

Elevate SD 2020: Carmel Valley Community Forum – Executive Summary

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Location: Carmel Valley Recreation Center
Attendees: 52

Overview:

In addition to presentations from MTS marketing and planning staff, attendees were asked to participate in two interactive elements: a values priority activity, and small group discussions. The following summarizes the feedback provided from those activities.

Top Values:

Participants were given five stickers, and asked to identify their top values that should help shape the future of transit. Below are the results:

1. Provide viable alternatives to a car (35)
2. Connect directly to more destinations (27)
3. Reduce traffic congestion (27)
4. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions/improve environmental health (25)
5. More frequent service (22)
6. Improve roads and highways to support transit (13)
7. Faster service (13)
8. Access to jobs/education (12)
9. Mobility solutions for senior and disabled citizens (11)
10. Other (8)
11. Low-cost fares (6)

Round-Table Summaries:

Participants also broke up into small groups for a round-table discussions facilitated by MTS staff. They were asked to share what their transit priorities were, and what values/projects were most important to their communities. The following themes emerged among the six small groups:

- Need service, period. Carmel Valley is currently not served by public transit, and the primary takeaway was that the community wants transit options
- Most conversations focused on bus service as a solution, including the use of smaller vehicles/shuttles, circulator routes and along major corridors (ex: Del Mar Heights Road)

- Access/connections to destinations was popular, with five of the six groups mentioning the Airport specifically
- Four of the six groups discussed need for future transit service to connect to major transit hubs in the region (the Sorrento Valley COASTER Station and future Mid-Coast Trolley extension at UTC)
- Half of the small groups also mentioned service for youth/to local schools

Top Three Takeaways:

At the conclusion of the round-tables, each group was asked to identify their ‘top three takeaways’ for MTS based on their group’s discussions (i.e. of everything discussed at the event, identify what the three most important priorities/ideas were). Below is a summary of those priorities.

- Add (bus) service (7):
 - Need service in Carmel Valley/Sorrento Valley
 - Expand bus/Trolley service
 - Bus on Del Mar Heights Road
 - Bus service to schools
 - Bus service to Carmel Valley with frequency, connections to schools, jobs, Torrey Pines to Del Mar + coast
 - More service in areas not being served/underserved (Carmel Mountain/Valley; Balboa Park; Del Mar; Kearny Mesa; Miramar; Airport)
 - Service on El Camino Real/Del Mar Heights Road
- Connections to transit hubs (2):
 - Sorrento Valley COASTER and Mid-Coast extension/UTC
 - Bus to UC San Diego Blue Line
- Small vehicles for service (2):
 - Smaller vehicles (suburban appropriate, design of stations need to fit with community)
 - Small, van sized
- Fast and direct service (2):
 - Faster/more direct service (E-W connections 52/56 – possible Rapid Express on 56 median?)
 - Better connections and high frequency of service
- Quality of life (2):
 - Congestion/speeding, walkability + bike/pedestrian safety, options for seniors/limited mobility, cost/access
 - Protected bike lanes
- Mobility hubs in Carmel Valley (and city-wide)
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, electric buses
- Affordability (options for students and seniors)

A full report of the small group discussions, and open comment is included below.

Round-Table 1
Service to schools for youth (Torrey Pines, CCA, etc.) - and connections to 2/4 year colleges
Transit connections to Sorrento Valley COASTER
We need service, period (alternatives to car)
Not a fan of big buses (like electric Trolley cars/shuttles)
Connections to future Mid-Coast extension
Transit has to be easier
Faster connections (takes 3 hours now)
E-W connection on 56 (huge median) - 52 too
Skyways for I-5/I-805
Resistance to urbanization of our neighborhoods
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Want service, but smaller vehicles (suburb appropriate, design of stations need to fit with community)
2. Connections to transit hubs (specifically Sorrento Valley COASTER and Mid-Coast extension/UTC)
3. Faster/more direct service (E-W connections 52/56 - Rapid Express on 56 median?)
Round-Table 2
Increased frequency of buses
Affordable rates, promotional prices
Added Trolley cars/expansion
Connection Carmel Valley, Sorrento, Kearny Mesa, Miramar
Start with a bus in this area - El Camino Real, Del Mar Heights, Carmel Mountain Road; connect to Route 101 (NCTD service); connect to Balboa Park
Protected bike lanes in service routes
Better Park & Ride areas; centralized parking
Airport Trolley
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Better connections and high frequency of service
2. Expand Trolley/bus services
3. More service in areas that are currently not being served/underserved (Carmel Mtn/Valley; Balboa Park, Del Mar, Kearny Mesa, Miramar, Airport)
Round-Table 3
Absence of bus service in Carmel Valley (less costly but will alleviate traffic along Del Mar Heights Road and El Camino Real to the coast/SV COASTER)
Transit hub in Point Loma/Old Town with lots of parking (get bus service all the way down Rosecrans)
Buses should be more frequent, especially rush hour times
Adjust infrastructure for added buses (includes drawing with curbside cut-out for bus parking)
Prioritize bus service over expensive long-range alternatives (more buses, SMALLER buses, para-transit buses)
Climate Action plan goals - Electric buses
Buses to airport

Clarification with fares
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Buses (small, van-sized) in Carmel Valley
2. Mobility hubs in Carmel Valley (and city-wide)
3. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, electric buses
Round-Table 4
Bus on Del Mar Heights Road (Torrey Pines High School, Canyon Crest High School, the beach/Pacific Coast Highway)
Bus to Sorrento Valley COASTER station
Bus to UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley
Community circulator routes
Service to schools
Trolley to Airport and Old Town
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Bus on Del Mar Heights Road
2. Bus to UC San Diego Blue Line
3. Bus service to schools
Round-Table 5
Mobility for seniors
Reduce traffic congestion
Mobility options besides the car
On-demand service
Expanded paratransit territory
Commute "emergency ride" options
Better real-time information
Beach connection
Trolley to the airport
Connection between Carmel Valley and UC San Diego
Walkable communities
Service on Del Mar Heights Road --> Pacific Highlands Ranch
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Bus service to Carmel Valley with frequency, connections to schools, jobs, Torrey Pines to Del Mar + Coast
2. Quality of life - congestion/speeding, walkability + bike/pedestrian safety, options for seniors/limited mobility (micro/on-demand), cost/access
3. Affordability (options for students and seniors)
Round-Table 6
Convert highways to transit lanes/not add
Bike lanes - protected (not just transit, but make it easier to get to transit)

Habitat preservation
Better connections to the airport
No one single road going east/west in Carmel Valley area
Use elementary schools as a trip indicator
Pilot to the beach
Need any service in Carmel Valley/more service in Sorrento Valley
Del Mar Heights - big location for service (three high schools/elementary schools)
Fare discounting for students
Stack service
Localized bus service just for this area
Smaller buses - neighborhood routes
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Need service in Carmel Valley/Sorrento Valley
2. Protected bike lanes
3. Service on El Camino Real/Del Mar Heights Road

Open Comments
Reduce congestion on the road to Camino del Mar. Looking for Transit to reduce/slow down traffic to make it more pedestrian /bicycle friendly and safer
Bus service needed along the entire length of Del Mar Heights Road to get students to school and shoppers to all the shopping areas: One Paseo, Del Mar Highlands and Highlands Place. Service to beaches, Balboa Park, service to airport from Del Mar Heights.
We need our transit systems to easily connect. We need connections to the airport.
Walking/biking to be protected by shade trees
One central app for all modes of transport: Bike, walk scooter, bus, smart parking.
Back up/emergency pick up when buses are tardy (>30 min late)
A bus between Carmel Valley and Del Mar
Connect Carmel Valley, particularly south of 56
There is zero service in CV near me. Eastbound 56 connect to 5, such poor signage now. Transit east/ west on Del Mar Heights Rd from beaches to Del mar Penasquitos. Transit North south Carmel Valley has created two generations of people who are dependent on their cars. Any more public transportation will need to be super sexy. When 56 was built there was no bike path connection to proposed high school. There was space, but this was a failure of planners. MTS should work with planners/ developers in areas of open land/development.
I would like to see the further expansion of your Trolley and bus system from downtown through Balboa park to Kearny Mesa and North to the Miramar College Transit Station. I think a trolley to the airport would be also useful. I would also like more pedestrian and bike lanes.
Bus along Del Mark Heights Rd. from 101 & beach to TPMS to Canyon crest school Transit to UCSD Hub: Sorrento Valley, University Towne Center, One Paseo, Del Mar Highlands Mall, Pacific Highlands Mall.

Extend immediately trolley up to Via de la Valle. Development of technology with US companies. Tunneling to go between Mesas or trolley lines. Trolley between stops must go 100 MPH.
We NEED BUS SERVICE in Carmel Valley, particularly along Del Mar Heights RD and El Camino Rd. There are three large high schools on Del Mar Heights Rd and bus service could do a lot to relieve traffic congestion. My neighborhood was part of the plan approved by the city back in 1981 for a future transit center, and it's been 38 years and we still do not have bus service. We've waited long enough!
We have no bus service at all on the east side of the freeway leaving workers and kids landlocked with no way of getting to our beaches and schools. I would like to have: 1. Bus route from 101 to CCA (end of Del Mar heights Rd) 2. Transportation to coaster stations in Sorrento Valley 3. Smaller commuter buses for connections to larger bus hubs.
Shuttles to transport people and schools, and Vans to transport hubs (coaster, UTC Trolley)
Connect DM Beach across Del Mar Highway Rd to 56 at CV road and all the way to Sabre Springs transit center. Connect mid coast trolley to Sorrento Valley Connect UCSD through Sorrento Valley from I-5, then along 56 to sabre springs. Create more "no right on red" lights along 56 bike path. eg. at CV road and I-5 at both Northbound and Southbound I-5 traffic lights. Segregated bike lane from Sorrento Valley along SV and Mira Mesa Blvd. all the way to the 15 and Mira Mar Transit Center.
Huge reduction in private car use. Also consider "tandeming" delivery trucks and use ONLY truck lanes.
MTS Electric buses need to cover Del Mar heights, El Camino Road and Carmel Valley Road/ Carmel Creek corridor, even Carmel 17th Rd that would take a huge amount of cars of the hwy, would enhance overall quality and improve quality of life for Carmel Valley and Del Mar residents!
1. Bus service from Old Town transit center or other hub to the end of the Rosecrans. 2. Traffic congestion is terrible in morning hours and afternoon. Adequate parking at old town hub so people can park there and take the bus to work at naval facility at the end of Rosecrans. 3. More frequent bus service. 4. Smaller buses (van-size) in areas of lighter ridership (less carbon emissions and cheaper to operate) 5. Bus service to airport.
In the 36+ people in attendance the 2 major take aways were: 1. Mass transit service to CV period. 2. Mass Transit connection to hubs.
Public Transit East + West on Del Mar Heights Rd from 4th street in Del Mar through to Carmel Valley Rd. This would cut down congestion to 3 High schools (Torrey Pines, Cathedral, Canyon Crest) Would also allow families to conveniently access three + shopping centers (Beachside Del Mar, One Paseo, Del Mar Highlands, Pacific Highlands Ranch and more) Connect the neighborhoods provide teens + youth safe method to get to school , work , food + shopping. So many walking along DMHS Rd, which is not safe (Carbon unsafe crossing, etc) and some /many underage teens resorting to use uber to other ride services which is neither legal nor safe. As a parent, I'd feel much more confident letting my teens ride the bus, trolley, other AND willing to pay for it. There are thousands of students at the 3 DMH Rd high schools and zero school buses.
Make communities more walkable and transit accessible. We need to plan for inevitable growth in the region and have sustainable growth plans. Make it easier to get around without a car.
Connectivity with Carmel Valley, Sorrento & Del Mar
Transit east west on Del Mar Hts road with greater frequency at school start times and school release times. Being able to put a bike on a bus. That is sometimes available and needs to be consistent.
Start service ASAP, at least a pilot program for this summer!
At least a bus to the coaster station in SV buses transport that goes where people want to go.
We would like to see MTS on Sorrento Valley Blvd. Camino Santa Fe, Vista Sorrento pkwy. Sorrento Valley is so congested.

1. Direct train trolley service to airport. 2. Del Mar Fairgrounds event train station 3. Trolley Service to Fairgrounds 4. Trolley Service to Sorrento Valley business/ Mira Mesa blvd

Use a stored Value System of trolley so it can be used as needed, the current system does not encourage frequent users. 5. Trolley should go straight up the I-5 corridor, current plan I-5 are consuming that limited land resource for trolley.

Combine busses with schools to be more efficient.

Bus to Carmel Valley and Sorrento Valley to get to highschool Please connect us to the mis coasts trolley and I will use it to commute to work and fight climate change and allowing me to multitask like when I lived in NYC. Also my mom (79) can't drive much longer. Doing this for my son, mom and me, Thanks for listening to us today!