

## Community Safety on our Trails and at Home

Safety at home and on the paths around town is essential for physical protection, community trust, and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. Taking proactive safety measures, prevents accidents, reduces crime, mitigates the impacts of natural disasters, and leads to an improved quality of life.

### Our Trails

In the fall of 2023, the Tiburon Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) commission, which at the time I was Vice Chair, passed a measure to regulate [e-bikes and e-scooters](#). This measure was moved to the Tiburon Town council to review and they passed it in March of 2024 updating [the regulations in the town code on the operation of e-bikes and e-scooters](#). Concurrently, our Assemblymember Damon Connolly has sponsored [Assembly Bill 1778](#), limiting the age of a person who can drive a Level 2 e-bike to those over 16 and this bill is awaiting the Governor's signature at this time.

However, in Tiburon, e-bikes are only one of the challenges on our multi-use paths. The Old Rail Trail (ORT) is a single high-use north-south bike path that constrains Tiburon and Belvedere. It's used as a main thoroughfare for recreational walkers, bikers, e-bikers, dog walkers, athletes at McKeagney Green, children commuting to 4 schools, and adults commuting to downtown and the ferry. As part of a soon-to-be-released [Master Parks Plan](#), we determined that, on average, the ORT paved path is 10 feet wide, with 50 inches of dirt on one side, and 35 inches of dirt on the other (total of 17 feet wide) and the speed limit is 15 MPH. Conversely, the Mill Valley bike path is 13.5 feet of paved section, with 45 inches of dirt on one side, and 52 inches on the other (total of 21.5 feet wide). The bike path in Mill Valley is 4.5 feet wider, with fewer bicycles and pedestrians in a less population-dense area. The speed limit on the Mill Valley bike path is also 15 MPH, except for a section from the beginning of Bayfront Park to the south and from Blithdale to the north, which is 10 MPH for this congested area at all times. Below are policy actions I would propose as a member of the Tiburon Town Council based on this and other data.

### Path Safety Recommendations

- Update the Tiburon code to make the entire central bike path on the ORT 10 MPH based on existing congestion and physical width. This change in speed is consistent with the Mill Valley approach. This change in speed limit would be an update in Municipal Code [Section E of Chapters 23-25](#).
- Increase the width of the bike path to equal or broader than the Mill Valley bike path (at least 21.5 feet total)
- Increase ORT maintenance budget focusing on well-maintained, safe paths allowing people to move around Tiburon confidently and safely.
- Using the soon-to-be-completed Traffic and Study Report, evaluate how to enlarge Tiburon Boulevard for broader shoulders or include a bike lane in either direction for adult bikers and e-bikers wishing to travel fast.

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- Create a safe crossing environment for pedestrians crossing Tiburon Boulevard at Gilmartin to walk to the Middle Ridge open space, including the Hippie Tree.
- Seek to create potential traffic and parking enforcement Joint Powers with Belvedere. Using traffic-only enforcement officers riding bicycles on weekends will help bring more calm.
- Collaborate with police and stakeholders in other jurisdictions, including the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, on solutions for bikes in heavily bicycle-trafficked areas in Southern Marin.

## Our Community

Creating a safe community where you can live, rest, work, and spend time with family contributes to your quality of life too. In Tiburon, crime is rare. However, when it happens, it is a violation that completely upends your sense of safety and belonging. When this happens, the citizens of Tiburon deserve an empathetic response, not just three minutes during public comment during a Town Council meeting.

Our community should be actively engaged to secure ourselves not only from crime but also to prepare and protect ourselves from the impacts of wildfire and earthquakes. These risks will happen in our community and the Town Council and Town Staff should be ready to help us mitigate and minimize risks and advise its citizens on the best means to address them. Below are recommendations I would propose, as a member of the Tiburon Town Council.

## Home Safety Policy Recommendations

- Increase police presence when needed during the holidays and summer months when street traffic is down and homes are empty due to vacations.
- Ask TPD to expand technology deployment and work with Tiburon residents on resident home security camera feeds to determine coverage for collaboration and deterrents. Using potential technology providers [Fusus](#), [Axon Citizen](#), or [Genetec's Clearance](#)
- Encourage community involvement through neighborhood block captain programs similar to [Belvedere](#) to build tighter relationships among neighbors. Leverage existing neighborhood associations throughout Tiburon.
- Examine possible options for [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design](#) (CPTED), such as better lighting and clear sightlines.

## Community Resiliency Recommendations

- Request all Town Staff participate in [Resilient Neighborhood training](#) for emergency preparedness of carbon footprint reduction and promote the program to the community.
- Collaborate with Tiburon and Southern Marin Fire Districts for FireWise workshops using existing [FireWise](#) communities in Tiburon.
- Add the [Belvedere-Tiburon Disaster Advisory Council](#) to a quarterly Town Council agenda to identify progress and challenges to the emergency preparedness of 94920.

Read my [policy plans](#) to address traffic on Tiburon Boulevard and other key issues on [hornbrook4tiburon.com](#).