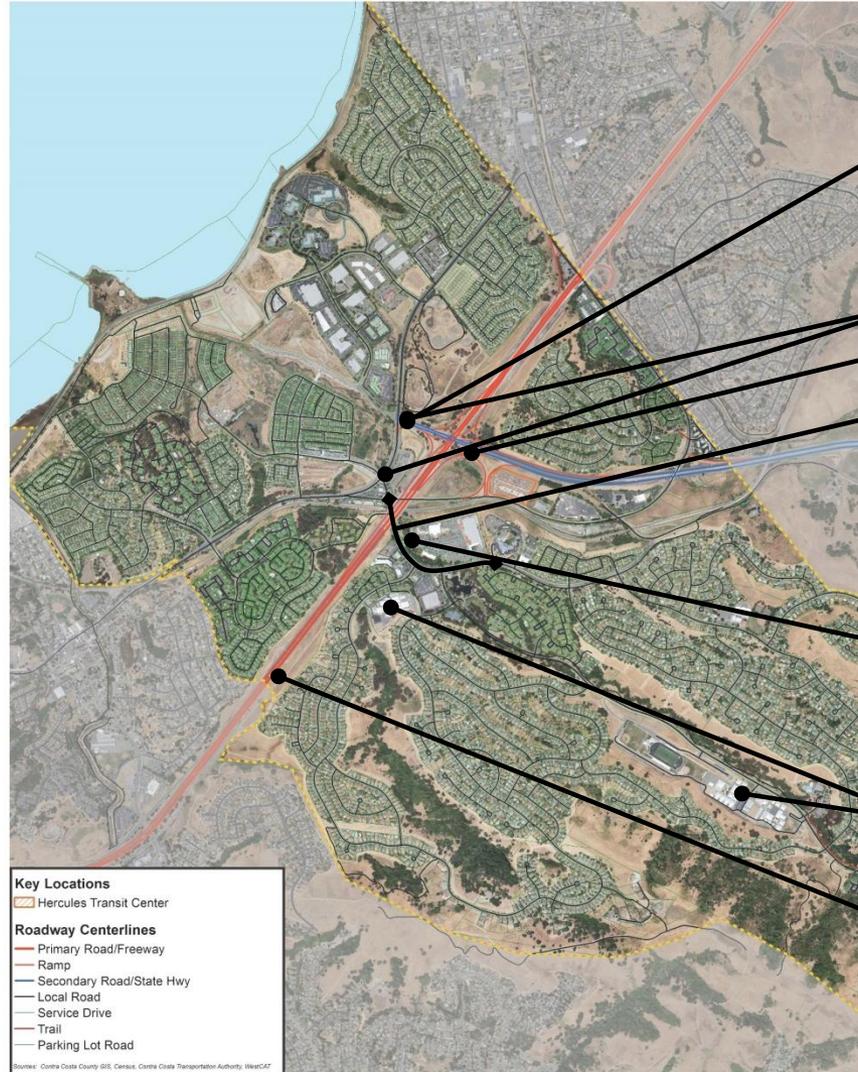


Community Input

Roadway Network

Assets

- Multiple vehicular access points to Highway 4
- Protect and expand Highway 4 access
- City solutions to some past circulation problems have worked well
- Most city streets work well, particularly those that are wider



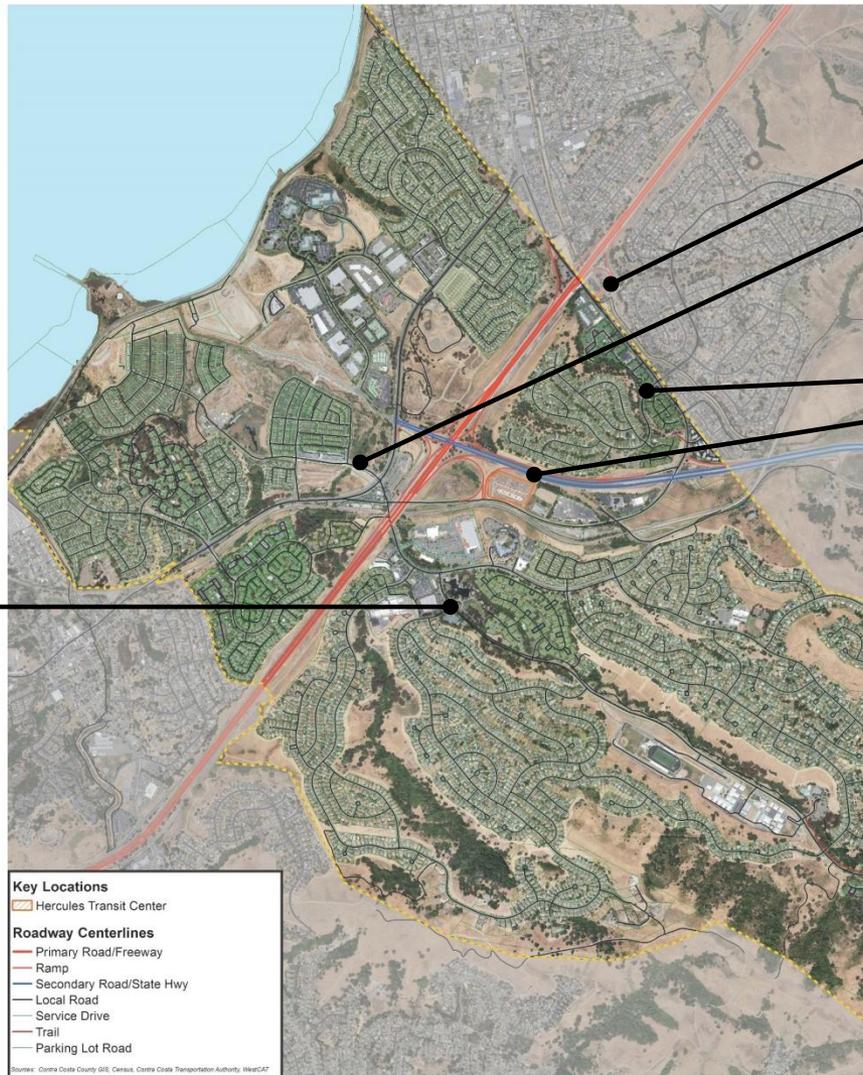
Opportunities and Challenges

- Alleviate bad traffic along San Pablo Avenue, particularly near Interstate 80, due in part to the diversion of commute traffic from I-80 as a result of ramp metering
- Improve turning movements
- Improve freeway ramps for I-80/SR-4/Sycamore Ave
- Improve the safety and LOS of Sycamore Ave and surrounding intersections that lead to San Pablo Avenue
- Improve Level of Service
- Improve flow and access to Interstate 80
- Check left turn signalization at Creekside
- Improve access through the City (only Interstate 80 and San Pablo Avenue cross the train tracks)
- Find solutions to school drop off/pick-up traffic that causes 30+ minute backups
- Consider a northbound auxiliary lane
- Question: Traffic along San Pablo seems to be increasing faster than the population, is that true?

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

Assets

- Existing bike lanes work well
- Bay trail amenity for community
- San Pablo used for weekend bike rides/clubs
- Good recent improvement that makes it safer for pedestrians at Pheasant Dr



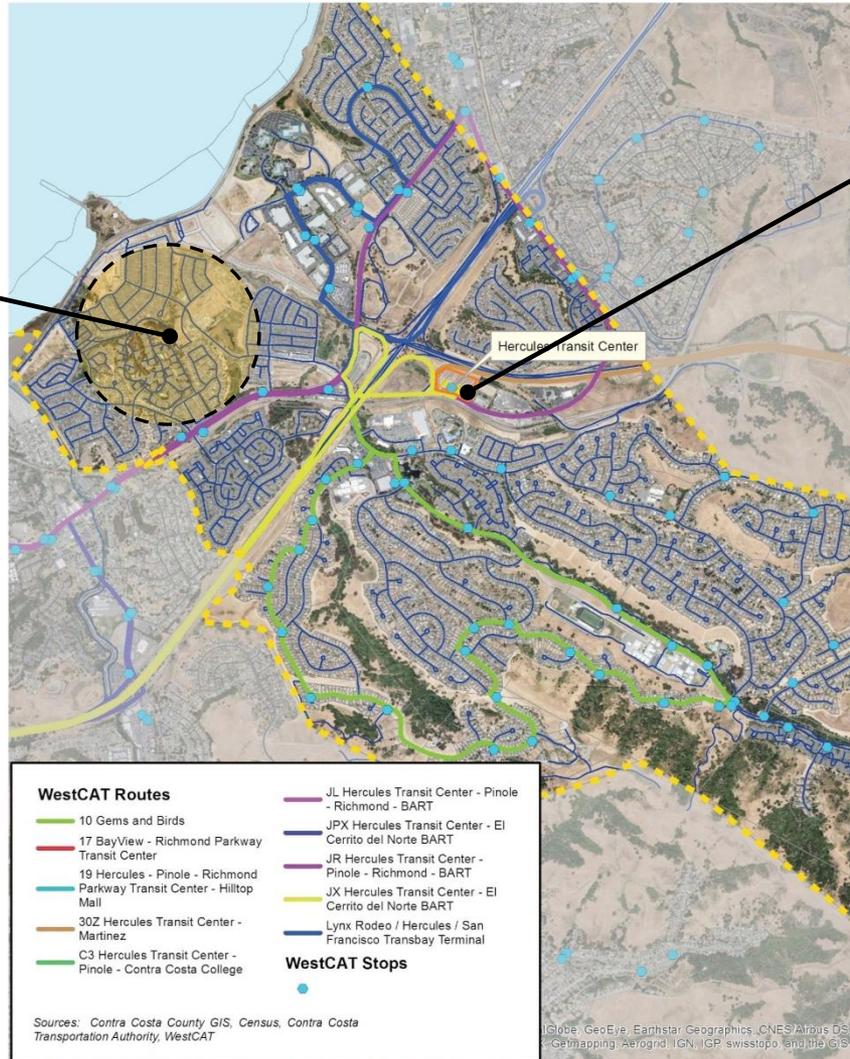
Opportunities and Challenges

- Fix incomplete sidewalks connecting to Rodeo
- Improve the 'rough' surface of the new bike lanes (unpleasant to ride on) – consider painting the sides of bike lanes and leaving the center alone!
- Add pedestrian signals
- Improve pedestrian access to the Hercules Transit Center (note: City has plans to improve multiple connections and has applied for grants)
- Ensure bike trails good for families and slower speeds
- Ensure streets and bike lanes are good for experienced riders
- Create a better network of sidewalks and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods
- Better connect the Foxboro area to the rest of the city
- Address speeding (citywide issue)
- Improve connections to Rodeo
- Transform San Pablo Avenue into a 'Complete Street'

Transit

Assets

- Bus service currently planned to be expanded to the western part of Hercules when path to transit project complete
- Planned new Amtrak Capitol Corridor train station
- Potential future ferry terminal



Opportunities and Challenges

- Improve bus timing/headways and connections at the Hercules Transit Center for buses coming in from Rodeo
- Find ways to increase ridership during non-commute times
- Increase transit coverage (locally and regionally), but specifically on the west side of Hercules

Next Steps

Community input from Workshop #1 will be used by the City to develop the overall vision and initial policies for the updated Circulation Element.

The next community workshop is tentatively scheduled for February 2017 and will be held once a draft of the Circulation Element is prepared for the public to review and comment on.