



**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Agenda Item # 3**

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project

**Prepared by:** Aida Fairman, Interim Engineering Services Director

**Approved by:** Chris Jordan, City Manager

**Attachment:**

1. Draft Concept Plan Line prepared by the County of Santa Clara
2. Draft Concept Plan line prepared by City of Los Altos
3. Draft Comment Letter to County of Santa Clara

**Initiated by:**

City Staff

**Previous Council Consideration:**

None

**Fiscal Impact:**

The Homestead Road – Safe Routes to School Planning Phase Project is funded by a grant from County Supervisor Simitian. As part of the project, the City collected traffic data to help in the development of the project including 12-hour vehicle turning movement/bicycle-pedestrian volume counts and speed/volume counts along Vineyard Drive. The estimated cost of the City’s traffic data collection efforts is \$1,500, funds are available in the TS-01052 Annual Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Improvement project. Staff is recommending additional near-term capital improvements in the amount of \$12,000 for a third flashing beacon at Homestead Road & Fallen Leaf Drive; this cost can be accommodated from the same CIP project.

**Environmental Review:**

Categorically exempt

**Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:**

- What input, if any, on the Draft Homestead Road concept plan lines prepared by both the County of Santa Clara and City of Los Altos does the Council wish to provide?
- Does the Council approve the comment letter finalizing City comments to the Plan Line for inclusion with the Final Report of the Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project?

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**Reviewed By:**

City Manager

CJ

City Attorney

CD

Finance Director

SE

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**Subject:** Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project

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- Should staff pursue the implementation of near-term improvements at Homestead Road & Fallen Leaf Drive, including the installation of a third flashing sign within the median island of the intersection?

**Summary:**

- Supervisor Simitian funded the Homestead Road Safe Routes to School – Planning Phase project in June 2018 to help identify near-term improvements that could be built with future Measure B funds between Foothill Expressway (Los Altos) and Homestead High School / Mary Avenue (Sunnyvale). The City of Cupertino also operates and maintains a portion of Homestead Road adjacent to Highway 85 and is included within this project
- The County of Santa Clara – Roads & Airports Department is managing the project and has held three (3) community outreach meetings since the Fall 2018 to solicit public input on the project. The last community meeting on February 25, 2019 included presentation of Concept Plan Line drawings with visuals regarding proposed improvements
- The Complete Street Commission received an update at its February 27, 2019 meeting on the Homestead Road – Safe Routes to School Planning Phase project, but no action was taken as the item was presented as information only
- Staff is requesting Council input on the proposed concept drawings and approval of a comment letter to provide to the County of Santa Clara so that City input can be provided in the Final Planning Phase report, anticipated for completion by April 2019

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the City Council receive an update on the Homestead Road Safe Routes to School – Planning Phase project and provide input on the Concept Plan Line drawings. A Draft Comment Letter for submittal of final comments to the County is provided for the review and approval of the City Council



**Subject:** Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project

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### **Purpose**

To allow City Council the opportunity to review of the Homestead Road – Safe Routes to School Planning Phase project and provide feedback on proposed Concept Plan Line drawings through a comment letter to the County of Santa Clara.

### **Background**

Supervisor Simitian funded the development of a Planning Study to analyze near-term improvements that could be built along Homestead Road between Foothill Expressway and Mary Avenue across the jurisdictions of the Cities of Los Altos, Cupertino, and Sunnyvale to improve school mobility travel options to Cupertino Middle School and Homestead High School. The Planning Study is being led by the County of Santa Clara – Roads & Airports Department on behalf of County Supervisor Simitian’s office.

The three local agencies involved in the project have worked with the County of Santa Clara since Fall 2018 to help develop concept plan line design alternatives, collect and analyze traffic data, and develop outreach materials for community meetings.

The Draft Final Concept Plan Line presented at the final community outreach meeting on February 25, 2019 is provided in Exhibit A. The County of Santa Clara plans to finalize its Final Report for the project by April 2019. Recommendations of the Final Report will be used to pursue future grant funds anticipated through the 2016 Measure B half-cent sales tax. The conclusion of a multi-agency public outreach process and development of the preliminary design plans will help to make the project more competitive for future grant funds made available through the Measure B program.

### **Discussion/Analysis**

City staff worked closely with the County of Santa Clara – Roads & Airports Department to develop the Concept Plan Line drawings presented at the last community outreach meeting on February 25, 2019. Most of the requested concept improvements within the City of Los Altos were included within the presented alternatives to the community. A summary of City staff-initiated changes to the Homestead Road – Concept Plan Line drawings are provided below and the City-developed Concept Plan Line drawing for Homestead Road is provided in Exhibit B.

- **Vineyard Drive Sidewalk and Traffic Calming Improvements**

Vineyard Drive is the extension of Homestead Road on the west side of Foothill Expressway and is not currently an element of the Homestead Road – Safe Routes to School planning phase project. Los Altos residents identified Vineyard Drive as an area of concern in the initial two community outreach meetings for the project.



**Subject:** Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project

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In the City-developed Concept Plan Line drawings in Exhibit B, staff recommends:

- 1) A new sidewalk along the west side of Vineyard Drive between Foothill Expressway and Deodora Drive;
- 2) A new Multi-Way STOP (pending further analysis) at the intersection of Vineyard Drive and Deodora Drive; and
- 3) Traffic calming measures including two speed humps to help reduce vehicle speeds in the subject portion of Vineyard Drive so vehicles and bicyclists can safely share the road.

Staff recommends that the City Council support a request to the County of Santa Clara to formally include Vineyard Drive between Foothill Expressway and Deodora Drive as an element of the Homestead Road – Safe Routes to School Planning Phase Study so that when grant funds for capital improvements are pursued, Vineyard Drive can be included within those future grant applications.

- **Homestead Road and Grant Road Triangle Improvements**

City staff worked with the County of Santa Clara to include bicycle lane extensions within the center of the Homestead Road and Grant Road intersection along with new STOP controls for bicycle and motorists traveling southbound and bicycle slots to help access proposed multi-use pathway improvements along the north side of Homestead Road-Grant Road.

The existing bicycle lane on southbound Grant Road currently ends north of Homestead Road because the approach widens to two lanes at the Homestead Road intersection. Widening of the Southbound Grant Road approach may be required to allow for the continuation of the southbound Grant Road bicycle lane. The existing northbound Grant Road bike lane is recommended for removal to allow for the widening of the existing sidewalk along the east side of Grant Road to help extend the multi-use trail on Homestead Road providing a safer walking and biking alternative for student commuters.

Staff recommends that the City Council support a request to the County of Santa Clara to widen Grant Road to allow for, at a minimum, a continuous southbound bike lane.

- **Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue**

Community input at the three Homestead Road community outreach meetings identified the Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue intersection as an area difficult for bicyclists to traverse through and with a large number of traffic movements. The City and County discussed options for improvements at this intersection including a possible closure of left turn movements out of the Chevron Driveway and El Sereno Avenue; staff advised against this turn restrictions due to potential resident business impacts.



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To help reduce congestion at the intersection, staff drew a concept that provides a new westbound left turn pocket that access the Chevron Driveway. Currently westbound left turn traffic blocks traffic behind them while trying to execute this movement. The new left turn pocket will allow traffic to safely move out of the path of traffic trying to continue towards Foothill Expressway. During peak periods of the day, this should help Homestead Road traffic move unimpeded across El Sereno Avenue.

Staff recommends that the City Council support a request to the County of Santa Clara to modify the existing median island on Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue to provide a westbound left turn storage pocket.

- **Traffic Signal at Homestead Road and Fallen Leaf Drive**

A new traffic signal is proposed for the intersection of Homestead Road and Fallen Leaf Drive for improved pedestrian and neighborhood access across Homestead Road. This improvement has received mixed feedback from the community outreach meetings. Staff spoke with residents during outreach meeting to help understand their concerns with this improvement. Public feedback expressed concerns with traffic signal coordination along Homestead Road through the City of Los Altos and the Foothill Expressway intersection at Homestead Road and Vineyard Drive.

The City of Los Altos currently lacks City-wide communications infrastructure and an ability to coordinate traffic signal timing with the County of Santa Clara Expressway network. The City is actively trying to identify alternatives to improve coordination with the County as the County uses fiber optic cables to interconnect and manage its traffic signal infrastructure.

Staff recommends that the City Council support a request to the County of Santa Clara that fiber optic infrastructure be included along Homestead Road from Foothill Expressway, to the Trader Joe's traffic signal, and to the proposed traffic signal at Homestead Road and Fallen Leaf Drive so that adaptive traffic signal coordination along Homestead Road can be implemented in conjunction with the County of Santa Clara Expressway network.

Staff also recommends that the City Council direct staff to explore the use of cellular-based network switches at the existing Homestead Road and Trader Joe's traffic signal to provide a link with the County Expressway network in efforts to better coordinate traffic signal operations along Homestead Road.

- **Existing Pedestrian-Activated Flashing Beacons at Homestead Road & Fallen Leaf Drive**

The Homestead Road and Fallen Leaf Drive intersection currently operates as STOP controlled on the Fallen Leaf Drive and Homestead Court approaches. Residents at the community meetings noted that existing pedestrian-activated flashing beacons at Homestead



**Subject:** Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project

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Road and Fallen Leaf Drive as welcome improvements but note concerns regarding motorist's failure to yield to pedestrians at the intersection.

Staff recommends that the City Council direct staff to immediately add a third flashing beacon at the intersection within the median island on the east leg of the intersection, approximately \$12,000. The third flashing beacon will help to improve motorist's awareness regarding the presence of pedestrians crossing the intersection when the flashing beacons are activated. This improvement can be funded immediately using the existing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project, TS-01052, Annual Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Improvements project. Staff identifies this as a feasible improvement in the interim while funding for a future traffic signal is pursued.

- **STOP Controls at Homestead Road Shopping Center Driveways**

During the Homestead Road community outreach meetings, residents noted concern regarding the number of driveways across Homestead Road within the City of Los Altos limits. All the retail driveways are currently uncontrolled.

Staff recommends that the City Council direct staff to contact the different property owners to consider the installation of STOP signs and limit lines at each driveway to assign right-of-way at their driveways to help improve bicyclists safety along Homestead Road.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council receive an update on the Homestead Road Safe Routes to School – Planning Phase project and provide input on the Concept Plan Line drawings. A Draft Comment Letter for submittal of final comments to the County is provided for the review and approval of the City Council.

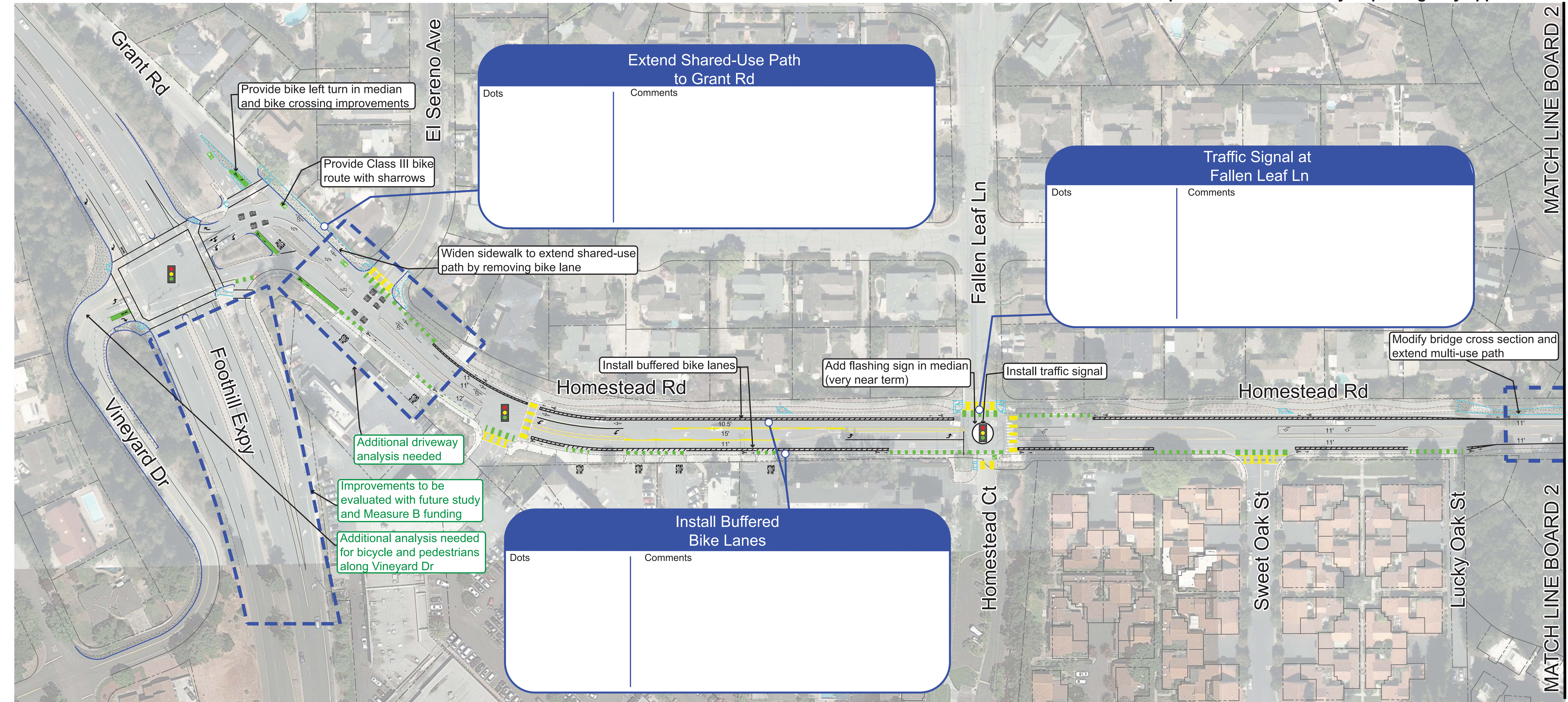
# Homestead Road Safe Routes to School

**Legend**

- Install Green Bike Pavement Markings
- Install High Visibility Crosswalk Markings
- Construct Sidewalk Improvements
- Install Bike Lane Buffer
- Install Sharrow Markings
- Existing Traffic Signal
- Install Traffic Signal
- Further Study Needed
- School Boundary
- Lane Width
- Existing Bike Detection
- Proposed Improvement
- Additional Analysis Needed

**Add color dots to comment boxes:**  
**Green** = Support  
**Yellow** = Uncertain/need more info  
**Red** = Do not support  
 Write in any additional comments

Improvements shown may require agency approval



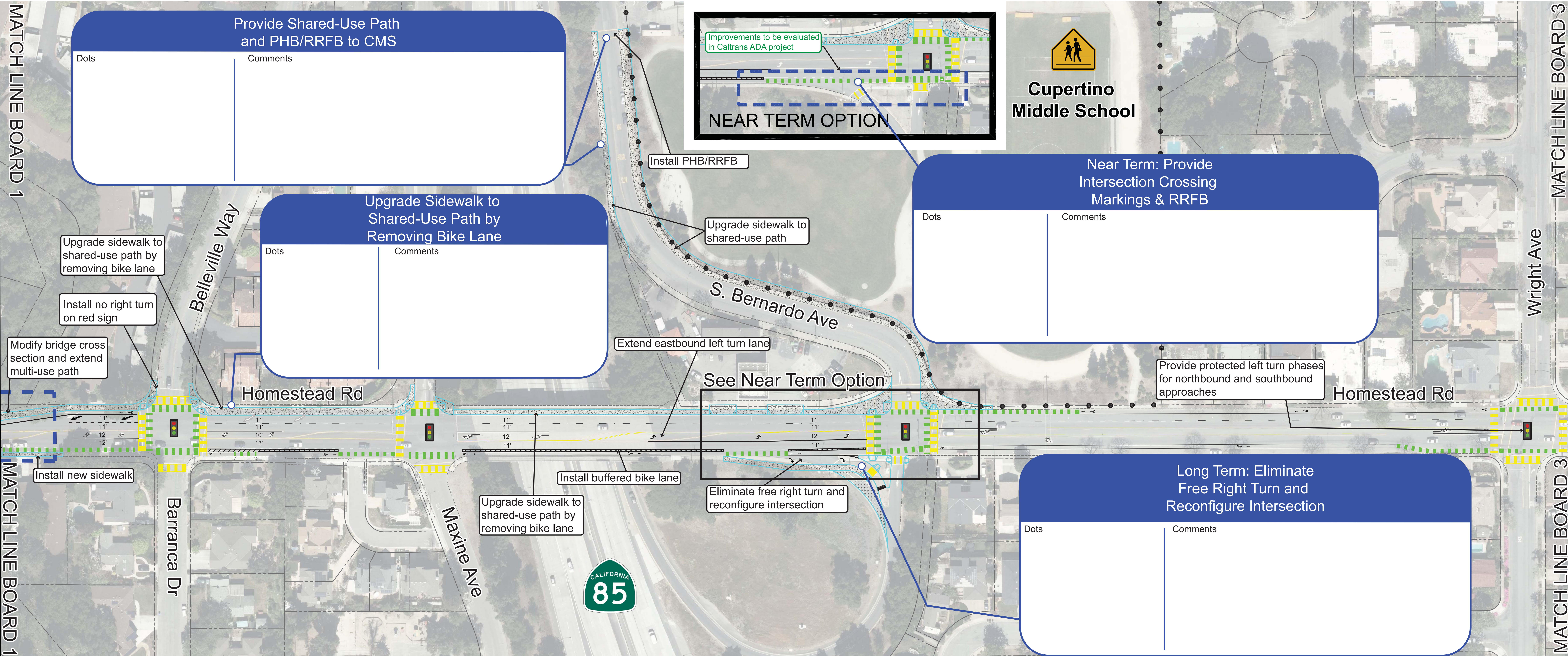
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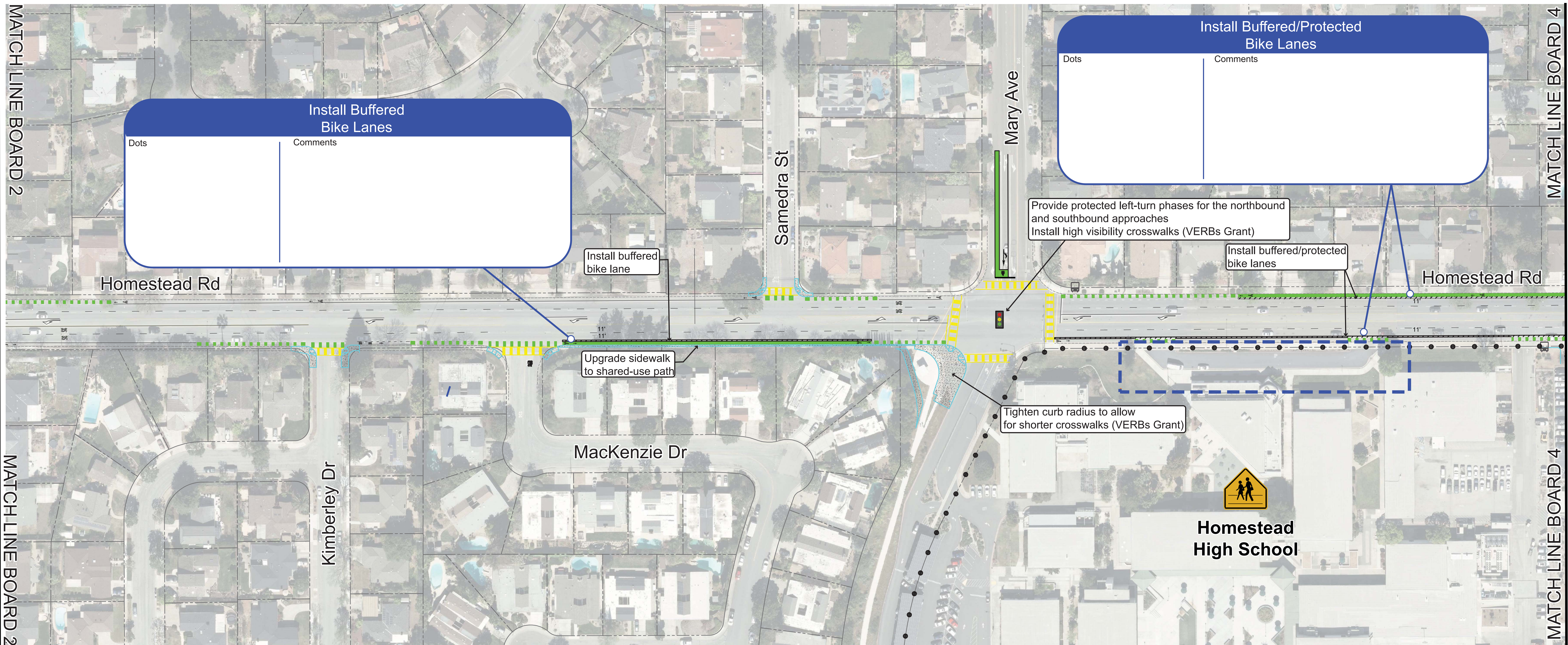
# Homestead Road Safe Routes to School

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- Install Bike Lane Buffer
- Install Sharrow Markings
- Existing Traffic Signal
- Existing Bus Stop
- Further Study Needed
- School Boundary
- Lane Width
- Proposed Improvement
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# Homestead Road Safe Routes to School

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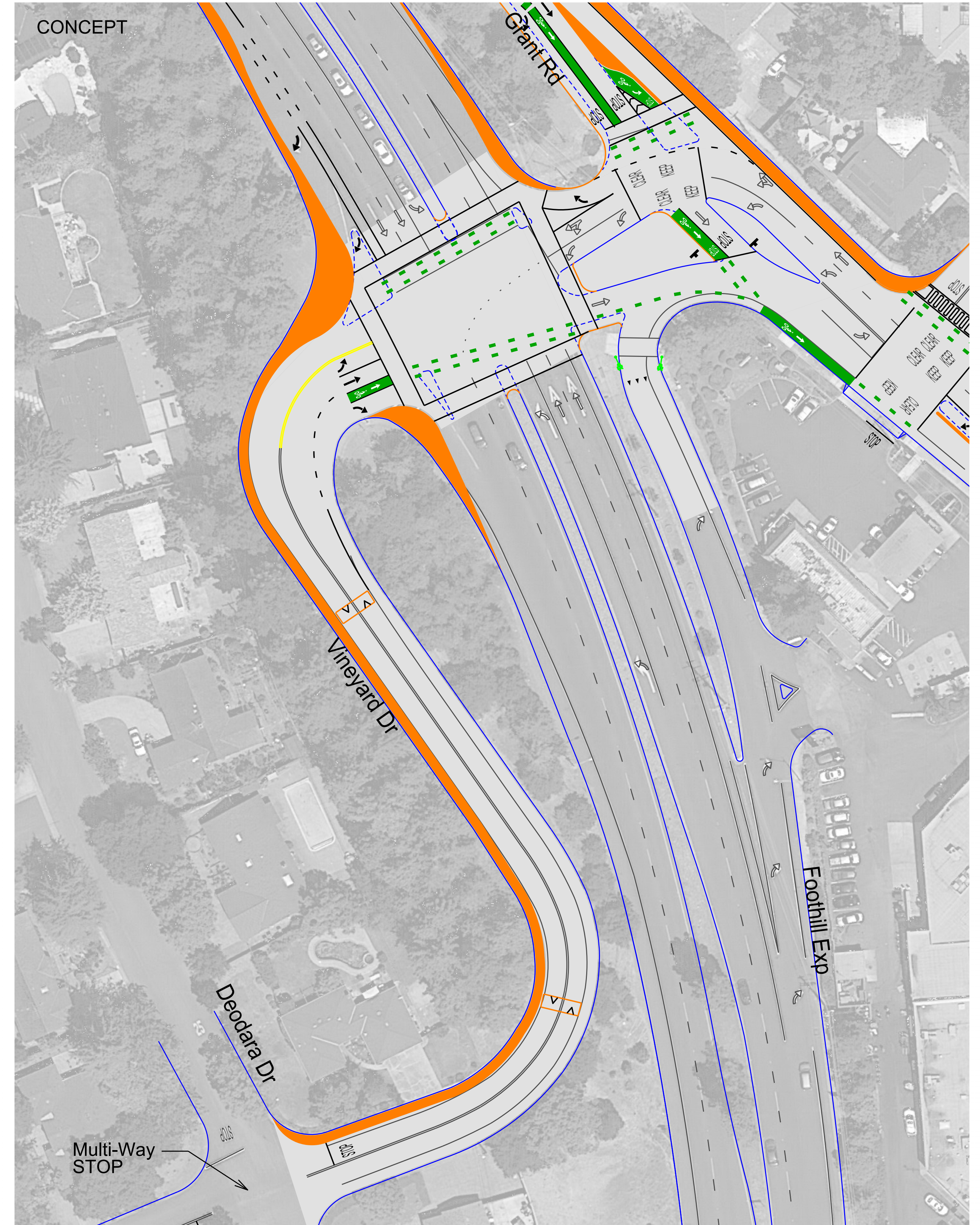
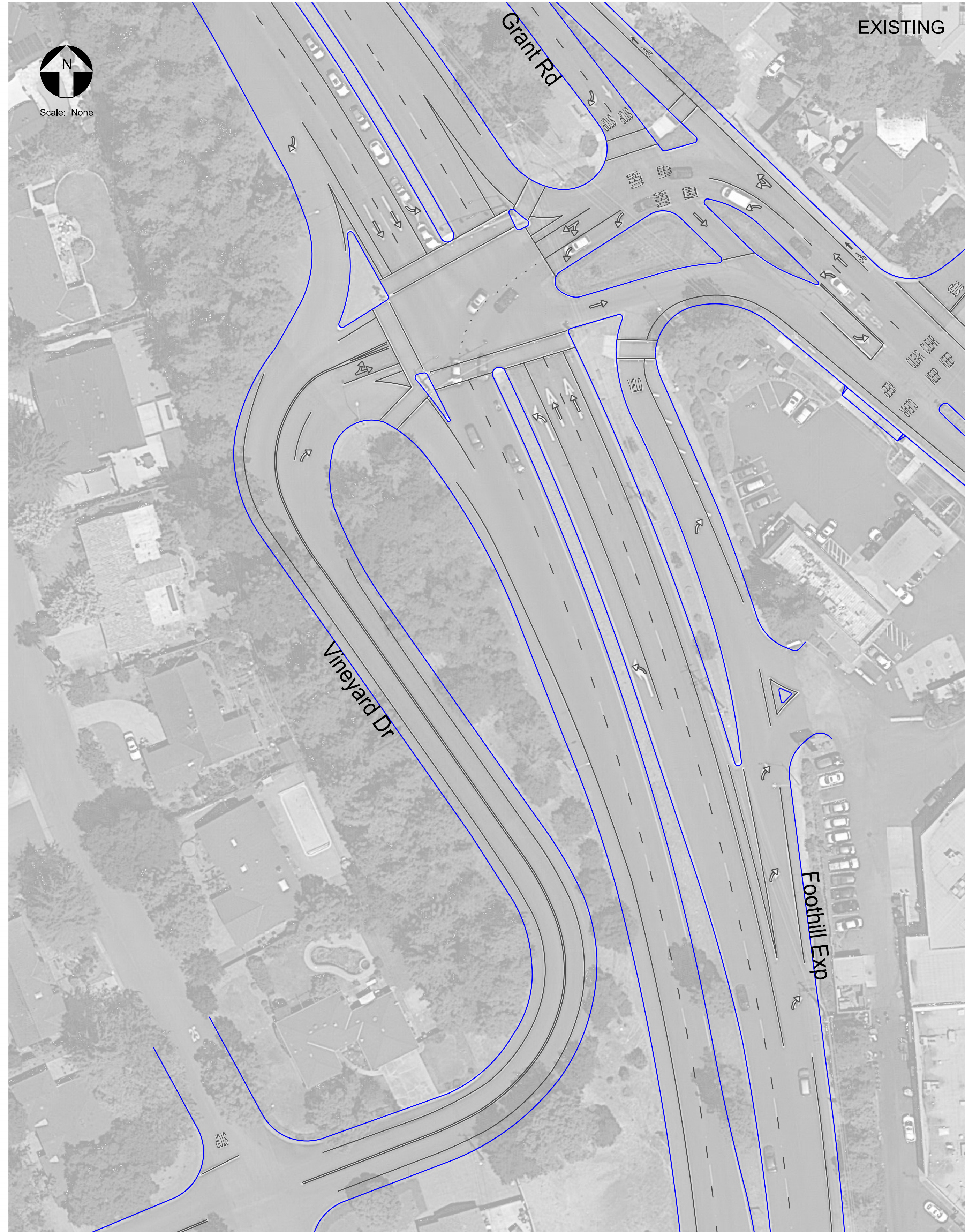
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Improvements shown may require agency approval



Foothill Expressway & Homestead Rd-Vinyard Dr



**Traffic Patterns**  
 P.O. Box 25  
 Danville, CA 94526  
 O: (408) 916-8141  
 www.trafficpatterns.net  
 info@trafficpatterns.net

Engineer's Stamp  
**JAVIER O. RODRIGUEZ**  
 TR2284  
 Exp: 6-30-20  
 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
 TRAFFIC  
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Record Drawings	
Project Engineer:	Date: _____
Designer:	Date: _____
Public Works Inspector:	Date: _____
Public Improvements Initially Accepted by the City Council on: _____	

Submittal Log		
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	City Council Report - 4/9/19	3-5-19

DRAWN BY:	J. Rodriguez	Date:	3-5-19
CHECKED BY:	City of Los Altos	Date:	3-5-19
DESIGNED BY:	J. Rodriguez	Date:	3-5-19

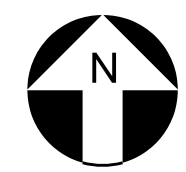
Revisions		
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

City of Los Altos  
 Homestead Road  
 Vineyard Drive to Fallen Leaf Drive  
 Concept Plan Line

RECOMMENDED FOR BIDDING BY: _____	PROJECT NO. _____
DATE: _____	DRAWING NO. _____
APPROVED FOR BIDDING BY: _____	E.P. NO. _____
DATE: _____	SCALE: None
	Sheet 1

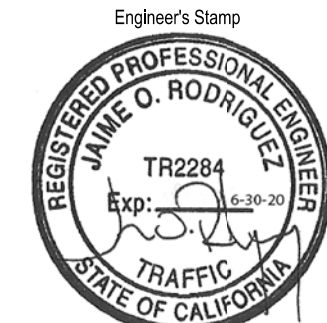
Grant Road-Homestead Rd  
EXISTING

EXISTING



Scale: None

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Revisions		
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

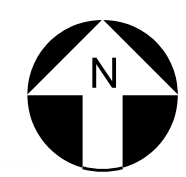
City of Los Altos  
 Homestead Road  
 Vineyard Drive to Fallen Leaf Drive  
 Concept Plan Line

RECOMMENDED FOR BIDDING BY: _____
DATE: _____
APPROVED FOR BIDDING BY: _____
DATE: _____

PROJECT NO.
DRAWING NO.
E.P. NO.
SCALE: None
Sheet 2

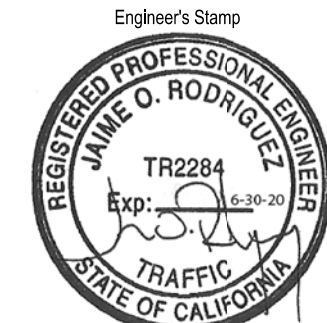
Grant Road-Homestead Rd  
CONCEPT

CONCEPT



Scale: None

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City of Los Altos  
 Homestead Road  
 Vineyard Drive to Fallen Leaf Drive  
 Concept Plan Line

RECOMMENDED FOR BIDDING BY: _____	PROJECT NO. _____
DATE: _____	DRAWING NO. _____
APPROVED FOR BIDDING BY: _____	E.P. NO. _____
DATE: _____	SCALE: None
	Sheet 3



**1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022-3087**

April 9, 2019

County Supervisor Simitian  
County of Santa Clara  
70 W. Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

Subject: Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Planning Phase Project  
Requested Project Enhancements

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Thank you for your leadership in advancing the planning phase of the Homestead Road Safe Routes to School project between Foothill Expressway and Mary Avenue. The work performed by the County of Santa Clara has been phenomenal in coordinating feedback from the interested project cities, Los Altos, Cupertino, and Sunnyvale.

During the final community outreach meeting on February 25, 2019, the County staff presented a conceptual plan line drawing for residents to provide feedback on. While the conceptual plan line was developed in conjunction with input from each of the project cities, several items remain pending within the City of Los Altos. We are requesting your support to help ensure that these items are included within the final project documents so that when future grant funding is pursued for implementation of the capital improvement phase of the project, the project can be properly scoped and cost estimate accurately reflect project costs.

### **1) Vineyard Drive Sidewalk and Traffic Calming Improvements**

Vineyard Drive is the extension of Homestead Road on the west side of Foothill Expressway, but it is not currently an element of the Homestead Road – Safe Routes to School Planning Phase project. During the three community outreach meetings Los Altos residents continually expressed concern regarding this missing addition to the project. Los Altos student residents are served by the same schools within the Cities of Cupertino (Cupertino Middle School) and Sunnyvale (Homestead High School) and Vineyard Drive between Deodara Drive and Foothill Expressway currently lacks sidewalk and traffic calming measures to encourage bicycling and walking as attractive commute alternatives.

The conceptual plan line prepared by the City recommend the installation of a new sidewalk along the west side of Vineyard Drive, two new speed humps to help encourage a reduction in vehicle speeds, and a new multi-way stop at Deodara Drive and Vineyard Drive.

The City requests that your office support the addition of Vineyard Drive formally into the project work scope and more importantly, project limits, so that future grant funding can be used to help implement these improvements. The conceptual plan line work is already completed for these enhancements, so addition of Vineyard Drive should be feasible without any increases to the current planning phase project.

## **2) Homestead Road and Grant Road Triangle Improvements**

The Foothill Expressway-Homestead Road-Grant Road Triangle is being identified as challenging location for all travel modes to traverse through due to the existing roadway geometry and lack of continuous facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. The project currently proposes an extension of the multi-use pathway along the north side of Homestead Road-Grant Road to fill this gap.

The current proposal though does not address the missing bicycle lane facility along the southbound approach of Grant Road.

The City requests that your office support the addition of a widening of Grant Road north of Homestead Road-Foothill Expressway for approximately 200-FT. The widening will allow the existing bicycle lane facility on Grant Road to continue the length of the street and connect to new bicycle lane facilities already proposed in the project within the Triangle helping to improve mobility options for the community.

## **3) Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue Capacity Improvements**

The northbound approach the Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue intersection currently lacks a dedicated northbound left turn lane for access into the private property on the south side of the intersection (Chevron). Left turns are currently allowed to the private property from the through lane that also services Foothill Expressway. When any motorists attempt to turn left into the gas station it results in queue impacts and a loss of roadway efficiency.

The City prepared a conceptual plan line for the Los Altos portion of Homestead Road improvements and recommended installation of a northbound left turn lane at the Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue intersection, but this improvement was not included in presentation materials provided at the February 25, 2019 community outreach meeting.

The City requests that your office support the addition of the proposed northbound left turn lane at the intersection of Homestead Road and El Sereno Avenue to help improve roadway operations along Homestead Road.

Once again, the City of Los Altos thanks you for your leadership in helping to advance the planning phase of the Homestead Road Safe Routes to School project. We are confident that this effort will help result in successful future grant opportunities for the Cities of Los Altos, Cupertino, and Sunnyvale. The above requested improvements along Homestead Road within the City of Los Altos will help ensure a successful capital project for our shared communities.

County Supervisor Simitian  
Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Planning Phase Study  
Requested Project Enhancements  
April 9, 2019  
3 of 3

DRAFT

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact City Manager Chris Jordan at (650) 947-2740.

Sincerely,

Lynette Lee Eng  
Mayor, City of Los Altos

c: City Council  
City Manager Chris Jordan