



City Council Agenda Item 9-C
Meeting of September 9, 2008

CITY OF BELMONT

City Councilmember Agenda Item 9
FROM: Christine Wozniak

RE: Implement a Share the Roads Policy in Belmont

City Councilmembers:

Description of Issue/Request

People in Belmont are using alternate forms of transportation more and more: their feet (walking), bicycles, scooters, electric people movers, skateboards, buses, shuttles, etc. We need to make our sidewalks and roadways safe for EVERYONE, changing the focus from “car is king,” to “car is just another form of transportation.” This shift would give everyone equal access to our sidewalks, roads, and pathways, **where appropriate**.

Some steps we can take now include:

- Create safe bicycle and ped access from 280 to Redwood Shores on Ralston.
- Enable safe transit for skateboards and scooters (both people-powered and electric), **with rules for their safe use as transportation**.
- Create safe walkways (sidewalks, paths, informal sidewalks) throughout the city.

Approximately how much staff involvement will this item take?

We would be accelerating many existing projects (bike lanes on Ralston, Bike Bridge, etc.). It would take some staff time to list, prioritize, and accelerate current projects and create new ones.

Financial Implications?

About 20 hours of staff time for initial report for a “Share the Road” policy.

How time sensitive is this issue?

Very. We are faced with more and more people using alternate forms of transport and we must make sure they are safe. Making our roadways and sidewalks safe for pedestrians will enable our residents to reduce CO2 emissions citywide.

General Plan/Vision Statement

- We put a **priority** on getting out of, into, and through town efficiently.
- Bicyclists, walkers, and other **non-drivers** get where they’re going easily and safely.
- We require **safe** residential streets and smooth-flowing thoroughfares.
- Belmont is a wonderfully safe and **supportive** place to raise a family.