



# Connecting Lafayette: Downtown Pathways and Schools Safety Project Fact Sheet

## **What is the Project?**

The Connecting Lafayette project will increase access and improve safety by creating a fully separated path for pedestrians and bicyclists between Lafayette's downtown, Lafayette Elementary, Stanley Middle School, and the popular regional Lafayette-Moraga Pathway. The project will also reduce neighborhood congestion through the design of an alternate drop-off area on St. Mary's Street for Stanley Middle School.

The project will:

- Expand Lafayette's 'low-stress' pedestrian and bicycle network.
- Fill the gap between the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and the First Street pathway.
- Provide a safe, complete, and protected walking/biking connection between Downtown and the city's neighborhoods south of the project site.
- Improve safety for students, parents, and caregivers who are walking or biking to and from Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School.
- Address congestion related to school pick-up and drop-off adjacent to Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School.

## **What is the Project Scope?**

The Connecting Lafayette Project will include the following components:

### School Street

- Design and construct a multi-use pathway from Moraga Road to Topper Lane

### Topper Lane

- Design and construct a multi-use pathway from School Street to St. Mary's Road

### St. Mary's Road

- Design and construct a sidewalk on the north side from Topper Lane to Birdhaven Court
- Design a formal and expanded drop-off/pick-up zone behind Stanley Middle School\*
- Design an extension of the sidewalk along the north side from Acampo Drive to Topper Lane\*

\* At present time, funding is only available for the design of these components on St. Mary's Road. The City does not currently have funding for construction.

## **What is the History of the Project?**

Over the past decade, the City conducted four studies focusing on traffic safety, access, and circulation within Lafayette to address issues and concerns raised by many in the community. The concept for the multi-use pathway emerged from a Rapid Implementation School Safety Plan conducted for Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School in 2022, a Complete Street Safety Assessment by Berkeley SafeTREC in 2020, and a Safe Routes to School Summary Report in 2013, which was initiated for Lafayette Elementary School and Springhill Elementary School. Additionally, the multi-use pathways and drop-off zone behind Stanley Middle School were recommended as part of the Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan in 2018.

## **What is a Multi-Use Pathway?**

A multi-use pathway is a path that is designed for the exclusive use of pedestrians and cyclists with physical separation from and minimal cross-flow by vehicles. A multi-use pathway can be one-way or two-way, can be raised at the same height as a sidewalk, or constructed as a trail.

## What are the Funding Sources for the Project?

The City has secured two federal grants for the project. These grants will fund the design and construction of the multi-use pathways along School Street, Topper Lane, and the sidewalk along St. Mary's Road between Topper Lane and Birdhaven Court. Local funds will be used to contribute towards the pathways as well as fund the design of the drop-off zone along St. Mary's Road and the sidewalk extension between Acampo Drive and Topper Lane.

The two federal grants and total funding amounts include:

- Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (\$3,100,000)
- One Bay Area Grant, Cycle 3 (\$750,000)
- City of Lafayette General Fund (\$770,000)

## What is the Tentative Project Schedule?

The following represent the primary project phases with approximate timelines. Dates are subject to change.

- Initial Conceptual Design: September – December 2023
- Public Engagement and Stakeholder Meetings: October 2023 - February 2025
- Refined Conceptual Design: January - June 2024
- Transportation Commission and City Council Meetings: April 2024 - August 2025
- Preliminary Cost Estimate: May 2024
- Environmental Review: August 2024 – March 2025
- Detailed Design: August 2024 – August 2025
- Construction: June 2026 (estimated start date)

## What's Next?

The project team will host a public Open House to introduce the project, solicit input, and answer questions in advance of engineering and design work.

**Date:** Thursday, December 7, 2023

**Time and Location:** TBD

Sign up for project updates via the **City's E-Notification** system:  
<https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/e-notification>

