

STS Public Meeting Comments
August 28, 2018
Shelton Elementary School

Comments are in no particular order and transcribed verbatim, as written.

I'm the father of twin boys and I live on Kinney Run near Apex. Single Track Sidewalks brings more of what I love about our neighborhood, access to trails and activities for kids. I fully support the proposal. --
-----Crawford Street Resident

We support this project for our 4 ½ year old who loves to bike. We also support this project to bring our community together.

We support the trail project.

We support the single track project!

Everyone wants to share their passions with their children. I don't play basketball, baseball, softball, kayak or climb. But I love to ride bikes and love to share that any way that I can with my children.

I fully support single track sidewalk project. I am a mother of a 2 1/2 year old twins who would benefit and live in the hood. – Crawford street resident

Great addition to Heritage Dells trails! Low impact on neighborhoods—please build it!

I strongly support the single track sidewalks. Any efforts to engage children with outdoor activity is extremely healthy for our environment and its surroundings.

Hearing a lot of the same concerns that were raised during the Golden Bike Park, Public Comment phase. I think its fair to say that many of those fears were unfounded. I support this project.

My family and I live on Somerset Drive. As a family we frequent Apex trails. Our sons (5 &7) are avid bikers and would love an easier, safer (less traffic) and more community-based option for our beginner riders. We love our community and think single track sidewalks would be a wonderful addition to our special and loved community - Somerset Drive resident.

I believe there is a need in the community for trails. This is a fantastic idea to foster kids respect for the outdoors. If our younger generation does not develop a respect for open space, there will be no one left to protect it.

I think that a bike trail is a great idea for Golden! Great way to connect the community and provide access – additionally we have become an attractive area to outdoor companies like Yeti. Our trails is what is attracting these companies 😊

Our family is so excited about the trail and our daughter can't wait to ride from our neighborhood to downtown and back on her mountain bike!

I think the trails are a great idea. I live on Somerset Dr.____

I am a resident of Heritage Dells and a huge proponent of this proposal. We need trails for kids in Golden! Let's increase connectivity! Let's enhance our trail systems, specifically for our youth! I want my kids to grow up in a community where they have the opportunity to mountain bike. Thank you!

Golden Giddyup uses this route for their bike race, this seems like they are using it for their own benefit. APEX is the worst, that will give increased ridership down, adversely impacting the surrounding areas, not locals! The mountain bike community has failed to mountain bike park now city is covering cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to openly discuss the STS opportunity! I am in favor of the STS proposal. I believe STS will connect neighborhoods, provide social and physical support to younger kids and will benefit the community as a whole. I would also like to see add segments in other areas of Golden along with additional mountain bike trails.

I love this idea!! Can we add throughout other parts of the city?! Thank you for your creativity and vision to health, and introduction to off-path biking for our younger Golden-ites! ☺

Question – How will parents watch out for their kids when they are on the trail? Please post on website that your 6:00pm meeting will start promptly at 6:30pm. Thanks. Mountain bikers don't follow the paved trail and go off trail – how will the STS be controlled – how do kids go both ways without eroding the trail. Please explore Anchorages trail system.

I have grown up in Golden my whole life and I have grown up biking and I think it creates great people and it teaches us to appreciate the outdoors and a fun way to get into shape. I believe fully in this project! ---Lifelong Golden resident

I am a Golden resident. I support the proposed trail as a parent, property owner and citizen. Encouraging Golden residents to ride bikes more is a great goal and will lead to healthy and happy residents. Further, our kids will thank us. More trails please. ---Canyon Pt Circle resident

I am very supportive of this project. I think it's a wonderful way to get kids outside doing something positive. I feel that the environmental impacts should be based on facts and expert opinion. This would be a great resource in Golden.

My family (2 young kids) ride all over the state. We ride as a family most often NOT Golden, because there are not trails suitable nearby. This is a huge hole in our parks inventory. Sidewalks are NOT suitable alternatives to trails for kids and beginners.

I live in the Stonebridge neighborhood. I am opposed to this trail. After hearing comments tonight, I realize there is a perfectly good bike park that kids enjoy – that should be enough. I value my neighborhood and I don't want to see my property values affected. Kids don't own homes they don't have equal say about things that affect value to homes. --- Stonebridge resident

The conflict resides between baby boomers who don't even get out in the "environment" versus a new generation of Golden residents and their families who want a progressive town that supports bikes. Truly scrooge-like.

Just because GUG brought out all the cute kids doesn't make this a good idea. Consider the impact on the environment. PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE. No guarantee this will be used only by kids!!

Too much at risk with this proposal – environment – wildlife and future cost that won't be covered by Giddyup Group.

The first single track sidewalk has been built in Golden and is @ Vanover Park. It has not required much, if any, maintenance in the 2 or more years it has been there. It is also greatly appreciated by the community.

I live on Kimball Avenue. Would like Council to know the school this walk around was setup has from adding a pre-school to classrooms growing from 20 – 24 and 27 kids per classroom last year. These are the kids that will use the trails and are looking for something to do. Being outside biking to school is a great step. Living here 15 years I have witness kids building their own pump tracks. The next generation of kids need to love the environment. When I moved here I was surrounded by original owners. Last week we saw our 3rd owner leave and a young family move in with a 3 month and 5 year old. Let's build this and give it a try. ---Heritage Dell resident

This is described as a "pilot" program. Does that mean we will be turning Golden into a honeycomb of sliced up land, and separated by never ending trails?

I'm a teacher also! I'm concerned to safety will Tripp Rd coming around to Kinney Trail is not safe the traffic from hill comes down fast drivers. I think alternate route is creative solution instead of going through Eagle Ridge but to put the trail by APEX and go by the foothills and go along the foothills would be best of hassle then go through Eagle Ridge. Safety past Kimball is no safe stop for kids.

I believe the single track sidewalk program would be a great addition to Golden, Golden's youth, and don't believe the environmental impact would be significant at all.

Important Concern: Legality Issue with inexperienced youth riders what happens when they crash and get injured? Who gets sued? The city of Golden?

No questions from our family – only glowing positive comments! Bicycling infrastructure is a community/city investment that is proven to pay off in health, property values less traffic congestion, cleaner air, less road damage, and happier kids, teachers, parents, neighbors, dogs, cats, and butterflies. Yes even butterflies. 😊

Please plan to build a single track "trail" next to the new sidewalk to Tony Grampsas bike park.

Approximately how many volunteer hours to build this project or what is the monetary cost? Also, will there be other options/routes considered?

This will be a multi-use 2 way trail on and off pavement. This is not for kids. Can't the facts control??

I appreciate the comments made by the children in the room tonight. Their voices, aren't often heard on Guiding Golden. However, the other voices that weren't heard tonight were those of the elk, eagles, hawks, rabbits, deer, coyotes, bobcats, etc. I implore you to consider the environmental impacts of more trails, dirt or not!

There's always resistance to change, I hope we can come together and build these trails that will put smiles on faces and give people joy. Fear is not the answer.

I bike to school for 2 years almost every day and have used all regular paths and have gotten there safely and easily and have never felt unsafe. Also I don't see why we need to put a path next to a path. I feel that there is nothing more that the biker's need. I feel that none of the biker's even use the bike trails so why do we need to put more bike trails in. ---Golden resident youth

Does Giddyup plan to have bike races on this trail?

What experience has Giddyup had in building trails? Need details about the trails and regular maintenance of it. Cost to tax payers, why will it weave in and out onto the paved trail if they want a dirt trail. Isn't this dangerous for all?

As I was reading all the comments, both those for and against STS, I notice only those against made comments such as move to Centennial or people against are Nimby's. There should be no such rhetoric! Politeness at all times.

With so many mountain bike trails in the area why do we need another trail? Some parts of Golden don't have any trail – wouldn't funds be better spent in those areas? Does Golden realize that one of its best assets is its open space? Why ruin it?

Favor of the proposal. Mountain biking is becoming more and more popular among young children – the STS is like a baseball field, a soccer field, or a playground. Many neighborhoods would benefit from the addition of a "playground" or "field" for young bikers.

Go for it.

We do not support this single track bike trail. We already have a multi use trail, which this would be right next to. We are concerned about being able to walk our dogs on the existing trail without being affected by the single track riders. We don't want more traffic in our neighborhood and disruption to the herd of elk (aprox 75-100 head) that walk through this area daily. A dirt trail will be ugly, require constant maintenance, and will most likely have to be paid for by the city (taxpayers). Use the existing trails which are nice and well maintained. **WE DON'T WANT IT!**

Please do NOT do this!

Our growing family would love the addition of single track sidewalks! It would add a lot to continue Golden as one of the premiere mountain bike cities and destinations in the state and country! ---Golden resident

There is a shortage of bike opportunities for young kids. The bike park is too advanced for young riders. Proper design of the trails will encourage young riders and discourage experienced riders. I live in Stonebridge, my kids are grown. I support the plan! ---Stonebridge resident

My house backs up to the open space at Kinney Run and I support the proposed trails. ---Somerset resident

The sidewalks going to Shelton are congested and this would free up the congestion.

I grew up in this area. I have lived here 50 years. When I was a kid we could make our own trails in all the open space. Now with the reduction in open space and regulations it is the city's responsibility to provide outdoor recreation opportunities like this project.

Providing a safe and easy space for my 8 year old son to learn to mountain bike.

My 4 year old son already out-bikes me! The STS would be great for me – a newbie rider. I have very little places to practice and the bike park is great but not meant for adult learners. I live on Somerset and would love to see kids and adults learning to bike on dirt. ---Somerset resident

I think the proponents of the trail (especially kids) were allowed more time to respond.

Open space is to be preserved!!! The community that this is in should have an actual voice!!! I and my husband are witnesses to the area of an elk and deer birthing area that all it took was one mountain biker scared off a cow elk and calf and they have never come back! I truly hope the city council listens!

If Golden Giddyup says this evening is for discussions with neighbors, why are so many non-Golden residents here or weighing in on the STS page for Golden.

Not necessary, not environmentally friendly, this neighborhood is paid for by the homeowners, not outsiders. ___

Do we need to use all the open space. It will chase all the wildlife out. I walk the Kenny Trail with my dogs and the bikes race by me all the time. There are enough trails for bikes in Golden. We don't want this project.

After listening to the opposition – it seems to me like the real issue to me are homes that are in close proximity to the trail in specific zones. I would like to reach a compromise with disgruntled neighbors impacted and move forward with STS. Those kids melted my heart today – I'd like to think of Golden as a progressive recreational community that continues to provide – build open space ☺ Trails for kids and beginners and keep doing awesome things in Golden overall. Also the Golden Giddyup will be funding/maintaining the project, not the city.

Horrible idea that benefits a small section of the overall population. There are already enough spaces for bikers.

Connectivity is important. Existing trail is doing a great job in providing trail for everybody to ride. There is no reason to build a redundant trail to where it would work for a few.

Redundant trail, damage and erosion to environment, other trails exist for mountain biking. Increase in bike and auto traffic in neighborhood. I live in the neighborhood am a bike rider and I oppose the trail. --
-Stonebridge resident

To many, this issue seems like it's all about a trail. The question is simply: Should we build it or not build it? The argument over that question has turned neighbors into passionate advocates for it or steadfast opponents to it.

To me, the question is entirely different. To me, this is about what Golden wants to stand for.

Are we a place that welcomes outdoor enthusiasts, builds amenities for kids to get outside, and shares our wonderful resources? Or, are we a place that feels comfortable spreading houses onto open space while diligently fighting a beginner trail that's bound to get more people outside?

The arguments against it fail to change my mind. I've done my due diligence to become educated about it, but no matter how they worked it, what I keep hearing is this: "This trail will get more people out, and I don't want that."

Other arguments just simply don't make sense to me. I've seen pictures of elk posted with the insinuation that this trail will scare them off. If the concrete trail hasn't done that, how ill a dirt one accomplish that? Also, the Giddyup has said many, many time, that if this is determined to be environmentally unsound, they don't want it.

In a world filled with too many cars, too many children suffering from obesity, and too many people depressed inside their homes, I welcome this change with big open arms. It would be a small ripple of change that would get more people outside, loving their bikes, feeling confident, happy, and excited to put down their device, get out of their car, and enjoy the glory of Mother Nature.

Last week, I had a woman shout at me that she's very sorry I don't care about our open space. She's wrong about me. I do care. I care deeply. I just have a different set of values. I value getting people outside. I value the happiness that this trail can provide to many people – especially kids.

To me, the answer to that bigger question is easy: Golden should stand for outside. We should stand for loving outside, sharing outside, and being welcoming. We should stand behind how important biking is to this town. After all, the Mountain Biking team is the largest sport at Golden High School and our local shops love selling tiny shirts with bikes on them. If that's not what Golden stands for, then, in my opinion, we're injecting elitism right into the veins of Mother Nature.

(The following three comments were difficult to read)

Parks exist elsewhere in the Golden community closer to most young bikers. A multiuse environmentally friendly bike path of concrete already exists to provide "connectivity" and a "nature" experience. The need of Golden "High School" groups will not be served by the limited trail provides!

My name is XXX XXXX, as I live in Heritage Dells, I am a woman and I am old. I prefer a quiet, nature experience without bikes whizzing by. Please take older people into account. I think this meeting was stacked. There should not have been someone from Gov ofc (verbatim from written document) And outdoor industry. There should not have been so many children speaking. I am opposed to this STS.

Looking at the proposed switch back across from Shelton. First of all this is our area with beautiful wildflowers. Second will this track be used by XXXXXX which had been meeting all summer at Shelton Elementary School? This would have a big impact on the environment.

Flip Chart Comments:

Apex not safe for kids to ride mtn. bikes

These trails opportunities for people/kids to experience trails/outdoors in Golden

More bike trails for kids to bike more and have more fun

Can't control age, speed on these trails. Can't control side by side. Single track may not happen

Public concerns should be taken into account

Concern that concerns won't be taken into account

Connect Community in healthy fashion

Unique place that all kids in community should experience

Concerns about spreading weeds along trail. Concerned about impacts to serve just a few people.

Golden Bike park well used. Wants to see these trails in this area and in others in Golden

Work to provide input on how trail gets built

GHS Mtn Bike Team – away from dogs away from walking trail kids will use

Idea won't be as scary later as it is now

Trails on North Table Mtn. are too hard for kids

Likes riding bike and wants other people to ride too

Apex too challenging

People (kids) love riding bikes

Girls between ages X – 17 don't have a lot of trails like these and will use them

Switchback on segment 4 will be a washout. Would prefer to see grass rather than trail.

Doesn't make sense not compatible with surroundings

Small social trails have taken kids on to other experiences – not in cars

Alternative sites not considered

Cyclists at stop sign @ Kimball

Section 2 not flat. Safety issues related to speed

Anything that gets kids into Golden nature/trails – good

Possibility for compromise to be found

Everyone wants to share their passions with kids. Biking is a passion

Kids on bikes interact with environment differently

Consider Eagle example

Construction must be considered carefully and maintenance is significant

Maintenance by volunteers may not work

Trails will help students be introduced to mtn biking

Would like dirt paths in order to bike to school

Trails to Mitchell intersecting and challenging