

The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

San Jose moves forward in planning Almaden footbridge

By Stephen Baxter
Almaden Resident

Article Launched: 12/16/2008 02:55:24 PM PST

The San Jose City Council has taken another step toward a planned \$4.1 million footbridge over Almaden Expressway, and planners say the bridge would be an asset for joggers and bicycle commuters.

The city has accepted \$496,000 from the federal government to help pay for environmental and construction documents on the bridge, and it decided on Dec. 2 to contribute \$100,000 to keep the project on track. The proposed 165-foot, steel truss bridge just north of Coleman Avenue has been planned for at least four years, and it would link trails along Guadalupe Creek with Almaden Lake Park and the Los Alamitos Creek trail system.

"In terms of connectivity, it's a big project," said Yves Zsutty, trail manager for the city of San Jose.

City officials hope to find grants in the coming years to fund the rest of the project, which planners describe as a gateway to Almaden Valley. The current design includes concrete abutments with stone relief art on both sides of Almaden Expressway, and cars would pass under its weathered steel frame.

The 12-foot-wide bridge would span the six-lane expressway and have ramps on either side, with 950 feet of wooden decking in total. Community meetings held a few years ago indicated a preference for the steel-truss design.

Because of the project's expense, Zsutty said part of the city's grant-writing strategy is to mention bike commuters, whose numbers have increased in recent city surveys.

City leaders have discussed the bridge since 2004, and it is part of the city's goal of connecting 100 miles of trails by 2015. A trail near the percolation ponds and Guadalupe Creek opened in 2007 not far from the proposed bridge. More updates on the project are expected in six-month intervals.

For more information on the project or San Jose's trail system, visit www.sjparks.org/trails.

Advertisement

MercuryNews.com

The Mercury News

(800) 870-NEWS

Subscribe today!

www.mercurynews.com



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™