



East Channel Trail Study

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
Commission Meeting**

April 17, 2025



Agenda



- Project Overview
- Virtual Site Visit
- Community Engagement
- Alternatives Analysis
- Next Steps



Project Overview

Corridor Overview

- Approximately 5.5 miles along Santa Clara Valley Water's East Channel maintenance road
- Connecting San Francisco Bay Trail to Homestead Road
- Will provide access via several existing and proposed bikeways
- Connections to major Caltrain and VTA transit centers and schools



Scope

- **Existing Conditions**
 - ◆ Channel + Bank geomorphic Conditions
 - ◆ Biological Constraints
- **Topographic Survey**
 - ◆ Base Mapping
 - ◆ Hydrology + Hydraulics Analysis
- **Traffic Counts/Field Observations**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Development of East Channel Trail Plan**
 - ◆ Alignment Alternatives Analysis
 - ◆ Selection of Preferred Alternative
 - ◆ Conceptual Design
 - ◆ Draft/Final Trail Study
 - ◆ Implementation Strategy

Timeline

Phase 1

Fall 2024–
Spring 2025

Technical Work



Summarize existing conditions

Conduct field work and resource surveys

Analyze crossing traffic data

Outreach Goals



Announce project

Understand needs and concerns

Outreach Methods



Community **survey**

Tabling at community events

Community **meetings**

Field **meetings**

Timeline

Technical Work



Phase 1

Fall 2024–
Spring 2025

- Summarize** existing conditions
- Conduct** field work and resource surveys
- Analyze** crossing traffic data

Phase 2

Spring 2025–
Fall 2025

- Analyze** trail alternatives
- Identify** best trail route
- Develop** concept design

Outreach Goals



- Announce** project
- Understand** needs and concerns

- Gather input** on alternatives

Outreach Methods



- Community **survey**
- Tabling** at community events
- Community **meetings**
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- Mobile **workshops**
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Timeline

Technical Work



Phase 1

Fall 2024–
Spring 2025

- Summarize** existing conditions
- Conduct** field work and resource surveys
- Analyze** crossing traffic data

Phase 2

Spring 2025–
Fall 2025

- Analyze** trail alternatives
- Identify** best trail route
- Develop** concept design

Phase 3

Winter 2025/26–
Summer 2026

- Finish** concept design
- Identify** implementation strategy
- Prepare** draft & final plan

Outreach Goals



- Announce** project
- Understand** needs and concerns

- Gather input** on alternatives

- Share** draft plan
- Collect** feedback

Outreach Methods



- Community **survey**
- Tabling** at community events
- Community **meetings**
- Field **meetings**

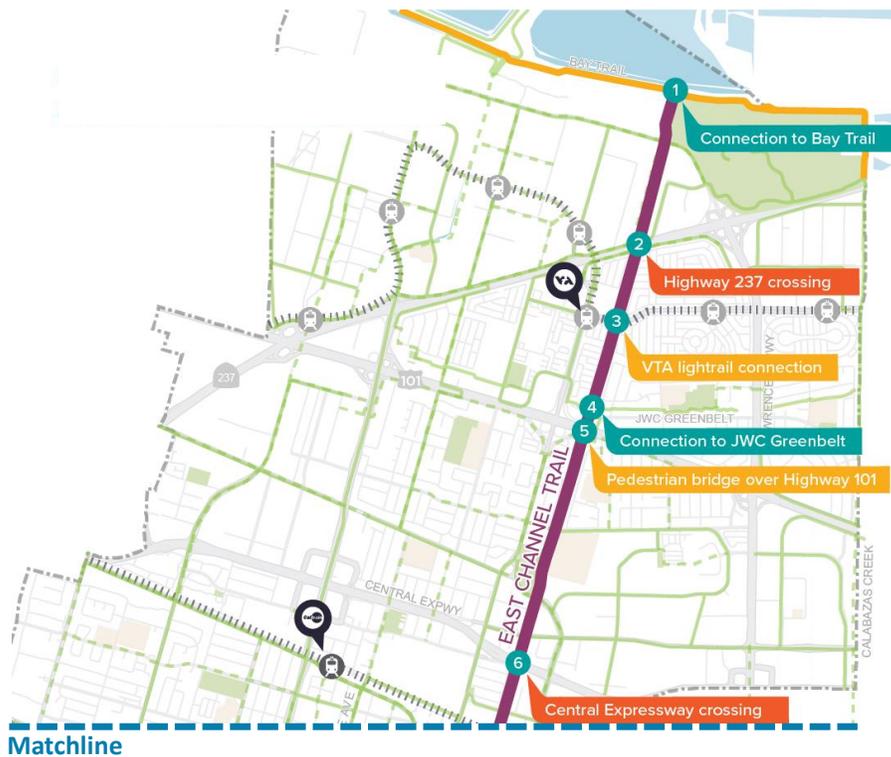
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Virtual Site Visit

Virtual Site Visit



Opportunities

Wide Maintenance Road



Opportunities

Access to four parks + JWC

- ◆ Ortega Park
- ◆ Braly Park (pictured to the right)
- ◆ Sunnyvale Community Center Park
- ◆ Fair Oaks Park
- ◆ John W. Christian Greenbelt

Access to 8 schools within ½ miles



Opportunities

Existing Pedestrian Overcrossing (US 101)



Constraints



Major Barriers

- ◆ El Camino Real (SR 82)
- ◆ Caltrain Railroad
- ◆ Central Expressway
- ◆ Tasman Drive (VTA Light Rail)
- ◆ SR 237 (shown to the left)

Constraints



Vertical Height Limits



Constraints



Erosion



Constraints



Right-of-Way Conflicts

- ◆ South of Inverness Way
- ◆ Tesla dealership on El Camino Real (shown to the left)
- ◆ N. Britton Avenue / The King's Academy

Precedents

Permanente Creek Trail Mountain View, CA



Precedents

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Santa Clara, CA



Precedents

Regnart Creek Trail Cupertino, CA





Community Engagement

Community Engagement

- Outreach is being conducted in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese
- Social Media & Horizon newsletter
- Mailing (letter sent to all residents within 500 feet of the corridor)
- Project website

Transportation & Mobility

New North-South Trail Under Study

What do you think about a trail running the length of Sunnyvale? City staff are now underway with a study to get community and expert input and ideas. The study will explore the feasibility of a proposed trail along the East Channel Maintenance Road.

The East Channel Trail would span nearly six miles, from the San Francisco Bay trail in the north to Ortega Park and Homestead Road in the south. The goal would be to separate it from vehicle traffic between the Bay Trail and Innesses Way.

The proposed trail would serve as an important connector to various points in the city. This will benefit residents, commuters and visitors. It will also help people who choose alternate transportation or who don't have a vehicle.

The trail would be designed for walking and biking. It could connect to as many as 12 Sunnyvale schools, four parks, the John W. Christian Greenbelt, and the Sunnyvale Community Center. Within a half mile of the trail are approximately 18,000 jobs, making it a valuable non-motorized commute route.

We'll complete the two-year long study in phases:

Phase 1: Assess current conditions and traffic patterns.

Phase 2: Identify possible trail routes and crossings for roads, highways, and railroad tracks.

Phase 3: Prepare a design concept for the preferred route and identify a funding strategy for the City Council to review.

After the Council has adopted a design and funding strategy, there will still be more to do. We'll need to finalize the trail design. There will be an environmental review. We'll develop actions and maintenance plan. And, finally, the trail will need to be constructed, likely in segments.

Get Involved

Take the online survey: Fill out a 10-minute, 5-question survey to let us know if you might use the trail and what you think its benefits could be. Responses are due by May 31.

Support a Trail Ambassador: Several people have volunteered to be Trail Ambassadors. They are helping to share updates about the trail with neighbors. Get to know them and volunteer to help with trail outreach.

Stay informed: To keep up with progress on the trail and community events, subscribe to the East Channel Trail e-newsletter.

A More Walkable, Bikeable Community

The Sunnyvale City Council adopted the Active Transportation Plan in 2020 with the goal of making our walking and biking network safer, more connected and usable for everyone. Since then, we have completed or started work on more than 150 bicycle, pedestrian and Safe Routes to School projects throughout the city. We've also added more than 20 bike lane miles, increasing our total to about 120 miles citywide. The East Channel Trail is part of the Plan and would be a significant addition to the trail network.

History of the Trail

The East Channel Trail concept has been in county plans since 2018.

2018

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) identified the East Channel Trail as a priority bike trail corridor in its countywide bike plan.

2020

Sunnyvale's Active Transportation Plan identified the trail as a critical corridor.

2021

VTA awarded Sunnyvale \$830,000 to support the study and preliminary design of the trail.

2024

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors incorporated East Channel Trail into the Countywide Trails Master Plan.

Valley Water constructed the Sunnyvale East and West Channels in the 1960s and 1970s. They direct storm drain overflow to San Francisco Bay during major storms. This protects Sunnyvale and Cupertino against flooding.

The East Channel Trail would connect to the John W. Christian Greenbelt trail. The greenbelt stretches east to west across the entire city.

For survey and project details, visit [Sunnyvale.ca.gov](https://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov) (Search: East Channel Trail)

Sunnyvale Horizon 3

Community Engagement

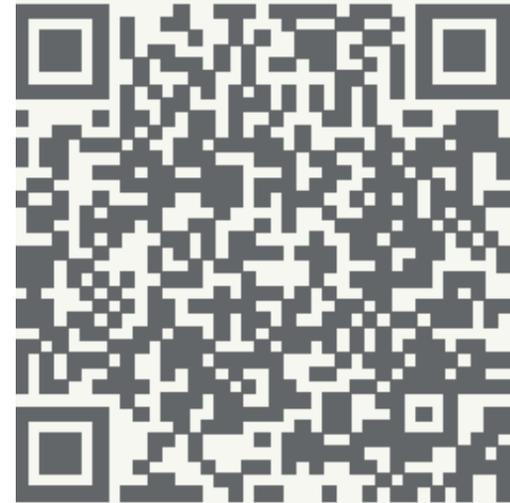
- Pop-Up Events
- Mobile Workshops (Walkshops)
- Trail Ambassador Meetings
- Community Meetings
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Other Stakeholder Engagements
- Public Meetings (Commissions and City Council)
 - ◆ BPAC, P&R, Sustainability commissions



Community Engagement

- Online surveys

Learn more and share
your thoughts:





Alternative Analysis

Alternatives Analysis Goals

The East Channel Trail will be:

- **Feasible**
- **High Quality**
- **Connected**
- **Cost-Effective**



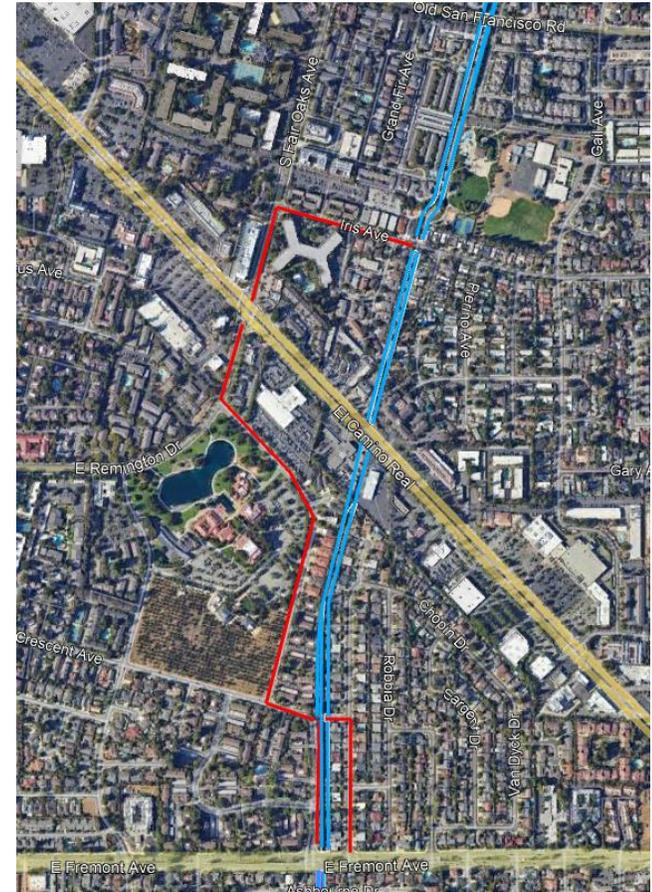
Near John W. Christian Greenbelt



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Define alignment alternatives (Spring 2025)
- Finalize criteria and score alternatives (Spring 2025)
- Share draft alternatives with BPAC at Meeting #2 (Summer 2025)
- Join and promote our upcoming engagement events this spring and summer!
- BPAC Meeting #3 (Winter 2025/26) to review Draft Study and make recommendation to Council



Project Information

Project Webpage

1. Scan QR code to visit the project webpage or go to: <https://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov/> and search for “East Channel Trail”



2. For future updates “Subscribe to stay informed”

Contact



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