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# Grand Boulevard Initiative Action Plan

C/CAG Board of Directors

# A Brief History of El Camino Real (State Route 82)

**1940s-1970s**  
**101 and 280 freeways built**, shifting regional travel away from El Camino Real

**2024**  
**SamTrans reassembles GBI** focused on advancing transportation improvements in San Mateo County

**1920s**  
**El Camino Real paved** as the Peninsula's first highway

**2006**  
**The Grand Boulevard Initiative (GBI) launched** to transform the built environment on El Camino Real

# Background



# What is the Grand Boulevard Initiative?

The Grand Boulevard Initiative (GBI) is a partnership between cities, countywide agencies, Caltrans, advocates, and business groups.

The purpose of GBI is to establish a cohesive countywide vision for modernizing El Camino Real (SR 82) to improve safety and mobility.



# GBI Stakeholder Engagement

- Over the past year, SamTrans has convened a Task Force of 50+ participants
- GBI presented to Public Works and Planning directors in January 2025
- GBI conducted a road show of city councils in Fall 2025



# GBI builds upon local corridor studies



Every city in San Mateo County has been working on complete streets studies for El Camino.

In parallel, GBI serves as a forum for collaboration and continuity across these local studies.



*Outreach event for the Central El Camino Plan in San Mateo*



*Example of a completed corridor study from Redwood City*



# Why SamTrans is leading this effort



- **Interagency collaboration:** Advancing transportation improvements on El Camino Real requires extensive collaboration.
- **Route ECR is the backbone of the SamTrans bus network:** Faster, more reliable buses on El Camino Real is a top priority.
- **Making progress:** As a regional agency, SamTrans can bring together jurisdictions to start the coordinated Caltrans process.

# GBI Action Plan



# The GBI Action Plan advances a unified approach to improve mobility and safety

The GBI Action Plan is a planning study that synthesizes the past year of work by the Task Force:

- Evaluates **corridor-wide needs**
- Establishes a **cohesive vision**
- **Builds momentum** toward implementation.



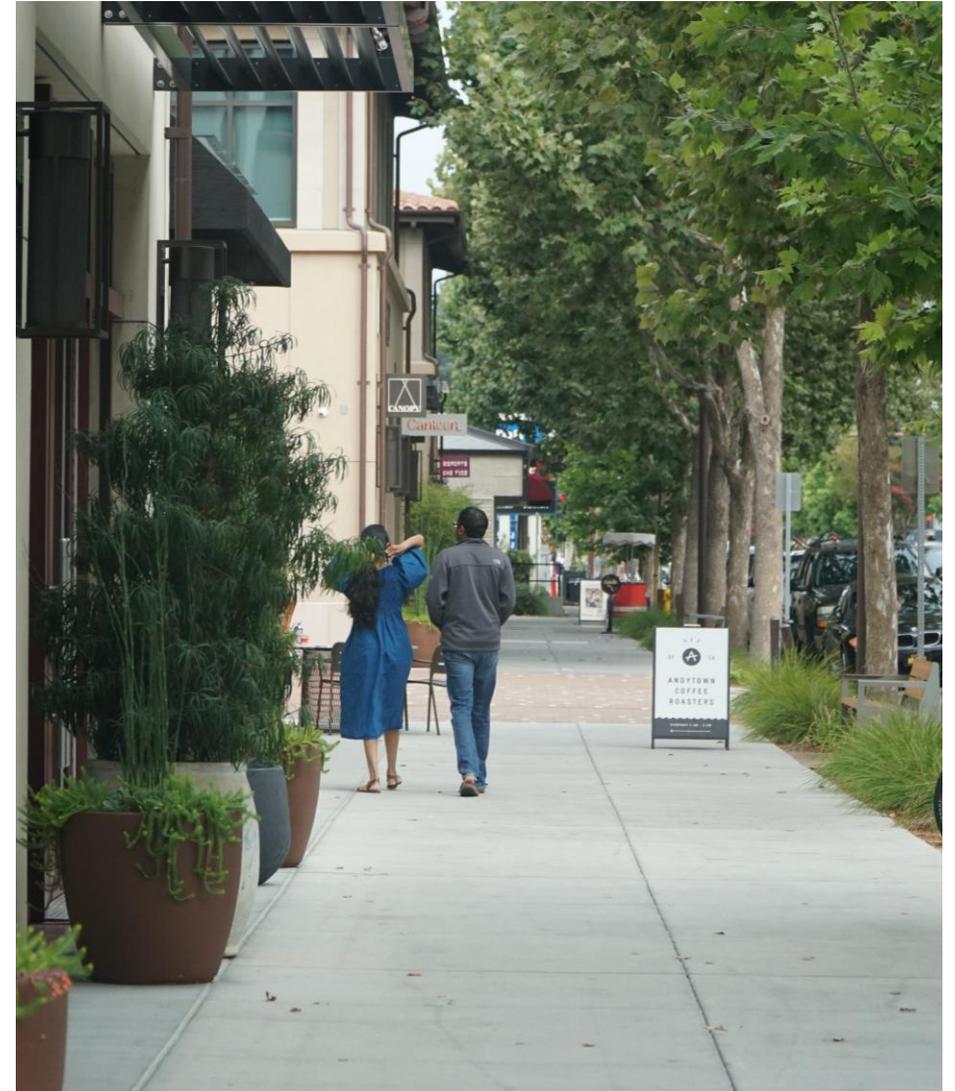
# Vision Statement

El Camino Real is a safe and vibrant street where people of all ages and abilities travel comfortably.

A **'safe street'** eliminates fatalities and serious injuries by managing speeds, conflicts, and travel behavior.

A **'vibrant street'** supports local businesses, strengthens sense of community, and is a place people want to spend time.

**'All ages and abilities'** means that everyone has the freedom to travel comfortably, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities.



# Problem Statements

## SAFETY

El Camino Real has an unusually high rate of **fatal or serious injury crashes**, particularly for people walking and biking.

## MOBILITY

El Camino Real's **highway-like design** discourages walking, biking, and transit use.

## PROCESS

It's **too challenging** for individual cities to develop, implement, and fund transportation projects on El Camino Real.

# Goals

## SAFETY

Adopt an **injury-prevention** mindset for El Camino Real

## MOBILITY

Transform El Camino Real into a **complete street**

## PROCESS

Create a **framework for change** aligning vision, process, and funding



# Goal 1: Safety

## Adopt an Injury-Prevention Mindset

### Action 1A



**Prioritize improvements for vulnerable roadway users** including people walking, biking, taking transit.

### Action 1B



**Manage conflicts** to reduce the likelihood of crashes.

### Action 1C



**Manage speeds** to reduce the severity of crashes.

# Goal 2: Mobility

## Transform El Camino Real into a Complete Street

### Action 2A



**Advance corridor-wide bike and transit improvements** to expand mobility choices

### Action 2B



**Enhance walkability** and amenities to support vibrant communities and a sense of place

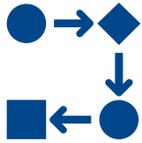
### Action 2C



**Incorporate a context-sensitive approach** that adapts the countywide vision to local conditions

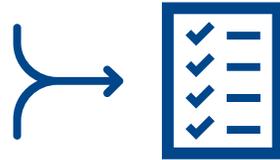
# Goal 3: Process Create a Framework for Change

## Action 3A



Pursue a **countywide project development process** in partnership with Caltrans

## Action 3B



**Align policies, processes, outreach and funding** around a unified vision

## Action 3C



**Maintain interagency collaboration** through construction



# Action Plan Priorities

## An efficient and comfortable transit corridor

Transit improvements that reduce travel times and improve reliability, including bus lanes on congested segments of the corridor.

2

1

## Elimination of fatalities and serious injuries

Manage speeds and conflicts while prioritizing vulnerable users

4

## A walkable pedestrian environment

Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements throughout the corridor

3

## A continuous bikeway for all ages and abilities

A corridor-wide backbone bikeway on El Camino Real or parallel streets

# Defining a Universe of Design Alternatives

- The Caltrans project development process requires looking at multiple alternatives
- All Action Plan alternatives maintain at least two travel lanes in each direction to provide space for new transportation uses
- Local planning processes will determine preferred designs in each jurisdiction
- GBI can help ensure consistency and cohesion

Maintain parking



Maintain six lanes



Bike lanes



Bus lane conversion



Wider sidewalks



Road diet



# Next Steps

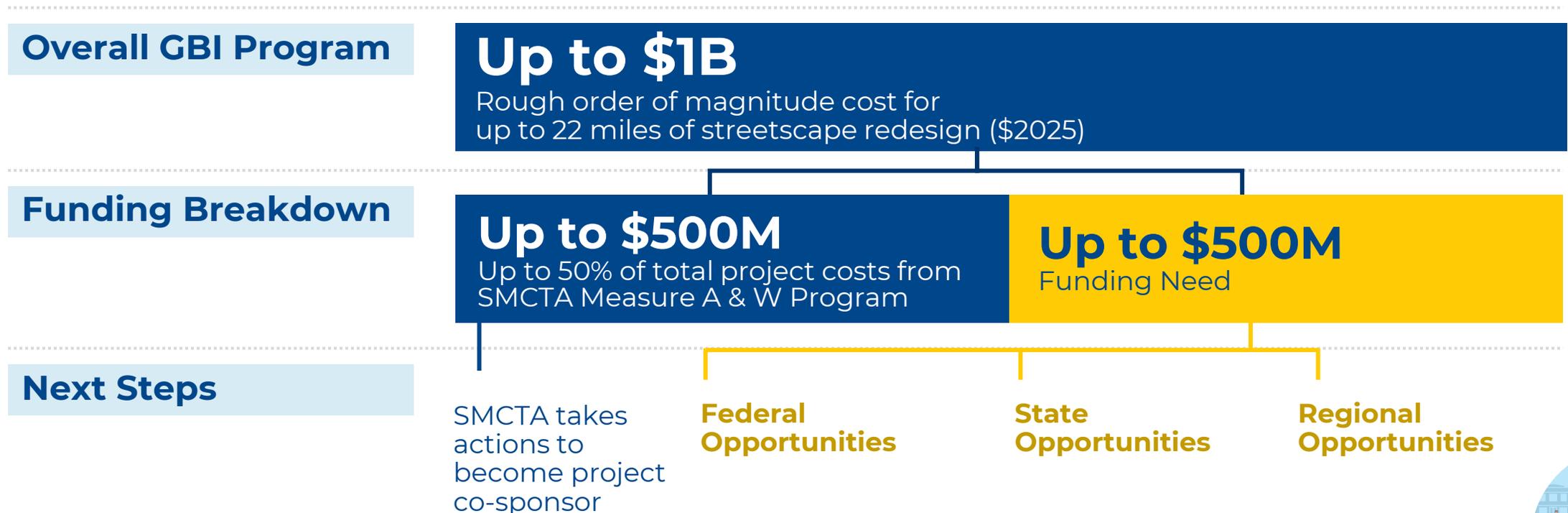


# GBI Timeline



# GBI Funding Approach

Redesigning El Camino Real will be one of San Mateo County's largest transportation projects.



# Next Steps

- Draft Action Plan available for public review at: [samtrans.com/GBI](https://samtrans.com/GBI)
- Seek adoption of GBI Action Plan by SamTrans, SMCTA Boards in January 2026
- Local corridor studies concluding in 2026
- SamTrans to prepare Project Initiation Document in 2026 to begin Caltrans process



**Thank you!**

**For more information, please visit:**  
[www.samtrans.com/gbi](http://www.samtrans.com/gbi)

**For questions & comments,  
please email:**  
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