

San Joaquin County – Countywide Sidewalk Connectivity Plan

Municipal Advisory Council Meetings at French Camp, Linden, and Thornton

Event Summaries

Introduction

San Joaquin County Public Works (Public Works) alongside the consultant project team initiated its *Countywide Sidewalk Connectivity Plan* (Plan) community engagement by presenting at Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings in French Camp, Linden, and Thornton. The presentations aimed to gather feedback and information from the local community members regarding their experiences with pedestrian accessibility in the area. The project team supplemented the presentation by using interactive boards to encourage community members to share their feedback and suggestions on pedestrian facilities they would like implemented in their communities.



Boards set up in French Camp

Across the MAC meetings approximately 50 community members heard the presentation, visited the interactive boards, provided their comments, and actively participated in the meetings.

Project team members in attendance included:

- San Joaquin County Public Works
- Fehr & Peers

Project Overview

The Countywide Sidewalk Connectivity Plan will establish a vision on how to improve conditions for people traveling on foot or with mobility devices throughout San Joaquin County (County). This may include things like new sidewalks, marked crosswalks, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, and more.

The plan aims to create a continuous and integrated pedestrian network using a comprehensive database that recognizes sidewalks and marked cross walks throughout the unincorporated County. The recognized connectivity gaps partnered with the experience and recommendations of County residents will shape the plan. Identifying and prioritizing safe pedestrian routes to schools and parks, and designing for vulnerable users, can support positive mobility, health, and educational outcomes for San Joaquin County. Creating a plan for the County will set up specific projects for funding and implementation to achieve the visions and goals of County residents.



Project team presenting at the Linden MAC

MAC Meetings Format

The meetings were held at the following locations on the following dates:

- Health Plan of San Joaquin in French Camp on Thursday, May 15, 2025.
- Linden-Peters Fire Department in Linden on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.
- Thorton Community Hall in Thornton on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

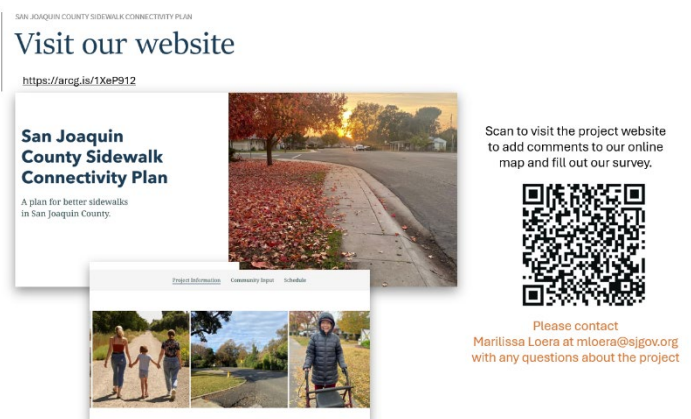
As they walked in, community members were presented with a Pedestrian Toolkit board and an Existing Facilities map. The Pedestrian Toolkit showcased potential features that could be incorporated into the community as a part of the plan. The Existing Facilities map outlined current sidewalks and crosswalks in the community while also demonstrating the gaps in connectivity. Community members were encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas by attaching post-it notes to designated boards, indicating the locations and facilities they would like to see in the plan.



Community members interacting with the boards at French Camp

The slideshow presentation of the plan provided an overview of the project and listed the following project goals:

- Enhancing pedestrian safety through San Joaquin County.
- Ensuring equitable access to pedestrian infrastructure for all users.
- Creating a continuous an integrated pedestrian network.
- Promoting walking to improve community health and environmental stability.



Final slide from slideshow presentation

During the question and comment section of the presentation community members shared ideas and concerns about pedestrian accessibility. Public Works staff noted comments down and posted them to the interactive boards. The presentation concluded by providing a QR code for the project website and promoting responses on the online map. Once the MAC meetings concluded community members were encouraged to provide further feedback with the interactive boards on their way out.

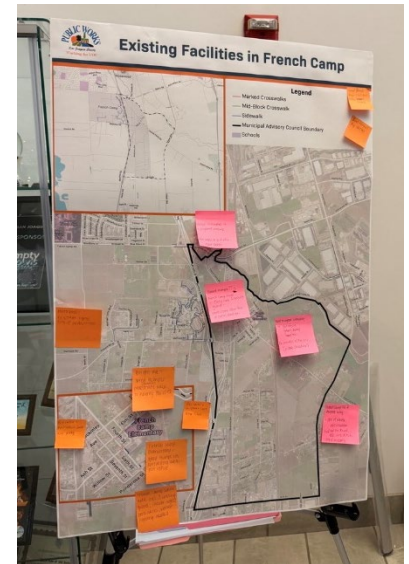
Each presentation was tailored to the community it was being presented to. French Camp's material was focused on pedestrian improvements that complement the rural environs the community has emphasized it wants to preserve. Linden's material highlighted pedestrian paths around a new roundabout included in its Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Application that the community supports.

Feedback From Community Members

MAC Meeting 1: French Camp

1. Comments

- a) Matthews Rd has no streetlights and lots of pedestrians.
- b) Fire station to post office could use rectangular rapid flashing beacons.
- c) Bright Rd needs speed humps/sidewalks, pedestrians walk to nearby facilities.
- d) Pedestrian crossing in street signs near school.
- e) French Camp Elementary needs speed humps in surrounding areas like the post office.
- f) French Camp Elementary only has 1 cross guard, clearer signs, crosswalks, and better lighting need for some other form of control/direction.
- g) Need to improve connectivity to post offices, grocery stores, hospitals, and be mindful of agricultural uses which need wider shoulders.
- h) French Camp Rd and Airport Way has lots of weeds, no shoulder, and a kid was hit on the road and fell into a ditch, there is lots of accidents.
- i) Don't restrict agricultural access.
- j) Speed bumps near school, post office, church.

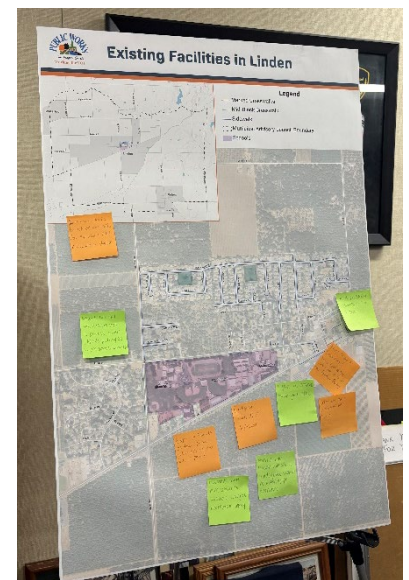


Map of Existing Facilities in French Camp with comments

MAC Meeting 2: Linden

1. Comments

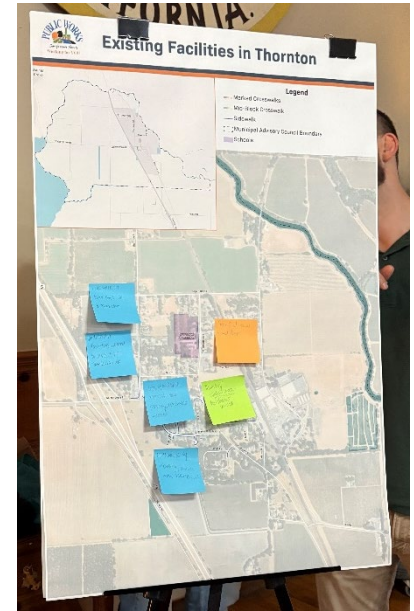
- a) Northside of Highway 26 has lots of foot traffic from high school to Orlando's, kids walk on shoulder.
- b) Gaps in sidewalk on Front St near coffee shop where city Christmas tree is placed.
- c) Crosswalk needed from high school to Orlando's Market, more pedestrian safety needed along Highway 26.
- d) Inadequate sidewalk at high school.
- e) Front St near Linden high school has inadequate sidewalks between staff entrance.
- f) Lights needed on crosswalk near post office.
- g) Front St near high school is simply nuts! Several feet of poor sidewalk on north side near teacher parking.
- h) There are gaps in sidewalk near Fiore's.
- i) More pedestrian visibility on Highway 26 and Mill St.



Map of Existing Facilities in Linden with comments

MAC Meeting 3: Thornton

1. Comments
 - a) (Spanish) Crosswalk wanted on New Hope Rd & Thornton Rd.
 - b) (Spanish) Pedestrian facilities needed to protect us from speeding cars on Thornton Rd from New Hope Rd to Walnut Grove Rd near the school there is a lot of pedestrian activity.
 - c) Lots of pedestrian activity near library, crosswalks wanted.
 - d) Crosswalk by library needs improvement with rectangular rapid flashing beacons or anything with a button and lights.
 - e) Roundabout wanted at Thornton Rd and Walnut Grove Rd intersection.
 - f) People cut around speed humps.



Map of Existing Facilities in Thornton with comments

What are the Next Steps?

The project team plans to continue engaging with the community with a variety of workshops starting this Summer. Stay tuned!

Engagement activities will give us the opportunity to understand:

- How and where County residents and employees travel to access education, employment, food and nutrition, health care, financial services, and recreation opportunities.
- Which pedestrian facilities the residents of each community prefer.
- Access and safety concerns for residents.

Stay engaged at our project website:

<https://arcg.is/1XeP912>