

Improving Transportation + Connectivity to Richmond's South Shoreline

Richmond, CA, Richmond High School Health Academy

10th Grade World History



ISSUE

Richmond's south shoreline area has long been separated from the rest of the city by freeways and railroad tracks. With businesses, shoreline parks, the marina, the Bay Trail, and views of the Bay, the south shoreline is a great place to be. However, it is not very easy to get to, especially if you do not drive or have a car. As a result, not everyone in the community has easy access, and cannot take advantage of the amenities in their own community. Between September-December 2013, 10th grade students at Richmond High School's Health Academy were commissioned by the City of Richmond to create a community survey to identify community transportation issues and opportunities to inform the South Richmond Connectivity Plan (SRTC). As a formal task written into the South Richmond Transportation Connectivity Plan, in many ways, this project set a new bar for Y-PLAN projects, and the potential of young people and schools to be formally included and recognized as essential parts of the community planning process.

"We are presenting, because as Richmond's youth, we should have a say in this important issue. Since we are affected by the problem, we believe we should be part of the solution. We want to get involved in the changes, and be able to stay involved as change goes on to help improve our city!"

–Y-PLAN Student, Richmond High School

QUESTION

What kinds of transportation improvements would make it easier, more enjoyable, and safer for people of all ages and abilities to get to the south shoreline from the rest of Richmond?

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Y-PLAN Instructor: Jose Irizarry

Students: 10th Grade World History

Client: City of Richmond

Community Partner: Wallace Roberts and Todd (WRT), San Francisco Planning Firm

YOUTH DRIVEN DATA AND INSIGHTS

Students conducted digital asset-mapping, and created, distributed, and analyzed a total of 579 surveys.

- Many people have never been to the south shoreline, or don't know where it is - most teenagers call the south shore "The Marina"
- Most people in Richmond drive and high school students in Richmond are less likely than adults to bike
- Most people go to the South Shoreline for recreation

RECOMMENDATIONS

In December 2013, students presented their proposals to a panel of stakeholders and a full house of family and community members at Richmond City Hall. For over 70% of the audience, it was the first time inside Council Chambers. Survey findings revealed that many people do not go to the South Shoreline, and might be more likely to go if there were events to attract people. Therefore, recommendations focus on: a) Transportation improvements, and b) Community events and economic development.

“We often plan with those who just happen to come to the table – and they happen to not be young people of color. Y-PLAN forces us to open our minds – to get youth who are students of color, who have families that live in the community, who are representing a different generation to the table, to hear what reality is for them – and to incorporate that in the process.”

– Y-PLAN Client, City of Richmond

#1: Increase Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Around Richmond

- Create Class 2 bike lanes along main routes to the south shore – with a focus on 23rd St, Marina St, Harbor St
- Pedestrian Warning Strips and crosswalks
- Create more traffic calming mechanisms (protected side-walks, street trees, on-street parking)
- Create more comfortable bus shelters: lights, benches, phones, wi-fi, art, music, way-finding
- Make buses more reliable and run more frequently

#2: Increase Transportation Safety

- Improve safety of bus-stops: lighting, phones, wayfinding
- Create Class 2 bike lanes along main routes to south shore, and extend and connect the Bay Trail
- Create wider, connected sidewalks
- Increase police presence
- Create more “eyes on the street” by incentivizing more businesses and retail

#3: Make the South Shoreline a place Richmond’s youth want to be

- Create a music venue and music fest for youth
- Create a skate Park
- Create a movie theater, restaurants, and incentivize local businesses

NEXT STEPS

Students followed-up and presented recommendations at community meetings for the South Richmond Transportation Connectivity Plan. Several Y-PLAN students have gone on to pursue internships with The City of Richmond Planning Department.

For more information on Y-PLAN, contact Jessie Stewart, Y-PLAN National Coordinator: jessie.stewart@berkeley.edu