

## Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

### El Camino Real (State Route 82) Corridor Study

- **Grant Recipient:** City of Palo Alto
- **County:** San Mateo

**Project Area** - The El Camino Real Corridor (Corridor) passes through the Center of Palo Alto on a peninsula. The Corridor is a north/south arterial. It is an auto-oriented six-lane arterial with high traffic volumes during peak travel times.

**Project Focus** - The auto-centric Corridor contains narrow sidewalks, long, unsafe street crossings, and narrow bicycle lanes. Traffic volumes are high, and there are often many parked vehicles. This environment makes walking and biking difficult. The Corridor also suffers from poor bus stop conditions and an overall negative appearance.

**Project Goals** - Design a streetscape concept Plan to increase safety, improve pedestrian and bicycle environments, encourage transit use, and improve overall aesthetics, while improving the sense of community.

**Community Outreach** - A Project Advisory and Technical Group were formed. These groups included stakeholders from City Public Works and Parks Departments, Caltrans, the City's Board and Commissions, the Valley Transportation Authority, bike groups, community neighborhood associations, business owners, Stanford University, local schools, tree advocates, and the public. Two widely advertised workshops

were held and several meetings were held to identify design goals and objectives.

**Project Outcome** - Improvements recommended in the Study/Plan were identified through well-attended stakeholder participation. Three phases for improvements were identified. Phase I includes improved coordination of existing traffic signals, interim re-striping of El Camino to a 6-lane configuration, a continuous set of bicycle lanes, and some tree plantings. Phase II recommends an improvement segment for a 4/5 lane option as a "field-test" section to evaluate the improvement functionality. The outcomes of these "temporary" improvements are expected to perpetuate Phase III improvements: Further field testing or incremental build-out of corridor wide improvements. The final product---A Master Schematic Design Plan, will be used to guide Corridor improvements, and help the community compete for federal, state, and other funding sources that will help implement the project. The City and Caltrans will draft a Memorandum of Understanding that will drive use of the Plan and ultimately improve the El Camino Real Corridor.

#### Planning Goals Realized -

- Efficient movement of people, goods, and services;
- Safe and healthy community;
- Public and stakeholder participation.
- Reduce traffic congestion;
- Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit mobility and access.

