

Foothill Expressway Improvements Between El Monte and San Antonio



Los Altos City Council

August 22, 2017



Agenda

- Introduction
- Project Background
- Comments Summary
- Next Steps

INTRODUCTION

Expressway Plan 2040

- Long-term plan for improvement and maintenance of Expressway System
- Considers the needs of all users
- Builds on 2003 Expressway Study and 2008 Update
- Status: Capital Improvement and Maintenance Needs identified; Draft Plan document due to be circulated in Fall 2017

Expressway Plan 2040

Los Altos Participation

- Expressway Plan 2040 Open House in Los Altos on January 16, 2014
- Foothill Expressway Community Meeting in Los Altos on May 5, 2014 and October 21, 2014
- Additional community outreach planned for release of draft plan document in Fall 2017

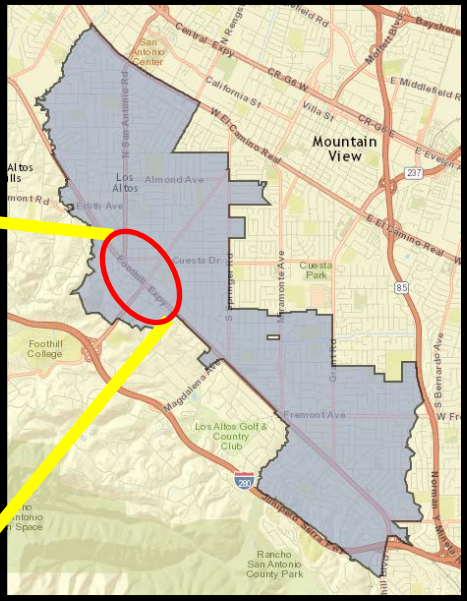
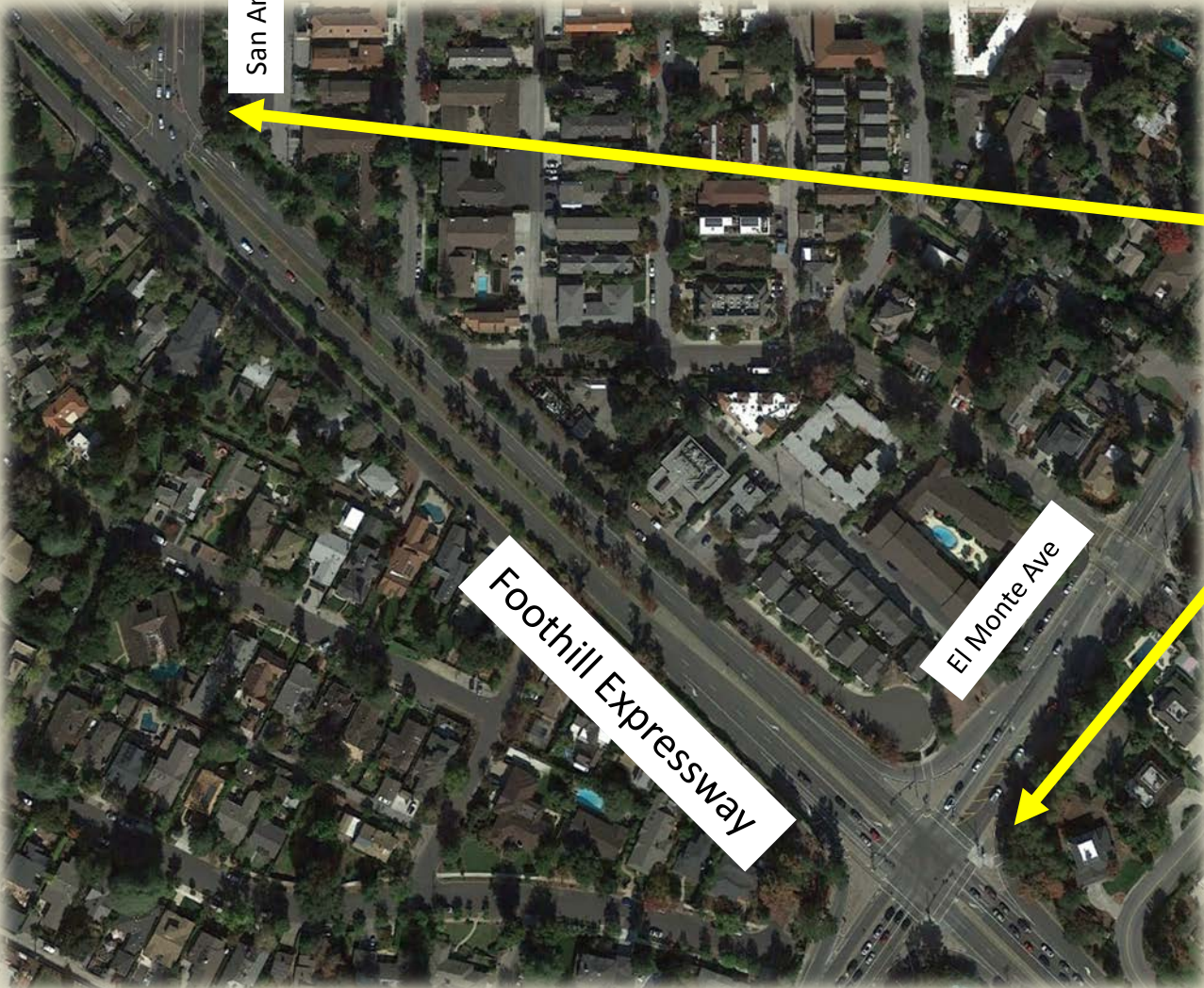
Expressway Plan 2040

Foothill Expressway Improvements

Location	Potential Improvement
San Antonio to El Monte (Tier 1)	Widen from 4 to 6 lanes by extending right turn lanes and make intersection improvements at El Monte and San Antonio (MEASURE B)
I-280 Interchange to Homestead (Tier 1)	Add signal at the southbound I-280 off-ramp intersection and intersection improvements at northbound I-280 off-ramp, including pedestrian crossing enhancements, potential Stevens Creek Trail and northbound auxiliary lane on Foothill to Homestead (MEASURE B)
Magdalena/Springer (Tier 2)	Intersection operational improvements
Various Intersections	Pedestrian and bicycle crossing enhancements
Along Expressway	Bicycle travel improvements

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Vicinity



Foothill Expwy:
north-south
El Monte Ave:
east-west



Existing Conditions

PM peak –
heavy demand
on southbound
right turn



El Monte Ave

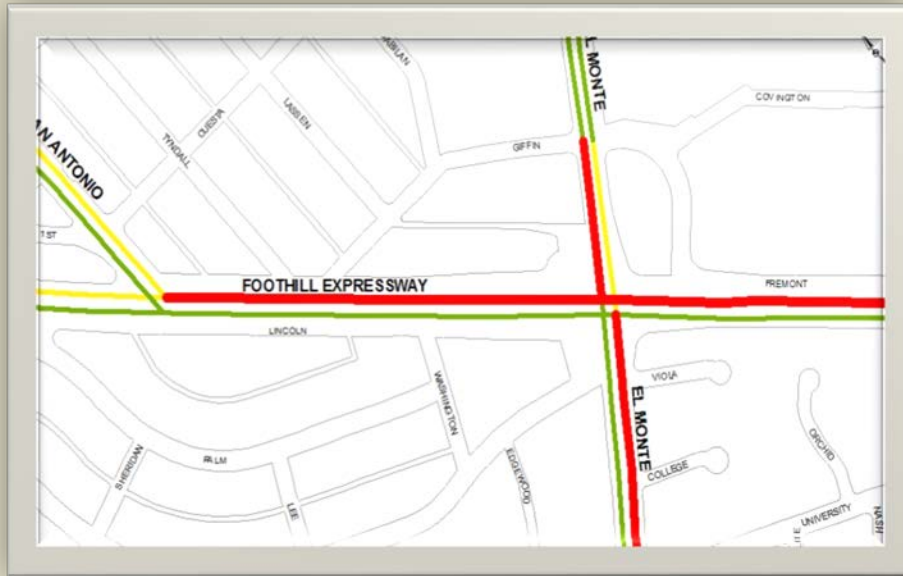
Foothill Expressway

Westbound
traffic backup
blocking
Covington

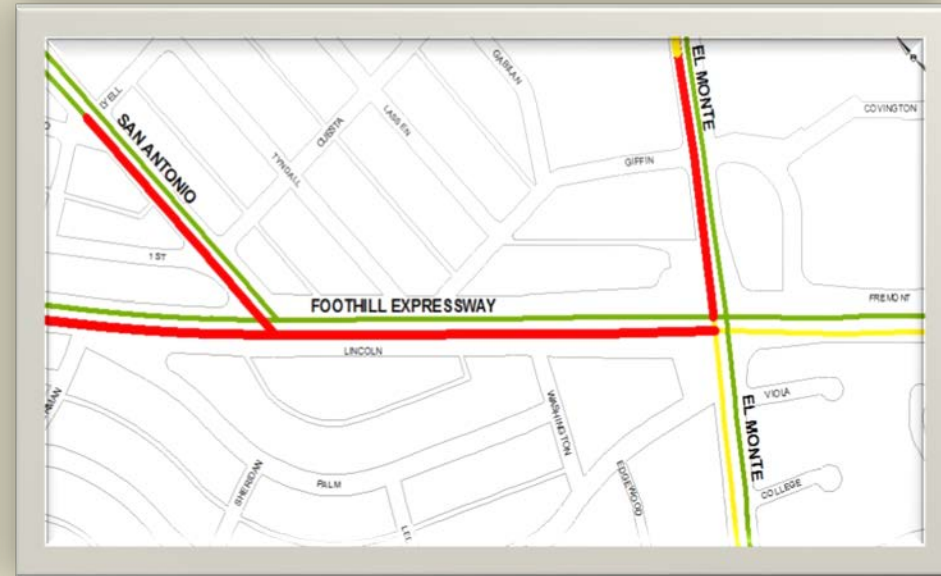
AM peak – heavy
demand on
eastbound left turn

Existing Conditions

Typical Congestion Map During Peak Periods



AM Peak



PM Peak

Project Scope

- Add auxiliary lanes between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road
- 2nd westbound through at El Monte
- 3 design alternatives developed focused on intersection improvements

❖ Design

Funding: City of Los Altos

❖ Construction

Funding: VTA's 2016 Measure B Sales Tax

Project Features

Common for all three alternatives

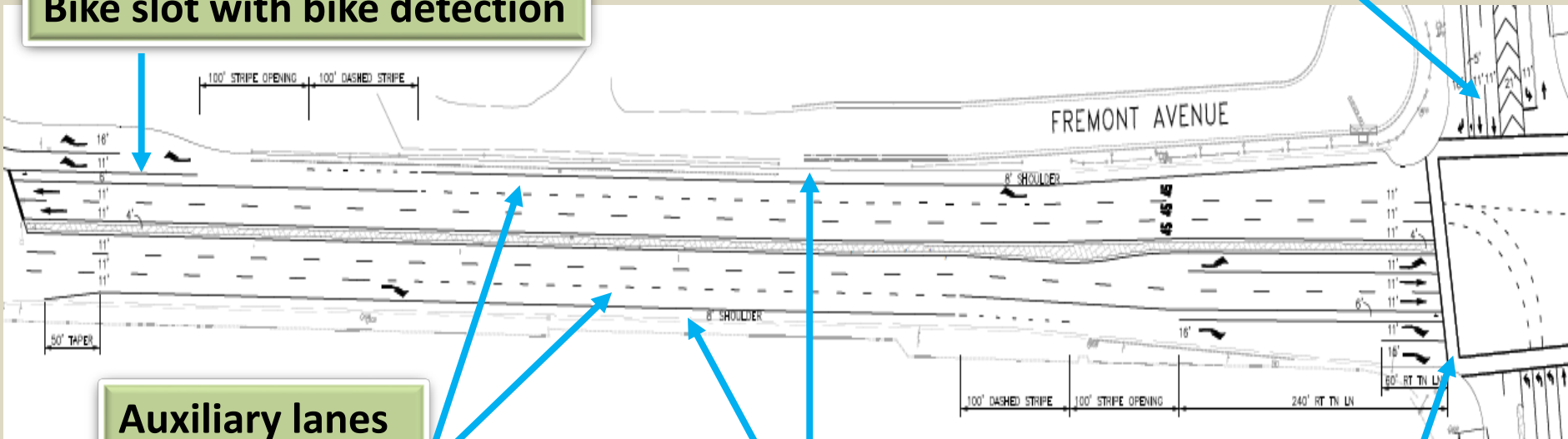
Two through lanes on El Monte

Bike slot with bike detection

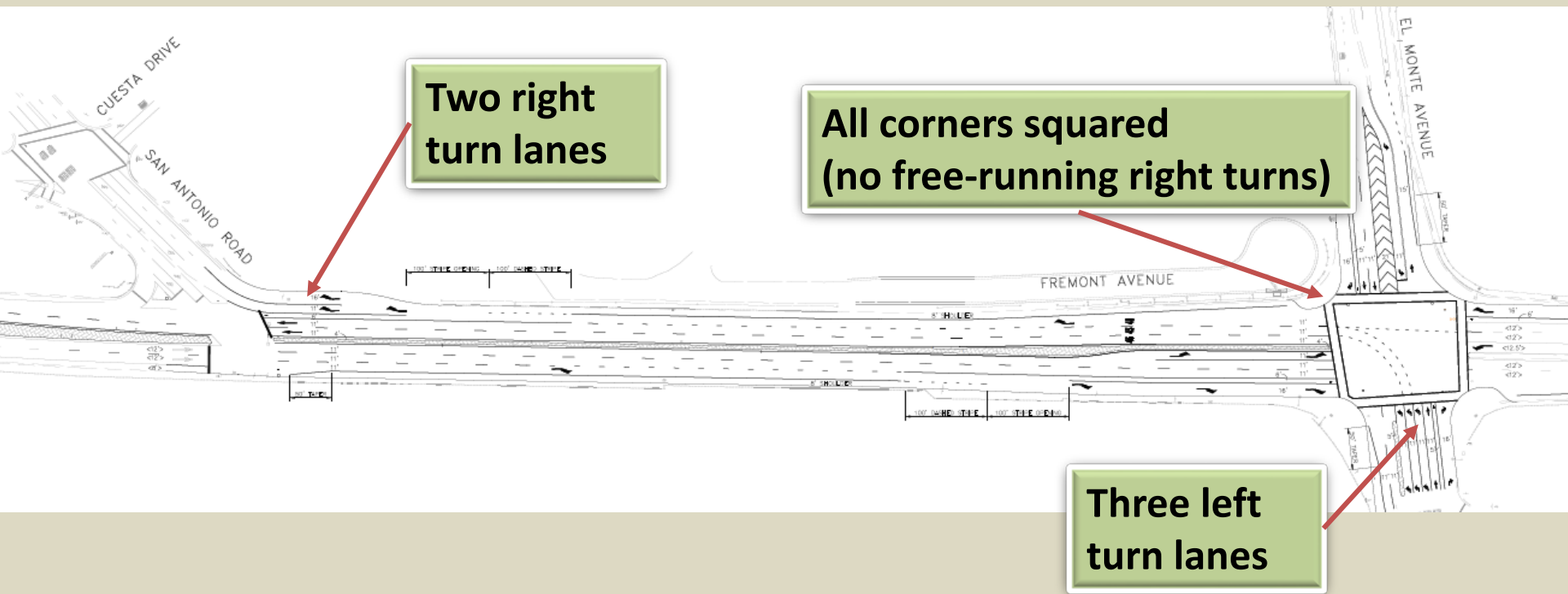
Auxiliary lanes on Foothill in both directions

8-foot shoulders

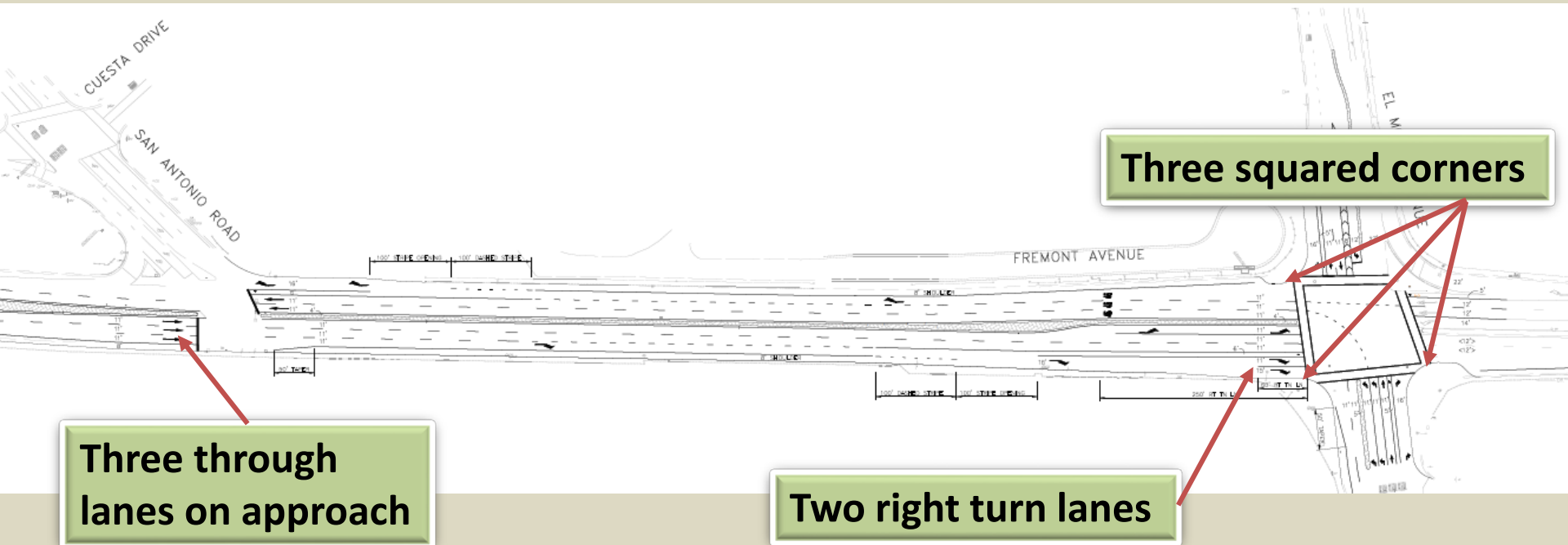
Pedestrian sensors



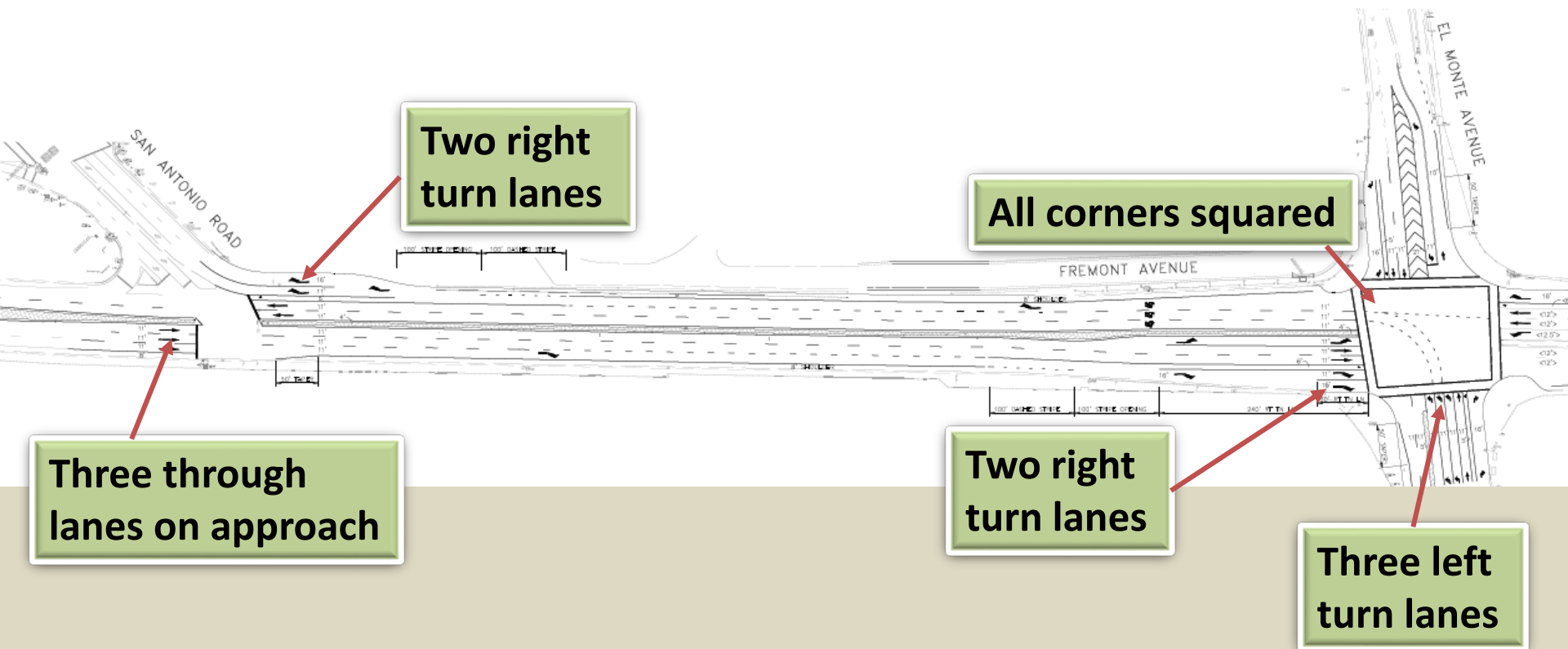
Alternative 1 (Northbound Foothill Focus)



Alternative 2 (Southbound Foothill Focus)



Alternative 3 (Combined Alt 1 and 2)



Outreach

- Los Altos BPAC – June 28, 2017
- Public Meeting – June 29, 2017
- VTA/County BPAC – July 12, 2017

Comment Summary

General comments/themes received thus far:

1. General support for the project. Many supported Alternative 3, or the basic concept of providing all possible improvements to relieve the congestion and keep cars off of the neighborhood roads (e.g.: University Avenue).
2. Some concerns about the triple left from westbound El Monte Avenue causing weaving issues on northbound Foothill Expressway.
3. General support for squaring all corners at Foothill Expressway/El Monte Avenue intersection, although several people expressed concerns about traffic back-ups that may be caused by eliminating free-running rights--needs to be addressed through design and signal timing.

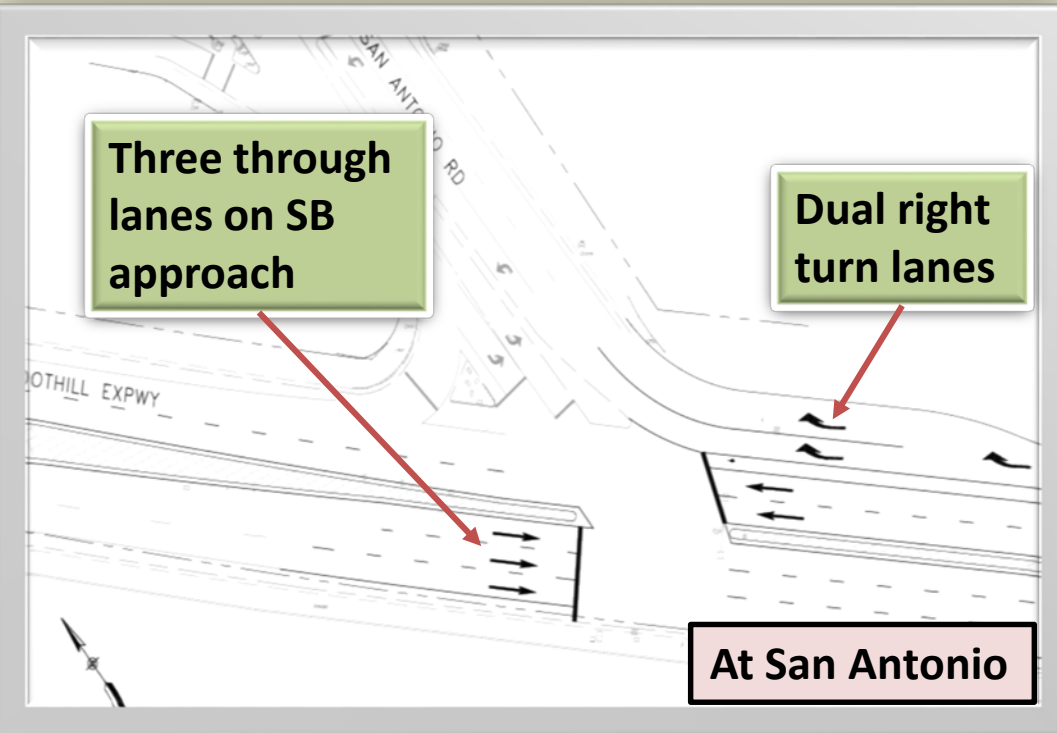
Comment Summary (cont.)

4. Pedestrian sensors/adaptive pedestrian timing a big thumbs up.
5. Some concerns about bike conflicts with double right-turns; suggestions of using green for conflict areas.
6. BPAC raised concerns about keeping cars out of the 8-foot shoulders. Auxiliary lanes will help with current problem of crowding the shoulder to position for right-turns but other design treatments are possible as well.
7. Mixed reactions to 2nd westbound El Monte Avenue through lane.
8. Requests for a construction mitigation plan that will avoid creating traffic problems/more bypass traffic into residential areas during construction.

Project Elements Dropped

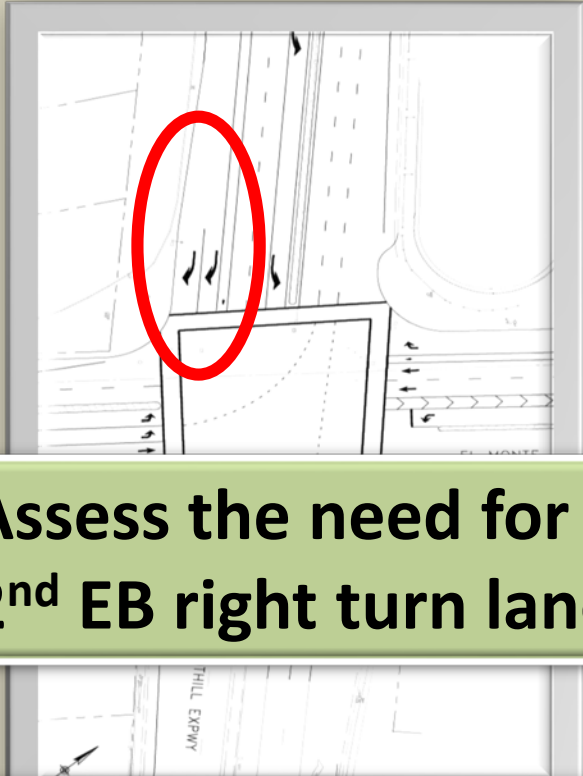
Based on comments received and traffic analysis, no operational benefits for:

- 3rd southbound through lane on Foothill Expressway at San Antonio Road
- 2nd northbound right turn at San Antonio Road



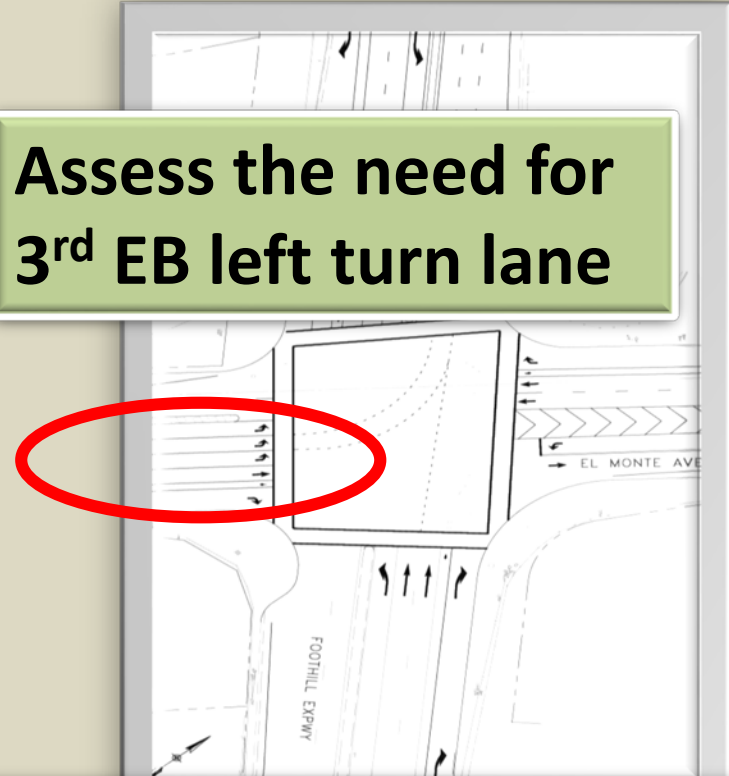
Additional Studies

Currently conducting additional studies to:



Assess the need for
2nd EB right turn lane

Assess the need for
3rd EB left turn lane



Foothill Expressway and El Monte Avenue intersection

Next Steps

- Conceptual Design Alternatives – Fall 2017
- Final Design – Early 2018
- Begin Construction - Summer 2018
- Community Engagement (throughout the project)
 - Public Meeting – Fall 2017

Community Input

Website: www.countyroads.org

The screenshot shows the website header with the County of Santa Clara logo and 'Roads and Airports Department' text. A search bar is present on the right. A navigation menu includes 'Services', 'Projects & Studies', 'Roads & Traffic Info', 'County Airports', 'Do Business with Us', and 'About Us'. The 'Projects & Studies' dropdown is open, showing 'Projects' (highlighted in blue) and 'Planning Studies'. A red arrow points from a red box containing the text 'Select "Projects"' to the 'Projects' menu item. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Projects & Studies > Projects'. The main content area is titled 'Projects' and displays a grid of project cards, each with an icon and a title. The 'Foothill Expressway Improvement Project' card is circled in red.

County of Santa Clara
Roads and Airports Department

Services ▾ Projects & Studies ▾ Roads & Traffic Info ▾ County Airports Do Business with Us ▾ About Us ▾

Home > Projects & Studies > Projects

Projects

San Tomas Expressway Improvement Homestead-El Camino

Dewitt Avenue "S" Curve

Montague Expressway widening & construction of Berryessa Creek Bridge

Alamitos Creek Bridge Replacement

Isabel Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Foothill Expressway Improvement Project

Uvas Road Bridges Replacement Project

East San Jose Pedestrian Improvements

Bicycle and Highway Safety Improvements

Thermoplastic Striping, Markings, and Pavement Markers Installation

Select "Projects"

Sign up for project updates
Send comments to foothill@countyroads.org

QUESTIONS?