



To: Menlo Park City Council
Date: January 25, 2019
Re: 2019 Goal Setting Session

Honorable Councilmembers,

We at Menlo Together are looking forward to the new year and to working with our new City Council to build on the successes of 2018. We would like to congratulate and welcome the new members of Menlo Park City Council, and we thank Mayor Ray Mueller and Councilmember Catherine Carlton for their collaboration and commitment to public service.

Menlo Together is a group of Menlo Park and Peninsula residents who envision a city that is integrated and diverse, multi-generational, and environmentally sustainable. Core organizational partners in our coalition include Friends of Caltrain, Housing Leadership Council, Menlo Spark, and TransForm. We formed Menlo Together to elevate conversations on the key issues of housing, transportation, and sustainability in our community.

Attached you will find a list of priority recommendations from Menlo Together for the Council's consideration as it begins its goal-setting for the 2019 Council Work Plan.

We recognize that the purpose of the goal-setting session is to determine how and where to apply the finite resources available to City staff and Council. That is why Menlo Together drew on the diverse expertise of its members to identify the most effective ways to leverage the City's resources for our shared goals.

We believe that Menlo Park can be a leader on the Peninsula in promoting community stability and housing affordability, encouraging safe and healthy transportation options, and reducing our carbon footprint. Pursuing the policies and projects Menlo Together proposes here would mark decisive steps in that direction.



We strongly encourage Council to adopt a selection of these policy and project areas at its goal-setting session. We would be happy to clarify or discuss any of them in greater detail, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us at menlotogether@gmail.com.

All of us at Menlo Together look forward to an ongoing and informed dialogue with Council throughout the year on the issues affecting our community.

Sincerely,

Adina Levin
Diane Bailey
Jen Wolosin
Karen Grove
Rachel Horst
Angela Evans



Menlo Together Policy Priority Areas 2019

HOUSING ACTIONS

Protect vulnerable Menlo Park residents from displacement and keep our communities intact.

- Adopt the Tenant Relocation Assistance ordinance, as proposed by the Housing Commission.
- Dedicate resources specifically to supporting landlords and tenants in proportion to the 42% of Menlo Park residents who rent.
- Direct the Housing Commission to study a Just Cause Eviction ordinance.

Reduce the jobs/housing imbalance.

- Direct staff to proactively approach affordable housing development, including identifying sites and funding, near transit and services. Include available public and surplus land in this effort.
- Increase height limits and ease parking requirements as appropriate for new housing developments located near transit.
- Direct staff to report quarterly on the jobs/housing balance; include developments that have been approved, entitled, and occupied. Make these reports publicly available on the city's website.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

Accelerate Carbon Reductions.

- Adopt a policy requiring all new buildings to be Zero Carbon and Fossil Free. Build on recommendations of Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), e.g. adoption of CalGreen reach codes in 2019 building code update and expansion of Bayfront green building standards to other zones (El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan).
- Adopt a new Climate Action Plan, as recommended by EQC. Include a more comprehensive assessment of carbon pollution from transportation, mitigation and resilience measures.

TRANSPORTATION ACTIONS

Establish a city-wide bike and pedestrian network that is safe for 8-80 year olds.

- Direct staff and Complete Streets Commission to recommend two top priority projects and build them. Examples may include: connecting Belle Haven to Burgess, and/or Burgess to Hillview.
- Direct the Complete Streets Commission to study and recommend citywide street standards to improve safety, calm traffic, and protect neighborhoods.
- Create a full-time staff position for bike and pedestrian safety.

Reduce solo driving to Downtown Menlo Park to 50%.

- Direct staff to study/adopt policies on parking management, and to consider other access improvements such as improved shuttle, bike/scooter share, and/or discount ride-share.
- Implement a city-wide Transportation Management Association (TMA) with geographic operating areas by end of 2019.