



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 5214)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 11/10/2014

Summary Title: Naming of the Mike Harding Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge

Title: Adoption of a Resolution Concurring with the City of Menlo Park for the Naming of the Mike Harding Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge at San Mateo Drive (Menlo Park)

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Community Services

Recommended Motion

Staff recommends that Council consider the following motion:

Council shall adopt a resolution concurring with the City of Menlo Park for the renaming of the San Mateo Drive Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge as the Mike Harding Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) concurring with the City of Menlo Park for the renaming of the San Mateo Drive Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge as the Mike Harding Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge.

Background

In 1976, the City of Palo Alto and the City of Menlo Park cooperated in the design and construction of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge spanning San Francisquito Creek and connecting San Mateo Drive in Menlo Park to pedestrian/bicycle trails leading to Sand Hill Road in the vicinity of Clark Way in Palo Alto. In accordance with an agreement, dated May 25, 1976, the bridge is jointly owned and maintained by the City of Palo Alto and the City of Menlo Park. The land on the Palo Alto-side of the bridge is owned by Stanford University, which has issued an easement to the City of Palo Alto.

On February 11, 2014, at the urging of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and friends of former Menlo Park Bicycle Commissioner Mike Harding, the Menlo Park City Council approved a request by their staff to rename the San Mateo Drive Bridge in honor of Mike Harding. In October 2014, Emma Shlaes of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition contacted the City of Palo Alto's Transportation Division, requesting that the City of Palo Alto concur with Menlo Park in the renaming of the bridge (Attachment B).

While the City of Palo Alto has policies for the naming of City streets (Policy 1-16) and for land and City facilities on City-owned property (Policy 1-15), as the City of Menlo Park initiated the process of the renaming of this jointly-owned and -maintained bridge and has adopted a resolution for the renaming of the bridge in honor of Mike Harding (Attachment C), staff recommends that the City of Palo Alto concur with the action of the City of Menlo Park as a fitting tribute to this regionally recognized bicycle advocate and volunteer.

Discussion

According to the petition from the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Mike Harding was an active member of the Coalition for almost twenty-five years. "He regularly participated in (the) Peninsula Committee and was a tireless and caring advocate for bicycle issues in the area. His passion for bicycling was expressed through many rides and competitions, as well as a ride leader for the Western Wheeler's Club, in service as a Menlo Park Bicycle Commissioner, and as a member of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee."

Resource Impact

The renaming of the San Mateo Drive Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge would have negligible financial impact to the City of Palo Alto. There are no current signs on the bridge which would need to be replaced as a result of the renaming. The City of Menlo Park will bare responsibility for the placement of a sign honoring Mike Harding. Minor expenses would be necessary for staff from Police, Fire and Information Tecnology to relabel emergency run maps and GIS maps of the bridge and pedestrian route. There are no on-going costs for this re-naming.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Environmental Review

The adoption of the resolution for the naming of a facility does not meet the definition of a "project" set forth in section 21065 of the California Public Resources Code and is therefore not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution for the Concurrence of Naming the Mike Harding Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge
- Attachment B: Letter of Support – Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, dated April 2, 2014
- Attachment C: City of Menlo Park Staff Report 14-026: Consideration to Rename the San Mateo Drive Bike bridge in Honor of Mike Harding; February 11, 2014,

Attachments:

- Attachment A - Resolution for Naming of the Mike Harding Bicycle Bridge (DOCX)
- Attachment B - Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Endorsement (PDF)

- Attachment C - City of Menlo Park Staff Report 14-026 regarding naming of the Mike Harding Bicycle Bridge (PDF)

Resolution No.
Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto, California
To Jointly Approve with the City of Menlo Park the Renaming of the
San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge in Honor of Mike Harding

A. The San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge spans San Francisquito Creek between Menlo Park and Palo Alto. Under an agreement, dated May 25, 1976, between the city governments, each city holds a right-of-way to the centerline of the Creek.

B. Stanford University, which maintains the pedestrian and bicycle path and owns the underling lands, has granted the City of Palo Alto an 8-foot easement running from Sand Hill Road to the Bicycle Bridge.

C. Mike Harding served as a member of the City of Menlo Park's Bicycle Commission. He was an active member of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition for almost 25 years and, according to the Coalition, he was instrumental in the creation of the San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge.

D. On February 11, 2014, the Council of the City of Menlo Park approved a motion to rename the San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge in honor of longtime resident, Mike Harding. Due to the shared ownership of the Bicycle Bridge, the Menlo Park city council acknowledged that the bridge cannot be renamed without the concurrence of the City of Palo Alto.

E. The City of Palo Alto now wishes to support, and it therefore joins, the City of Menlo Park in the renaming of the San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge in honor of Mike Harding.

The Council of the City of Palo Alto RESOLVES, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Council hereby accepts the request of the Council of the City of Menlo Park to rename, and the City of Palo Alto hereby joins the City of Menlo Park in renaming, the San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge in the memory and honor of Mike Harding, a longtime resident and commissioner of the City of Menlo Park. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to consult with City of Menlo Park staff to effectuate the purpose and spirit of this resolution.

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INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED:

Senior Asst. City Attorney

City Manager

Director of Community Services

Director of Administrative Services



April 2, 2014

City of Palo Alto, Office of the City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Members of Palo Alto City Council:

I am writing in support of the effort to rename the San Mateo Drive pedestrian and bicycle bridge in honor and memory of Mike Harding.

Mike was an active member of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition for almost 25 years. He regularly participated in our Peninsula Committee and was a tireless and caring advocate for bicycle issues in the area. His passion for bicycling was expressed through many rides and competitions, as well as a ride leader for the Western Wheeler's Club, in service as a Menlo Park Bicycle Commissioner, and as a member of the C/CAG B/PAC.

Mike was instrumental in the creation of the San Mateo Drive bicycle bridge crossing San Francisquito Creek, against much initial opposition. We can think of no more fitting tribute to his dedication to improving safety and accessibility for people who bike. The hundreds of people who use the bridge each day is a testament to its success and connectivity.

We urge you to consider renaming the bridge in honor of this strong bicycling advocate. The Menlo Park City Council has already approved a motion to rename the bridge in February and we hope that you will do the same. We will do whatever we can to support this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Corinne Winter
President and Executive Director

1922 The Alameda
Suite 420
San Jose, CA 95126

Tel 408.287.7259
Fax 408.213.7559

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Council Meeting Date: February 11, 2014
Staff Report #: 14-026

Agenda Item #: F-1

CONSENT CALENDAR: **Consideration to Rename the San Mateo Drive
Bike Bridge in Honor of Mike Harding**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council consider a request to rename the San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge in honor of Mike Harding, and if approved, direct staff to contact and work with the City of Palo Alto to obtain its concurrence.

BACKGROUND

At the January 14, 2014, City Council meeting, former mayor Steve Schmidt requested that the City Council consider renaming the San Mateo Drive bike bridge in honor of longtime resident and former commissioner, Mike Harding. Since the initial request, the City has also been contacted by Transportation Commissioner Adina Levin (although she was not representing the Commission), Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and numerous Menlo Park residents, many of whom live on San Mateo Drive to support honoring Mr. Harding by renaming the Bridge.

The bike bridge is jointly owned and maintained by the cities of Menlo Park and Palo Alto according to an agreement dated May 25, 1976.

On the Menlo Park side of the bridge, the City of Menlo Park has right of way to the centerline of the creek. On the Palo Alto side, the underlining land is owned by Stanford to the center line of San Francisquito Creek, however the land is within the Palo Alto city limits and Stanford has provided Palo Alto an easement to construct and maintain the bridge. Stanford has also given Palo Alto an 8-foot floating pedestrian/bike easement from Sand Hill Road to the bridge with Stanford agreeing to maintain the pedestrian/ bike path.

ANALYSIS

The City Council does have a policy for the naming and/or changing names of facilities. The policy was adopted in February 1986 and last reviewed in January 1997, with no changes made at that time.

Due to the shared ownership of the bike bridge, it is important to note that renaming the entire bridge (in both directions) would require the additional approval of the City of Palo Alto.

Due to the recent nature of the request, staff has not yet been able to conduct a complete analysis of the estimated costs, consult with staff from the City of Palo Alto, or fully research and record the totality of Mr. Harding's contributions to the community. This work will continue based on the outcome of the City Council's discussion and direction.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

Fiscal impacts to rename the bridge would include installing signage and updating existing reference materials. These costs are unknown at this time, but would likely be minimal and could be absorbed into the existing budget.

POLICY ISSUES

As the existing policy was previously adopted by the City Council, the City Council alone has the ability to affirm, modify, or waive the policy in part or in its entirety. In the last several years, the City Council has approved the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission to waive aspects of the naming policy in order to name the new Arrillaga facilities after the John Arrillaga family, due to the major donations from Mr. Arrillaga that funded their construction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. City Council Policy for Naming and/or Changing the Name of Facilities
- B. Jurisdictional map of the existing San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge

Report prepared by:
Clay Curtin
Assistant to the City Manager

City of Menlo Park			City Council Policy
Department City Council Subject Naming and/or Changing the Name of Facilities	Page 1 of 1	Effective Date February 25, 1986	
	Approved by	Procedure # CC-86-	
	<small>Department Head</small>		
	<small>City Manager</small>		

PURPOSE AND SCOPE





From time to time the City has the opportunity to name a new facility, or is requested to change the name of a previously designated park, playground, building or other unit under the City's jurisdiction.

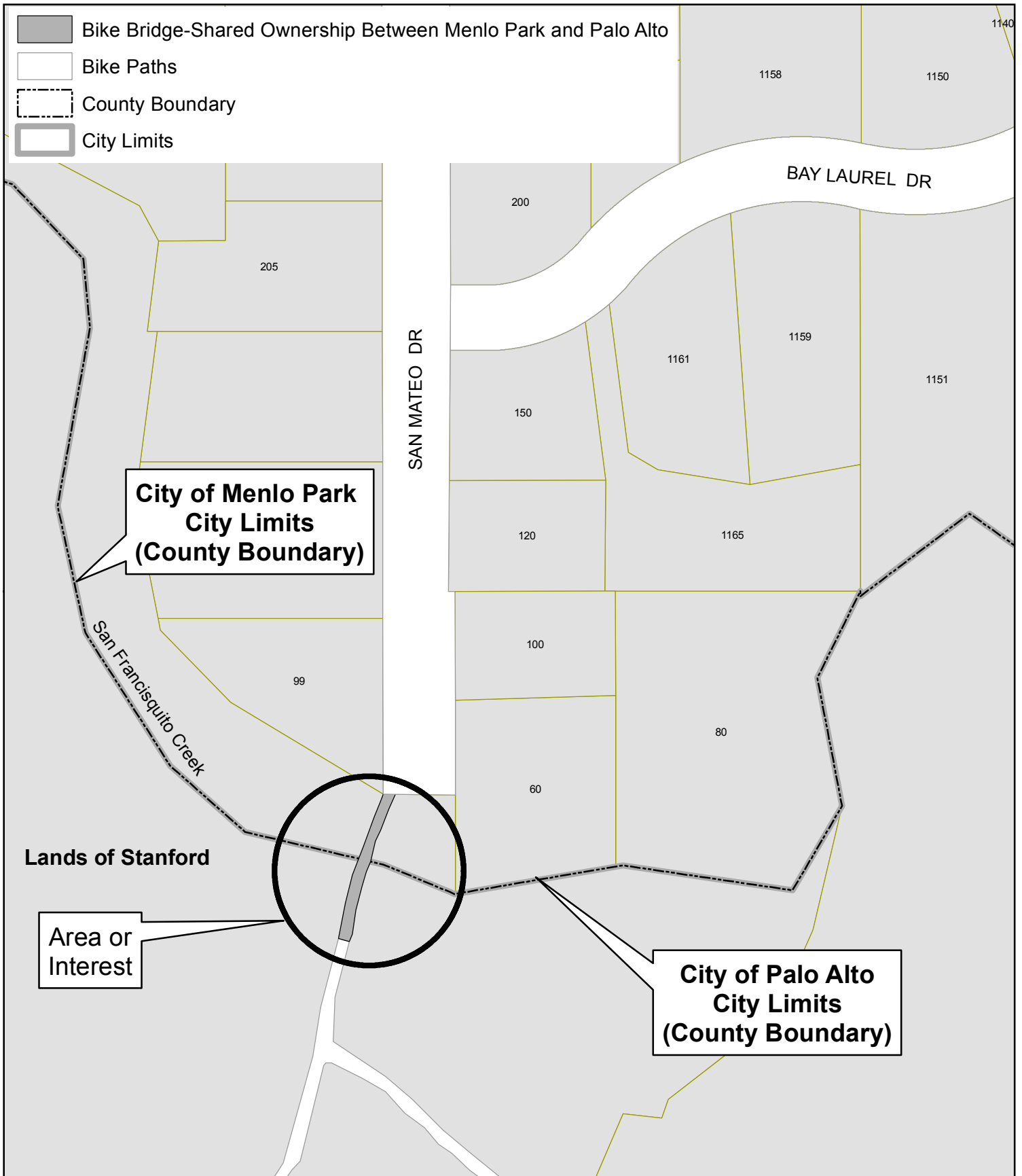
In order to formalize the City's consideration of these requests, and to provide better guidelines to the public, the City does hereby adopt the following policy guidelines for the naming of facilities.

1. It shall be the policy of the City not to change the name of any existing recreation and park facility, particularly one whose name has City or national significance, unless there is the most extraordinary circumstances of City or National interest and no other new facility can so be designated.
2. The existing place names within Menlo Park shall be deemed to have historic significance to the City. The City will modify existing names only with the greatest reluctance and only to commemorate a person or persons who have made major, overriding contributions to the City and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized.
3. The Park and Recreation Commission, after considering inputs from the community, will recommend to the City Council names for new parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, paths, tennis courts, flower beds, buildings and miscellaneous facilities. The naming will recognize:
A deceased person (no sooner than five years after death, ethnic or other national or community groups not yet honored in some fashion, who have made significant contributions to the City and/or the Park and Recreation and have not been previously honored in a meaningful way by the City.
4. It shall be the policy of the City generally to encourage plaques commemorating donations including tree memorials, horticultural collections or plant materials.
5. Where appropriate to the facility, the City encourages the donation of memorial benches.
6. At those facilities having recreation buildings, the City from time to time may authorize placing of a memorial plaque inside a building when that facility is closely identified with a person or group, but the policy of the City is to retain the historic name of the facility.
7. For other than naming a new facility, it is the policy of the City to take no action until at least six months from the receipt of a suggested name change or the adoption of these policies.

(Council took a look at this policy again on Jan. 27, 1998 with no changes)

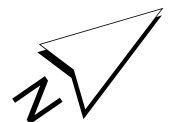
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-  Bike Bridge-Shared Ownership Between Menlo Park and Palo Alto
-  Bike Paths
-  County Boundary
-  City Limits



CITY OF MENLO PARK
 LOCATION MAP
 SAN MATEO DRIVE BIKE BRIDGE

DATE: 2/6/14 SCALE: 1" = 200' SHEET: 1



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Carnahan, David

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

From: Ken Holloway <ken_holloway@netzero.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 9:07 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: San Mateo Dr./San Francisquito Creek Bike/Ped Bridge

14 OCT 31 AM 8:17

Dear Members of Palo Alto City Council:

I would like to add one more voice in support of naming the San Mateo Dr./San Francisquito Creek Bike/Ped Bridge after Mike Harding. Mike has been a tireless advocate for bicycling infrastructure and safety. Menlo Park has already said yes, I would like to urge you to do the same.

Thank you,

Kenneth Holloway

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Carnahan, David

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

From: pedro@lcintra.com on behalf of Pierre Cintra <pierre@lcintra.com>
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2014 11:15 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Naming of the San Mateo Biking and walking bridge after Mike Harding

14 NOV -3 PM 4:08

I'm currently a resident of Menlo Park and I was previously a resident of Palo Alto.

I commute to work on my bike every day and I enjoy recreational bike rides during my free time.

I'm a strong supporter of naming the San Mateo Biking and walking bridge after Mike Harding. He was a role model for a number of Bay Area cyclists, myself included, and honoring him will also reflect well on a large number of people who had the pleasure to interact with Mike over a number of years.

Thanks in advance for considering my suggestion,
Pierre Cintra
907 Timothy Lane
Menlo Park, CA 94025-1726

Carnahan, David

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

From: Karen Davis <karen.k.davis@stanfordalumni.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 6:18 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Karen Davis
Subject: I support the naming of the San Mateo Drive bike bridge after Mike Harding

14 NOV -4 PM 6:54

To the Palo Alto City Council:

I strongly support the proposal to name the San Mateo Drive bicycle / pedestrian bridge after Mike Harding.

I knew Mike for more than 30 years in the Western Wheelers Bicycle Club. He was very active in the club, both as a participant and as a leader. I also knew him from his numerous activities for bicycle advocacy in San Mateo County, and for those contributions it would be a fitting tribute to name the bridge after him. He was a delightful person.

I have greatly benefited from the bridge. I commuted by bicycle from Redwood City to Stanford University over the bridge for 15 years, rain or shine, day or night. Now retired, I still frequently use it to get to Stanford and Palo Alto.

Karen Davis
152 Oakfield Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94061
650 365-9462

Carnahan, David

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

From: Bob Page <bppage@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 10:54 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: San Francisquito Bike/Ped Bridge naming

14 NOV -5 AM 10: 58

Palo Alto City Councilmembers:

I urge you to approve the naming of the San Mateo Drive/San Francisquito Bike/Ped Bridge to recognize and honor the long-time efforts of Mike Harding to make the Mid-Peninsula a safe environment for healthy, convenient non-motorized transit.

This critical bridge linking two cities and two counties is heavily used by bicyclists and pedestrians.

Mike was a champion for such facilities. Like Ellen Fletcher, Mike worked tirelessly to ensure that local and regional infrastructure would be provided and maintained to facilitate and encourage safe and convenient, local and regional, travel by bike and foot. Such efforts deserve public recognition and commemoration to inspire others to work for the well-being and health of others and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Page
2803 Carson Street
Redwood City, CA 94061