



Norman Sidewalk Concept Approved in City Planning Document

ON AUGUST 25, the Sunnyvale City Council unanimously approved the City's new Active Transportation Plan, including an addition to the plan conceptualizing a permanent sidewalk or other pedestrian improvement at 1498 Norman Drive, between Marion Way and Dunford Way / Oriole Avenue.

The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is a policy document guiding the City's investment in programs and projects over the next decade to make walking and bicycling safer and more convenient for residents.

Sunnyvale City Councilmember Russ Melton proposed the amendment regarding the Norman pedestrian improvements and commented, "I'm absolutely delighted that we got this important pedestrian sidewalk segment added to our policy planning document. I appreciate that my Council colleagues voted for it unanimously, and the support from the Ray-Nor Park community, in the form of advocacy emails to City Hall in June, were absolutely

instrumental. Next, we have to see what will happen with the property redevelopment happening at 1498 Norman, and then go find some budget dollars to get the pedestrian improvements built."

According to City records, the residential property at 1498 Norman is being re-developed

and as part of the project, the existing street-facing perimeter fencing will be removed and replaced. The new fencing is expected to be a three-foot high combination of brick and wrought iron. Continued Melton, "The issue is that the current fencing is mis-aligned to the actual property line. If

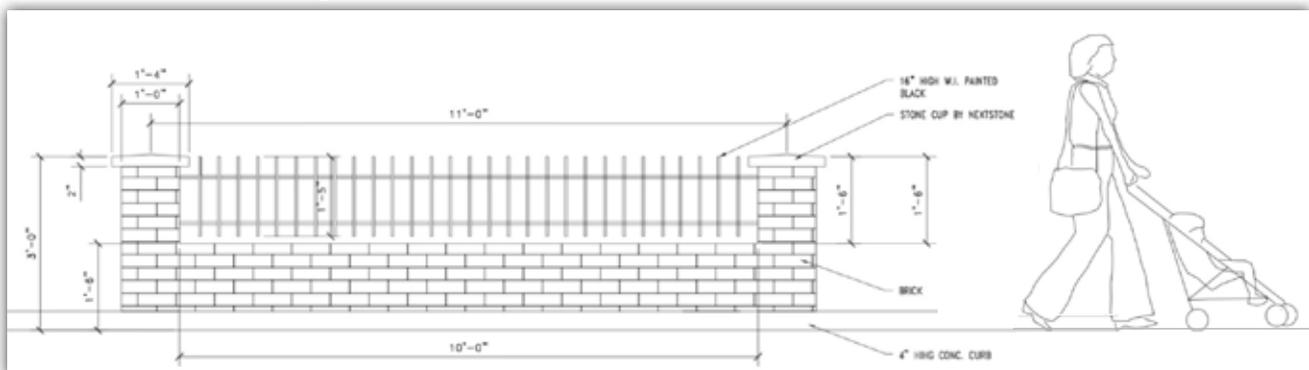
the property owner places the new fence exactly on the property line, which is his right, then pedestrians are going to lose about half of the width of the dirt path. That would be a very uncomfortable and narrow squeeze between the new fence and the side of the road."

The property redevelopment at 1498 Norman is ongoing. Meanwhile, public hearings for the City's next budget commence in early 2021.

Language added to the ATP:

"On the north side of Marion Way between Oriole Avenue and Norman Drive, fill in the short sidewalk gap (approximately 170 feet) as part of the SRTS [Safe Routes to School] spot improvements, which might consist of roadway shoulder improvements or implementation of a permanent sidewalk installation."

Conceptual rendering of new fence to be installed at 1498 Norman Drive.



Planning Commission Recommends Against Studying Wendy's Land-Use Change

THE SUNNYVALE PLANNING Commission met August 10 to discuss a request to study amending the City's General Plan and Zoning Code so as to allow for development of residential units at the Wendy's site and adjacent vacant lot on S. Wolfe Road near Fremont Avenue. At the hearing, the Commissioners decided on a 4-3 vote to recommend that City Council not undertake the study. The request had come from 4Terra Investment, a development company representing the owners of the Wendy's and adjacent site.

4Terra has put forth a conceptual design that would replace the fast-food restaurant and vacant lot with 27 townhomes and a 2,000 square foot commercial building. Prior to putting in an application for such a redevelopment, the City's General Plan and Zoning Code would have to be studied and ultimately changed.

During their discussion, the Commissioners noted that the site adjacent to the Wendy's has been vacant for several years, indicating a possible lack of viability for commercial uses there. Conversely, the Commissioners noted the importance of maintaining zoning for neighborhood commercial uses, and that a new business at the now-vacant property might see success when residential development of the nearby Butchers Corner site is complete.

The City's planning depart-



Applicant's conceptual rendering.

ment had recommended against undertaking the study. The Sunnyvale City Council is scheduled to hear the matter at its public hearing of September 15. The City Council can be emailed at council@sunnyvale.ca.gov.

A colorful graphic for a 'Celebrate Sunnyvale' event. The background is a mix of pink, blue, orange, and green. The text 'Celebrate Sunnyvale' is written in a large, white, cursive font at the top. Below it, there are several circular callouts: a grey one with 'A Virtual Event', a green one with 'Saturday, Sept. 19 10 a.m.', and a pink one with 'Featuring: State of the City Address & Community Award Videos'. At the bottom, there is a green bar with the website 'Sunnyvale.ca.gov/CelebrateSV' and the Sunnyvale logo, which is a green sunburst icon with the word 'Sunnyvale' next to it.

Crews Scramble to Repair Sewer Facility

SUNNYVALE'S SEWER treatment facility was briefly shut down on July 29 as crews scrambled to craft a work-around for a leaking underwater sewer pipe. The trouble started when the 36-inch welded-steel pipe, which runs underneath a channel owned by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife from the plant's oxidation ponds to the main facility, suffered unspecified damage. The leak caused effluent to bubble to the surface of the channel water.

Plant staff recognized the anomaly and quickly turned off pumps that move the effluent from the ponds back to the main plant.

As Staff noted in an August 25 report to the City Council, "the plant was effectively shut down."

Crews quickly implemented a work-around, borrowing several high-capacity diesel pumps from a neighboring agency and repurposing a second pipe running from the pond to the plant. The second pipe is a lightly-used 48-inch pipe that normally brings backwash from the plant to the ponds via gravity. Staff noted that the diesel pumps are using approximately 312 gallons of fuel daily to move effluent uphill through the repurposed line.

The oxidation treatment performed in the ponds is the second of three treatments performed at the plant on sewer efflu-

ent. As staff noted, by this point, effluent is "substantially treated" meaning that, while undesirable, the leak did not create a public safety risk. Staff estimated that 200,000 gallons of effluent had leaked into the channel and that all relevant regulatory agencies have been notified. The channel itself is off-limits and not allowed for recreational use.

Meanwhile, crews are working to implement an interim solution that involves the purchase or rental of large-diameter plastic pipes that would be placed above ground and would effectively replace the broken underground one. A permanent solution to repair the underground pipe is being investigated by staff.

Said Sunnyvale Councilmember Russ Melton, "This was a case of tremendous leadership and action by Sunnyvale crews. First, the professional knowledge to spot the anomaly and understand what was going wrong. Then, the leadership to shut down the plant and quickly implement a workaround. I'm sure our team at the plant will figure out the long-term repair solution, but it could be expensive. This is a good reminder that our plant, at 60 years old is aging nearing the end of its useful life. It's really important to keep steady progress on constructing our new sewer treatment facility."



Aerial view of Water Pollution Control Plant oxidation ponds, above



Location of damaged pipe, right

Eastbound Tasman Traffic Lane Closed Temporarily

SUNNYVALE CITY COUNCIL gave the go-ahead June 30 to temporarily close one of the two eastbound vehicle traffic lanes on Tasman Drive, from Fair Oaks Avenue to Vienna Drive.

The purpose of the lane closure is to create an ad-hoc bicycle and pedestrian path since there is no sidewalk or bike lane on that segment of Tasman. Vehicular traffic there has decreased significantly since the start of the COVID-19 emergency, making the lane closure feasible.

The roadway width of this section of Tasman is particularly crowded with the center of the right-of-way used by the VTA light rail line. Sunnyvale staff indicated that a permanent implementation of a bike lane or sidewalk would entail either removal of numerous mature trees or the acquisition of land from the nearby Plaza Del Rey mobile home park.

Council directed that the lane closure

not exceed ten months in duration without staff returning for additional authorization. Staff was further directed by Council that the lane closure could be removed if up-keep became overly problematic or if the closure presented a public safety hazard.



The Tasman lane closure.

Photo credit: Ari Feinsmith via Facebook.





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B I O G R A P H Y

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

- Sunnyvale City Councilmember, 2017-Present
- Sunnyvale Vice Mayor, 2019
- Sunnyvale Planning Commissioner, 2012-2017; Commission Chair, 2014-2016

EDUCATION

- Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Santa Clara University
- Bachelor of Science (BS), Business Administration, California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Executive Vice President / Chief Operations Officer, National 1st Credit Union, 2009-2011
- Senior Finance Manager, National Semiconductor Corporation, 1995-2009
- Honorably Discharged from United States Navy

PERSONAL

- Sunnyvale resident since 2000
- Native Bay Area resident
- Married; two children in Sunnyvale public schools

Sunnyvale Contact Information

Non-Emergency
Police & Fire 408-730-7100

Abandoned Cars 408-730-7706

Graffiti/
Shopping Carts 408-730-7680

Job Center (NOVA) 408-730-7232

Sewer/
Water/Utilities 408-730-7400

Street Lights/
Sidewalks..... 408-730-7415

Street Trees/Parks 408-730-7506

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sunnyvale.dynamics365portals.us

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United States Senator **Kamala Harris**
San Francisco Office 415-981-9369

United States Representative **Ro Khanna**
Santa Clara Office 408-436-2720

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California State Senator **Jerry Hill**
San Mateo Office 650-212-3313

Calif. State Assemblymember **Marc Berman**
Los Altos Office 650-691-2121

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