

Issue 11: Safe Sidewalks - Alameda - North of Y

Summary:

The walkways on Alameda from the Y to Avy Avenue are extremely narrow, sometimes 18", are in extreme disrepair, require single file walking, strollers and wheelchairs must use roadway, and traffic signs, poles, and fire hydrants are placed in middle of walkway, even for new construction. There are no ADA compliant sections.



Problems:

- Sidewalks are not ADA compliant
- Often are only 18" to 24" wide
- Traffic signs and poles are placed in middle of walkway
- New construction of homes do not correct sidewalk and new poles allowed to be placed in middle (this is a serious procedure/policy issue)
- curbs are not cut for access (ADA)

Positives of Solution:

- Sidewalk pathways would allow strollers and wheelchair access
- Safer width for parents and children to walk abreast
- Improved visibility for pedestrians of residential driveways and traffic

Considerations:

- If Alameda gains consistency (Safety Issue #1) is implemented, there maybe room to have fully compliant ADA sidewalks.
- City/County need to change their policy/procedures so that new construction improves walkways and stop placing poles in middle

Impact:

Providing sidewalks on both sides of road, especially since this is a school route, should have high priority. This requires County/City to work together to implement this. Impact on property owners should be minimized by use of County/City funds

Alternatives:

Doing nothing should not be considered an alternative. Nothing was done for 2 decades, something needs to be done now!

Santa Cruz Ave/Alameda de las Pulgas - Safety Issues

This is unacceptable that these walkways, after decades of complaints, are still in this condition. It is just down right embarrassing that the County and City still allow walkways to be blocked with signs, traffic light poles, and fire hydrants. This is ongoing, as recent construction in the last year have replicated these same issues.

The photos above and below hopefully provide insight into the many issues identified in this Safety Issue of walkways on Alameda north of the “Y”.



Solution:

Safety Issue #1 provides the means to address this issue by providing the extra width gained from the Alameda reconfiguration to make room for 5' wide ADA compliant sidewalks and accomplished without requiring any additional setback or property from residents.

There are two points where healthy redwood trees affect the sidewalk area and this solution would implement chicanes at these points to insure for healthy preservation of the tree while providing an appropriate sidewalk path in the chicane. Keeping the majestic redwoods and their ambience while still providing full safety of sidewalk.