



# East Channel Trail Study

**Park and Recreation Commission**

September 10, 2025



# Where Is the East Channel?

- It is approximately 5.5 miles from Homestead Road to the San Francisco Bay Trail
- Trail follows Santa Clara Valley Water's East Channel maintenance road



# What Is the Proposed East Channel Trail?

- As a trail along the East Channel Maintenance Road would provide:
  - ◆ Connections to major Caltrain and VTA transit centers and schools
  - ◆ Access via several existing and proposed bikeway intersections
  - ◆ Pedestrian and bicycling access to nearby schools, parks, and employment centers
  - ◆ Continued access to Valley Water for their operations and maintenance.





# Where did this Study come from?

- August 2020: City adopted Active Transportation Plan
- 2021-2022: Raised Funds through VTA Measure B and donation from Google
- June 2024: Contracted with Study Consultant Team



# Opportunities

- Wide Maintenance Road
- Access to four parks and JWC Greenbelt
- Access to 8 schools within ½ miles
- Connect to Moffett Park
- Connect to existing and proposed bikeways





# Constraints

- Major Barriers
  - ◆ El Camino Real (SR 82)
  - ◆ Caltrain Railroad
  - ◆ Central Expressway
  - ◆ Tasman Drive (VTA Light Rail)
  - ◆ SR 237 Right-of-Way Conflicts
- Vertical Height Limits
- Erosion



[illegible]



# Precedents

- Stevens Creek Trail  
Mountain View, CA
- Permanente Creek Trail  
Mountain View, CA
- San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail  
Santa Clara, CA
- Regnart Creek Trail  
Cupertino, CA





# What Is the Proposed East Channel Trail Study?

- The study aims to:
  - ◆ Study the current channel
  - ◆ Recommend the best route for the trail
  - ◆ Provide an implementation strategy for the City of Sunnyvale



# Goals for the Route

## The East Channel Trail aims to be...

### Feasible

We must be able to build the trail according to engineering analyses and existing policies.

### High Quality

We want the best, most comfortable, and memorable experience for Sunnyvale residents and visitors.

### Connected

We want to make sure the trail is connected to local destinations.

### Cost-Effective

We want to make the trail make sense financially for construction and ongoing operations.



# Outreach



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)



Trail Ambassadors



Trailblazers



Community

# Study Timeline



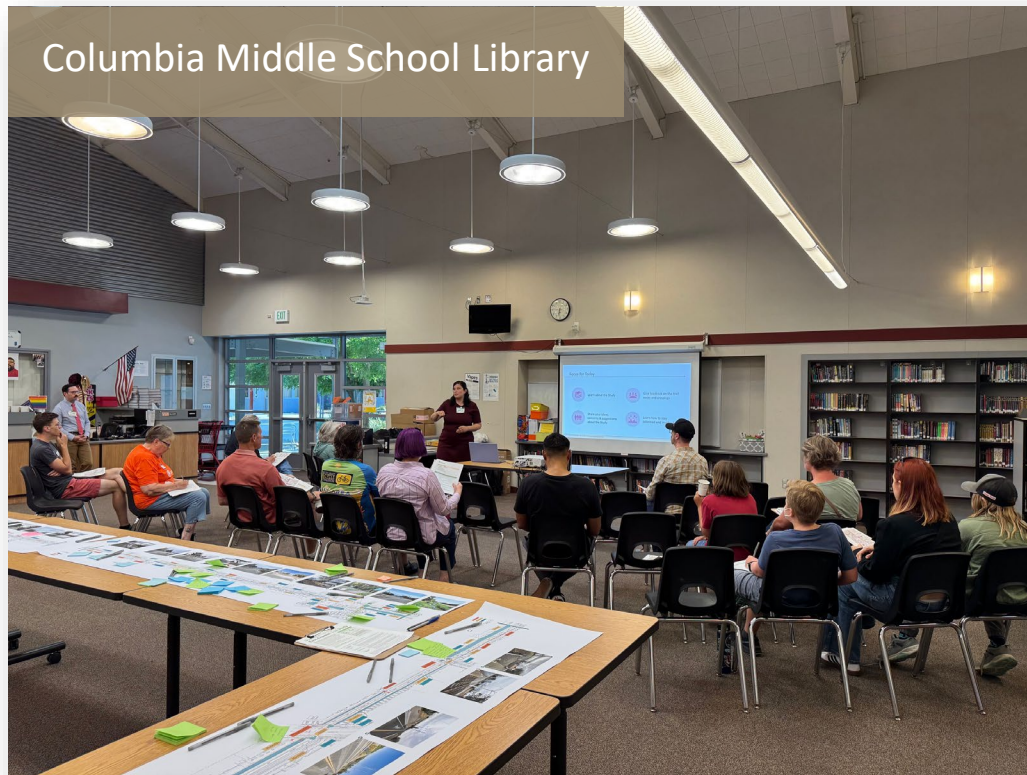


# Phase 1 Engagement Recap

- Pop-Up Engagement activities included:
  - ◆ Pop-Ups: Over 300 Total Interactions
  - ◆ Community Meetings: 52 Total Participants
  - ◆ Walkshops: 68 Total Participants
  - ◆ Online Survey: 1142 Total Responses



# What We've Heard



Connectivity and Accessibility

Environmental Considerations

Privacy and Fencing

Safety Concerns

Support for the Study

Trail Management and Maintenance

Trail Features



# Phase 1 Community Survey Input

- Trail Usage
  - ◆ 85% would use the trail more than once a month
  - ◆ 40% of adjacent residents would use it daily
- Most Wanted Features
  - ◆ Shade and native plants
  - ◆ Lighting
  - ◆ Signs/maps
  - ◆ Seating

*63% of  
respondents live  
within 3 blocks  
of the trail*



# Phase 1 Community Survey Input

## Benefits Expected

- Nearby exercise
- Low-cost recreation
- Connection with nature
- Safety
- Access

## Concerns

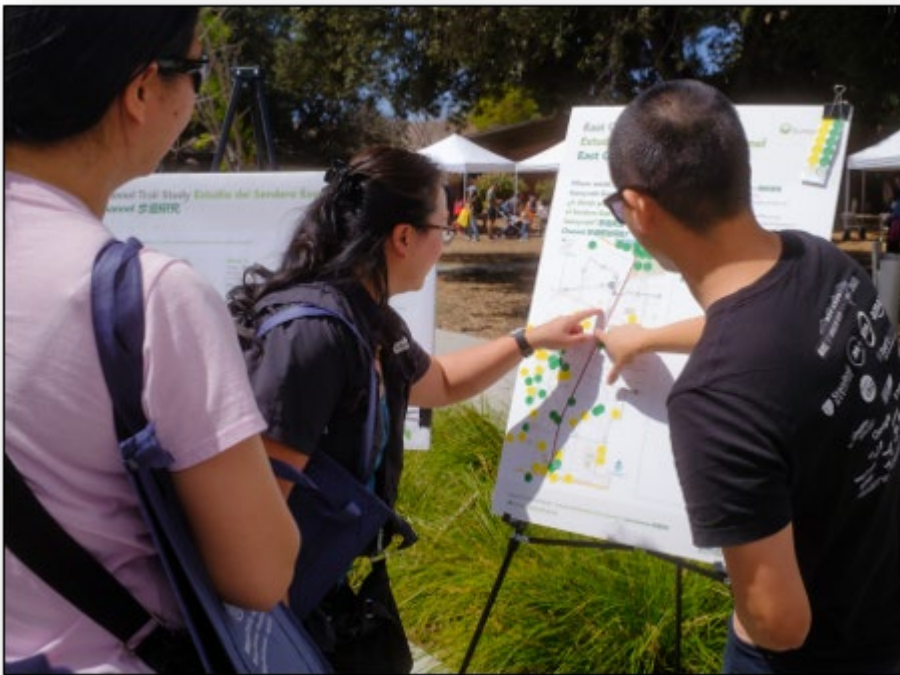
- Safety
  - ◆ Safe interaction with traffic
  - ◆ Personal Security
  - ◆ General Safety
- Quality of Life
  - ◆ Homelessness
  - ◆ Maintenance
  - ◆ Privacy



# Study Timeline



# Phase 2 Engagement Objectives



Collect input from Sunnyvale residents and visitors on trail route options

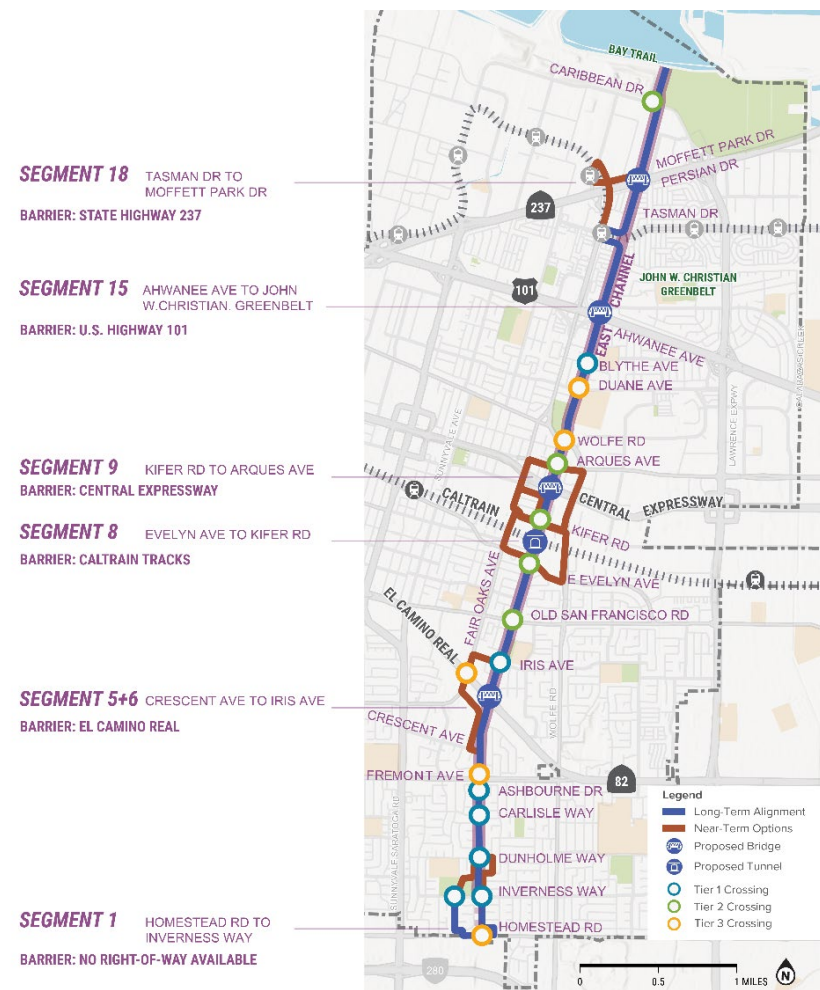
Gather feedback on street-level crossings

Address resident concerns about trail proximity and related issues

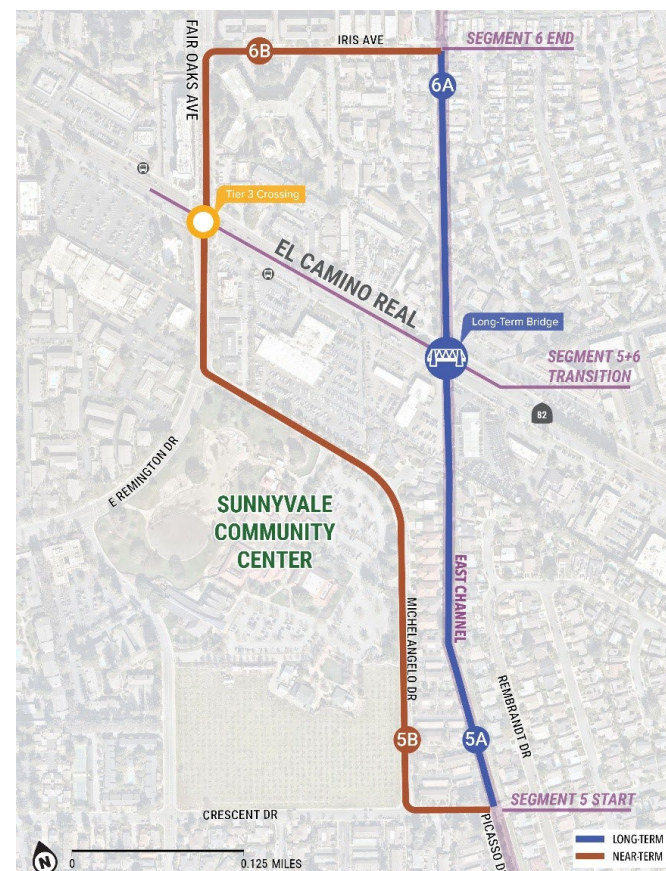
Engage Spanish-speaking community members via local schools and PTAs

Collaborate with concerned residents to identify issues, explore solutions, and set expectations

# Short- and Long-term Options for Major Barriers



## El Camino Real



Crescent Ave connection to Sunnyvale Community Center



Fair Oaks Avenue has standard bike lanes



Private businesses on south side of El Camino Real go over the underground channel



# Gather Feedback on Street-level Crossings

## Tier 1 Crossings

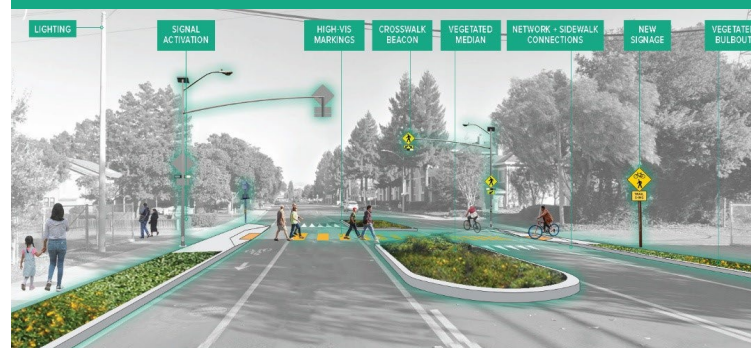
Trail users have priority at crossing



- ✓ Lowest speed and traffic flow
- ✓ High-visibility crosswalk, signage, elevated crosswalk, flashing beacons

## Tier 2 Crossings

Trail and road users share priority at crossing



- ✓ Medium speed and traffic flow
- ✓ Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) or High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK)

## Tier 3 Crossings

Road users have priority at crossing



- ✓ High speed and traffic flow
- ✓ High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) or full traffic signal

## Phase 2 Engagement Activities

Walkshop near JWC Greenbelt



- Trail Ambassador meetings & Trailblazer involvement
- Community meetings
- Pop-up events
- Community survey
- Walkshops
- School promotions and presentations



# Stay Informed

- Sign up to the subscriber list for this Study on the project website
- Access community meeting materials on the project website
- Find FAQs on the project website
- Follow the City on Instagram, Facebook, and Nextdoor for upcoming events





# Thank you

## 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



Sunnyvale

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