



Sunnyvale

Board and Commission Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority;
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues, and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process. *Board members or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.*

Date Submitted to Staff

Liaison:

1/23/25

Board/ Commission:

Submitted by: David Kesting

Study Issue Working Title:

Street Trees for Improved Traffic Safety

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

Sunnyvale should explore leveraging the Parks & Rec's authority to manage street tree planting as a strategy to enhance traffic safety. A recent traffic engineering study by the city identified a correlation between street trees & calmer streets, with benefits including reduced vehicle speeds, improved pedestrian visibility, & overall safer conditions for all road users.

Street trees contribute to traffic calming by creating a sense of enclosure, which encourages drivers to reduce speed & be more attentive. The potential for traffic safety improvements is an underutilized benefit that aligns with Sunnyvale's Vision Zero goals.

This study would evaluate current street tree coverage, identify high-priority areas with traffic safety concerns, & propose a framework for integrating tree planting initiatives into traffic safety planning. Collaboration between Parks & Rec, Public Works, & Traffic Engineering to ensure tree placement aligns with visibility, accessibility, & safety standards.

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments: [Staff Use Only]

See Attached.

PRC Study Issue

Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments:

Staff recommendation is not sponsor, as this topic is not under the Parks and Recreation Commission's purview. It would fall with Traffic Engineering as likely the Roadway Safety Plan or Active Transportation Plan to address this concern. Whereas this topic intersects slightly with the PRC, the appropriate Commission to discuss this study issue is the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission. Options for moving this Study Issue forward include:

- present it to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee to see if it's a topic they would like to sponsor
- discuss with your City Council Member to see if they would like to sponsor