

Bikers, walkers, runners take over Niles Canyon Road

Updated: 10/15/2015 03:12:41 PM PDT

MercuryNews.com

Click photo to enlarge

Closed to vehicles for several hours on Sunday, 6.4 miles of Niles Canyon Road, between Old Canyon Road in Fremont and Main Street in Sunol, gave way to walkers, runners and cyclists for the first "Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll."

Jointly organized by Alameda County District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty and District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle, who represent districts at each end of the Niles Canyon, the event attracted 10,000 participants, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to Dawn Argula, Haggerty's deputy chief of staff.

"The response was even better than what we had expected," she said.

At the moment, a multi-use trail through Niles Canyon, also state Route 84, is in the early stages of planning. The proposed project would create a paved, 10-foot wide path for pedestrians, bicyclists and possibly equestrians to travel the picturesque canyon.

A feasibility study for the route, which could determine a preferred alignment, is expected to be released in November, Argula said.

Once a preferred alignment is agreed upon, cost estimates should become defined. Funding from federal, state and Measure BB, Alameda County Transportation Commission's \$7.8-billion initiative approved in November 2014, are possibilities.

Partners in the project include County of Alameda, East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Alameda County Water District. Currently, City of Fremont's role is as a stakeholder.

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum took the opportunity to highlight the hundreds of films made on Niles Canyon Road, particularly those of Charlie Chaplin and Broncho Billy Anderson in the early 20th century.

For more photos and a slideshow video, visit [facebook.com/fremontbulletin](https://www.facebook.com/fremontbulletin).