

Proposal for a
Glen Ellen-Eldridge Community Bikeway

An outstanding opportunity exists to develop a community bikeway between the Sonoma Valley communities of Glen Ellen and Eldridge. Running more than four miles north from Madrone Road, the bikeway will link residential neighborhoods to downtown Glen Ellen, Dunbar Elementary School, Eldridge (which includes the former Sonoma Developmental Center, and two Regional Parks. The bikeway will provide six thousand people living in neighborhoods along the route (2010 U.S. Census) safe, non-motorized access to shopping, commuting, recreation, and transit stops. The many visitors to the area will also use the path for recreation, sight-seeing and wine tasting.

The essential elements of a “Glen Ellen-Eldridge Bikeway” are already in place. The proposed route (see attached map) incorporates an existing bike path on county property, a railroad grade on state property (Eldridge), quiet side streets, and a paved bike path on an existing easement. Except for two very short sections, the bikeway avoids heavily traveled roads.

The bikeway is already usable, though two barriers restrict easy passage. The creation of the Glen Ellen-Eldridge Bikeway will not require widening roads for bike lanes, or acquiring easements on private property. The following steps, which could be implemented one at a time, will provide increasing “ride-ability” as the route is developed. In approximate order of complexity, these include:

- Removing metal rail next to the gate at SDC end of the old railroad grade to allow easy bike and pedestrian access
- Installing a crosswalk at Madrone Road
- Removing the gate between the Regional Park and SDC (has been open for years)
- Providing a durable surface between the Regional Park and SDC.
- Installing signage

The Glen Ellen-Eldridge Bikeway will serve as both a stand-alone, local route, and as a vital link in the system linking cities and regions envisioned in the SCTA Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (2008). The terminus of the planned Central Sonoma Valley Bikeway is just over a mile from the southern end of this proposed bikeway. Connecting the two would create a viable bike route all the way from the town of Sonoma to Glen Ellen. Similar large projects, such as the Bay Ridge Trail, have found success developing one short section at a time, building momentum as the linkages are slowly worked out.

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**PROPOSED
GLEN ELLEN - ELDRIDGE
COMMUNITY BIKEWAY**
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Legend

- Side Streets 3.38 miles
- Dirt Road/Trail 0.51
- Paved Bike Trail 0.49
- Main Road 0.20

TOTAL LENGTH = 4.58 miles

