



North Fair Oaks Community Council

*A Municipal Advisory Council to the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

2600 Middlefield Rd,
Redwood City, CA
650-363-1800
www.nfoforward.org

April 23, 2026

7:00pm

The North Fair Oaks Community Council provides recommendations on the issues of community health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning for the North Fair Oaks geographic area. It holds regular monthly meetings to address the needs of the community, act as a forum, and serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

The North Fair Oaks Community Council was held in person at the Fair Oaks Community Center (2600 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City) and by teleconference using Zoom:
<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/96028902503> It began at 7:00 PM and Spanish interpretation was available.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety and shows each agenda item here: [YouTube Video](#)

1. ROLL CALL

Present:

Council members: Chair Prado, Parisi, Whitney, Daly, Esser, Orozco, and Aponte

Absent:

Council member Saman

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

In-Person Comments:

Oscar
Augustin Espino

Comments via Zoom:

0

3. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion to move item #5 to be presented last.

Motion: Council member Whitney / Second: Council member Parisi

Yes: 7 – Chair Prado, Esser, Whitney, Daly, Parisi, Aponte, and Orozco

No: 0

Absent: 1 – Council member Saman

Agenda is approved.

4. Introduction: New Headquarters Patrol Captain Brandon Hensel.

Speaker:

Captain Brandon Hensel

- **Introduction:**
 - District 4 native from Redwood City
 - He will oversee the Headquarters' Patrol which includes North Fair Oaks and Community Engagement Unit

Council member questions/comments:

- Some council members want strong in-person presence; worried about deciding "important" meetings with only 3 days' notice of the agenda.
- Many council members have a busy work schedule which they can't be in person most of the time.
- Some don't want council members to abuse the remote option.

In-person Public Comments:

0

Public Comments via zoom:

Gabriella Valencia

5. Presentation: Redwood City School District Parcel Tax Measure C Presentation.

Speaker:

Carson, Community Advocates for Measure C

- **Reason for the measure:**
 - Redwood City School District is facing **\$5.5M in budget cuts this year** and has struggled financially for decades. Nearby districts already supplement state funding with parcel taxes; Measure C is intended to help RCSD "catch up" and avoid further cuts.
- **Tax structure & who pays:**
 - Unlike prior flat parcel taxes, Measure C is based on building square footage at \$0.175 per sq. ft.
 - Typical homeowners would pay about \$200–\$300/year, like neighboring districts.
 - Large developments and big buildings (including some nonprofits) pay more, with a cap around \$12k–\$13k per parcel, per the outreach work done with the Chamber of Commerce and large property owners.

- **Use of funds & exclusions:**
 - Reduce/avoid larger class sizes
 - Improve teacher retention and reduce turnover
 - Restore/strengthen enrichment and support services (art, science, garden, dance, reading/language intervention, mental health staff, paraeducators, etc.)
 - Measure C cannot be used for administrator salaries or pensions.

Council member questions/comments:

- How does the parcel tax affect large nonprofit property owners?
- Is there a cap on how much very large buildings will pay?
- How will the funding formula ensure these schools receive a larger share of resources?
- Is the distribution formula explicitly based on need, not just geography?
- What income thresholds qualify a property owner for the low-income exemption?
- Is the exemption based on household income, and what are the specific dollar amounts for individuals and families?
- Why aren't more Bayside parents present or visibly involved in this advocacy tonight?

In-Public Comments:

Augustine

Public Comment via zoom:

Jessica Shed

Ever R.

Gabriella Valencia

6. Presentation: 101 Corridor Connect Program Update.

Speaker:

Patrick Gilster, San Mateo County Transportation Authority

- **Program name: 101 Corridor Connect.**
 - **Purpose:** Identify and prioritize congestion management and mobility projects along US-101 in San Mateo County.
 - **Scope:** About 1 mile on either side of 101 (Multimodal Strategies) and ¼ mile on either side (Active 101).
 - **Focus:** Not just highways; include walking, biking, transit, safety, connectivity, and equity. Background on SamTrans:
- **Goals of the 101 Corridor Connect Program:**
 - *Make transportation:*
 - Safer
 - More connected
 - More sustainable
 - More inclusive
 - Use local plans as the source of projects (not inventing new ones), then:
 - Score them against countywide goals.
 - Check how well they compete for regional & state grants (especially Caltrans).
- **How They Planned:**
 - Collected project ideas from existing local plans (not new wish lists).

- Did broad community outreach: surveys, pop ups, meetings, online maps, and work with community-based organizations.
- Used feedback to create priority project lists for each sub area
- **What They Found:**
 - Created a countywide walking/biking network near 101 that:
 - Connects many 101 crossings.
 - Focuses on short, local trips (under ~3 miles).
 - Targets high injury streets and disadvantaged communities.
 - Key local corridors mentioned near North Fair Oaks: Bay Road, El Camino Real, Marsh Road, Willow Road.
- **New Mini Grant Program (Important for NFO)**
 - Total pot: \$4 million (could increase if demand is high).
 - Grants: Up to \$750K per project, or \$1M if it's a joint project with another city (e.g., County + Redwood City).
 - Uses: Studies, conceptual design, community engagement, environmental work – early stages, not full construction.
 - No local match required.
 - Timeline:
 - Call for projects: end of **June**.
 - Applications due: end of **July**.
 - Awards: by **August**.
 - Selected projects must include a site walk with local officials/community to confirm support.

Council member questions/comments:

- How could a community like Bell Haven, where residents are “stuck on the other side of 101,” use this program to improve access to basic services (like grocery stores)?
- Can this funding be used for near-term fixes (e.g., at Marsh Road, Willow Road, Ringwood) to make it safer to walk or bike across 101, rather than only for big, long-term interchange rebuilds?
- When it comes to the mini grant program, how will you decide which projects get the money?
- Is selection based on community priority, data, or some other criteria?
- Who should I contact to go over the high priority project list in more detail and discuss which corridors near North Fair Oaks are the best candidates for an application?

In-Public Comments:

None

Public Comment via zoom:

None

7. Presentation: Middlefield Road Project Update.

Speaker:

Monika Raman, Department of Public Works

- **What the project did:**
 - Rebuilt Middlefield from Pacific Ave to 5th Ave: 1 lane each way + center turn lane.
 - Added wider sidewalks, buffered bike lanes, new lighting, trees, benches, bike racks, high visibility crosswalks, RRFBs, and stormwater / sewer upgrades.
 - Undergrounded utilities (McArthur to 5th) and added county fiber for Wi Fi and “smart” features.
- **What’s already done:**
 - **All surface construction is complete; Middlefield is fully open.**
 - PG&E has finished undergrounding and removed its overhead wires.
 - UPRR has repaved the rail crossing, so the crossing is now smooth.
 - Time limited parking added; RRFB signs repositioned for better visibility.
- **What’s still left:**
 - **Comcast & Verizon:** finish switching customers to underground service by around June.
 - **AT&T:** after that, move its lines underground, remove utility poles, and repair sidewalks (target: by end of year, if others stay on schedule).
 - **Redwood Junction / clinic area:**
 - UPRR to install/modify rail signals (planned August, ~2 months).
 - Then county will complete clinic driveway shift, install remaining traffic signals (Pacific, clinic driveway, Hurlingame) and synchronize them with the rail signals.
 - Finish small items: restore sidewalk patches, add 2 missing tree wells and 1 remaining streetlight.

Council member questions/comments:

- When will AT&T be done and the poles finally removed?
- Is “Middlefield Junction” the new apartment complex by the clinic, and are one or both buildings open yet?
- Asked if the county has evaluated future traffic impacts once both buildings are fully occupied.
- Asked whether all the signal work and related improvements at Middlefield / clinic / Redwood Junction will be complete before both buildings are fully occupied.

In-Public Comments:

None

Public Comment via zoom:

Gabriela Valencia

Ever Rodriguez

8. Presentation: District 4 2026 Updates

Speaker:

Supervisor Lisa Guathier – District 4

- **Team & Role:**
 - Introduced her staff: Chris Hunter (interim chief of staff), Vanessa and Connie as the main contacts for North Fair Oaks work.
 - Emphasized that the council is an extension of her office and that the district wants to work with, not do things to, North Fair Oaks.
- **Middlefield Junction housing:**
 - Both buildings expected to be fully open soon.
 - Asked residents to report traffic/parking issues so the county can respond.
- **Flood Park Renovation:**
 - Full park renovation almost complete; grand opening coming in spring.
 - Stressed Flood Park is “your park” for North Fair Oaks:
 - \$5 vehicle entry fee waived for NFO visitors.
 - Aim to give NFO youth sports teams priority field access.
- **Art space at the center:**
 - County working with the Arts Department to redesign the community art space in North Fair Oaks.
 - Wants community input on how the space should be used (dance, music, visual arts, etc.).
- **Economic & Employment Development Center:**
 - Highlighted job training and small business services (e.g., Renaissance).
 - Asked: is the center reaching NFO residents and merchants? What services are missing?
- **Roadway & construction updates:**
 - **18th Avenue & Fair Oaks:**
 - Roadway reconstruction and utility upgrades on 18th from the dead end to Bay Road, plus parts of Fair Oaks.
 - Focus: safety, accessibility, long lasting pavement.
 - Construction window: roughly April–August.
 - Took note of a council request to explore extending Fair Oaks reconstruction between 16th and 18th and asked staff (via Nick) to follow up with Public Works.
- **Synapse/SportsHouse & Development Approach:**
 - Acknowledged strong community concern about parking, traffic, and fairness around Synapse School and SportsHouse.
 - Clearly stated:
 - The county is slowing the process down and not rushing to the Planning Commission.
 - The item will come back to the North Fair Oaks Community Council first.
 - The goal is to: Hear directly from affected neighbors,
 - Clarify who owns, leases, and manages the properties, Build in clear permit conditions (use limits, parking, operations).
 - Committed that NFO will have a real voice and that her office does not want land use decisions dropped on the community at the last minute.

- **Broader Updates from the Board of Supervisors:**
 - Reported the Board recently:
 - Passed a ban on sale and distribution of kratom and some synthetic products (708 type) in unincorporated areas, citing overdose and addiction risks.
 - Flagged vehicle license fee (VLF) uncertainty as a risk to Measure K revenue, which could affect county programs.
- **Commitment to Ongoing Collaboration:**
 - Repeated that she wants:
 - Early communication on projects (no “surprises” in NFO),
 - Residents to contact her office about problems (sheriff response, traffic, parking, etc.),
 - The county to tie new anchors (like Stanford Medicine Cancer & Blood Center) to local job pipelines for NFO residents.

Council member questions/comments:

- Asked whether the proposed new use permit for SportsHouse/Synapse would include clear usage restrictions, for example:
 - Limits on event size / type and Other conditions to address current overuse.
- Asked for clarity on who is actually in charge:
- Who owns the property?
- Who leases which parts (school vs. SportsHouse)?
- Who is responsible during weekdays vs. weekends?
- Stressed that the community needs straightforward answers, so they know who to call and who is accountable.
- How does this meet parking requirements if intensity is up and spaces are down?
- Whether there is any possibility to also reconstruct Fair Oaks Avenue between 16th and 18th while crews are already working nearby.

In-Public Comments:

Augustine

Public Comment via zoom:

Lorraine

Gabriela V.

Ever R.

Recommendation: Motion to schedule May 14th meeting for community members to be informed and to participate in regard to the planning and building item of the SportsHouse topic.

Motion: First: Council member Parisi / Second: Chair Prado

Yes: 6 – Aponte, Esser, Daly, Parisi, Orozco, and Chair Prado

No: 1 - Whitney

Absent: 1 – Saman

Motion passes.

9. No Report Out

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.