



Mr. Charlie Krenz,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project. The District is in the very early stages of the design process with our consulting team. Please review the responses to your questions and comments submitted to the Board of Directors on November 28, 2018.

*Water Bars - The latest report from geologist Timothy Best calls for 26 water bars to be constructed in the upper section, the stretch above the "bypass trail". I'm hoping the District can instead consider "out-sloping" the trail as much as possible. I realize that this could get expensive given the amount of regrading that would be involved when the road bed already exists and is quite wide in places, but am hoping some compromise can be made. Either way, some of the bars below the bypass that, I believe, the district installed several years ago are pretty clumsy, too big and too steep. I'd very much like to see that sort of design avoided. For me, the more the renovated route can be like the Mt Umunhum Trail the better: reasonably sized water bars + artfully placed twists and turns and long sight lines make for a safe and enjoyable route.*

District standards call for the installation of drain dips on trails. During new construction or the realignment of trails, it is relatively easy to include reverse grade sections in the design to drain water. On an existing road, however, it is more difficult and can result in steeper drain dips to ensure proper water drainage. The District will discuss options with our consulting design team to provide alternatives to the style of drain dips installed on the section of Alpine Road below the Bypass Trail. The ability to install more gradual dips will depend on the existing grade of the road and other site specific factors. Larger dips help reduce maintenance requirements, especially when dealing with an existing roadbed, which then also helps extend the life of the road improvement. The District will explore options to provide low-maintenance visitor friendly drainage features on Alpine Road.

*Non-Native species removal - Below the by pass, much of the trail is flanked on both sides by French Broom. It's been running amuck in the area for the 20 years I've lived here. Might we find some budget for this multi-year chore? I think its beyond the scope of what volunteers could be asked to do. Brian indicated he'd look into this issue.*

French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) has an extremely long-lived seed bank, some estimates exceed 75 years of seed bank viability. The District invests time and energy in eradicating broom sites where a commitment can be made to monitor and maintain the site on a long-term basis. The District analyzed the site below the Bypass Trail about three years ago and deemed it far too extensive to successful control with current District resources. If the District takes on management of the Alpine Road Trail, which requires negotiations with San Mateo County, the District will reevaluate whether sufficient resources can be made available to successfully take on this task.

*Construction Closure - I've asked that the District do more than it typically does to keep the route somewhat open during construction as it's an important artery for many cyclists to get up to open space areas along skyline w/o having to either drive or ride up a busy road or state highway. Perhaps the route can be opened on the evenings and weekends? Better yet, if hikers and cyclists, can be permitted to pass through work zones during the construction I doubt if this will cause undo inconvenience most of the time. If some compromise can be found here the public would very much appreciate it. Also, if a schedule of planned closure dates can be posted well in advance, this would be helpful.*

The District will work to minimize trail closures to the maximum extent practicable. However, there will likely be unavoidable closures of at least segments, if not the entire trail, during at least portions of the construction work. The District will need to review the final design to determine the best method to minimize closures. Public safety will be a top priority during construction. The District will provide advanced notification of trail closures associated with the project on the District's website and at access points to Alpine Road.

*Ownership - Brian informs negotiations to transfer ownership for the route from San Mateo Co to MROSD will likely happen after renovations are completed. Might it make sense to at least start the discussion now? Seems like issues are bound to come up and it's probably best to get started with this now during the design/permitting phase.*

The District is currently working with San Mateo County on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the future improvements and eventual ownership of the road easement and fee title currently owned by the county. San Mateo County is reviewing a draft version of the MOU.

*Name - This is kind of trivial, but I think it's worth thinking about. Most call the route "Dirt Alpine", a name that makes it sound like a motor cycle park. The District refers to the route as "Alpine Road Trail" which strikes me as odd, awkward. How about "Alpine Trail"? I argue its easy to remember and appropriately alludes to the old, historic use of the route as well as its renovated form as a trail.*

The District Board will review the trail name at a later date, if trail ownership is transferred from San Mateo County to the District.

*Oh, one more I haven't mentioned to Brian as yet: Might there be a place for a small interpretive plaque at the bottom? As I understand it, the route is around 100 years old and that it was used as a "farm to market" road. Coastal farmers brought produce into town via the route. Some recognition of its significance to the area might be appropriate.*

If the District assumes ownership and responsibility for the closed section of Alpine Road Trail, a trail signage plan will be developed and interpretive signage considered.

Thank you again for interest in the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project.

Regards,

Jed Cyr  
MROSD Board President