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# FOSTER CITY TRAFFIC UPDATE

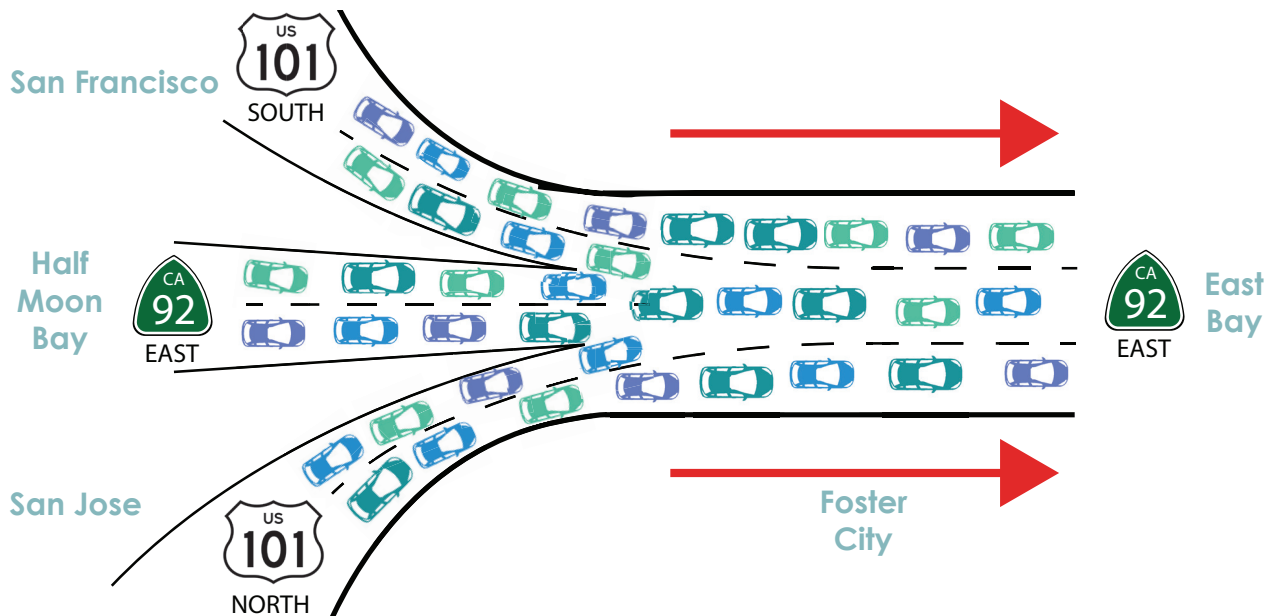
**OCTOBER 2018**



## Traffic Challenges in Foster City

Foster City is facing a significant challenge that is adversely impacting the quality of life for our residents. The City's main roadways are being subjected to an influx of regional cut-through traffic as motorists seek out alternative routes to avoid the freeway gridlock. For example, at peak times during the afternoon commute, many of the cars commuting on East Hillsdale Boulevard and East 3rd Avenue are just passing through in order to bypass the Highway 101 & Highway 92 interchange (illustrated in the graphic below), only to get back onto Highway 92 to continue their travel eastbound. There are several factors that have led to this rise in traffic congestion. It includes:

- A severe jobs and housing imbalance on the Peninsula;
- Foster City's locality at the crossroads between where jobs are located and housing in the East Bay;
- The popularity in navigation apps, such as Apple Maps, Google Maps, and Waze, that direct regional commuters from the surrounding highways onto our City's local streets in order to save a few minutes.



## What We're Doing to Make a Difference

There are several regional projects and programs in the pipeline aimed towards improving overall mobility within San Mateo County. While these are progressing, the transportation challenges facing San Mateo County alone continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. For that reason, the City of Foster City is working diligently on a number of local efforts including partnerships and innovative solutions to help alleviate traffic congestion in our community and improve our local roadways.



### Business Partnerships

Free shuttle service is offered (through Commute.org) during commute hours throughout Foster City. Foster City is also home to several large corporations, who demonstrate their immense commitment to sustainability practices by providing an employee shuttle service. This has the capacity to remove more than 800 commuters/cars from the road each day.



### Waze Partnership

Foster City has partnered with Waze in its Connected Citizens Program, working mutually to report local driving conditions and provide better route options. Foster City is also earnestly working with Waze to remove cut-through routes from their navigation algorithms.



### 92 Corridor Alliance

Spearheaded by Foster City, the 92 Corridor Alliance is a localized coalition (between Foster City, San Mateo, major employers, public agencies, non-profits, and community leaders) serving to improve connectivity between multiple transportation nodes along the 92 Corridor between Highway 280 in San Mateo and the Hayward Bart station.



### Traffic Signal Timing

Foster City's traffic signals are timed to maximize green time along the major arterial streets. However, due to a large amount of cut-through traffic accessing Highway 92, combined with pedestrians activating pedestrian signals, the timing of the signals often gets interrupted. The City proactively monitors the changing traffic patterns in an effort to create smoother traffic flow and enhanced efficiency.



### Walking and Biking Enhancements

The Levee Improvement project will result in a wider Bay Trail that many residents enjoy. The trail will be widened from the existing width of 8 ft to a range of 15-18 ft where possible. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements will be constructed to enhance accessibility from Foster City neighborhoods.



### Bike Master Plan

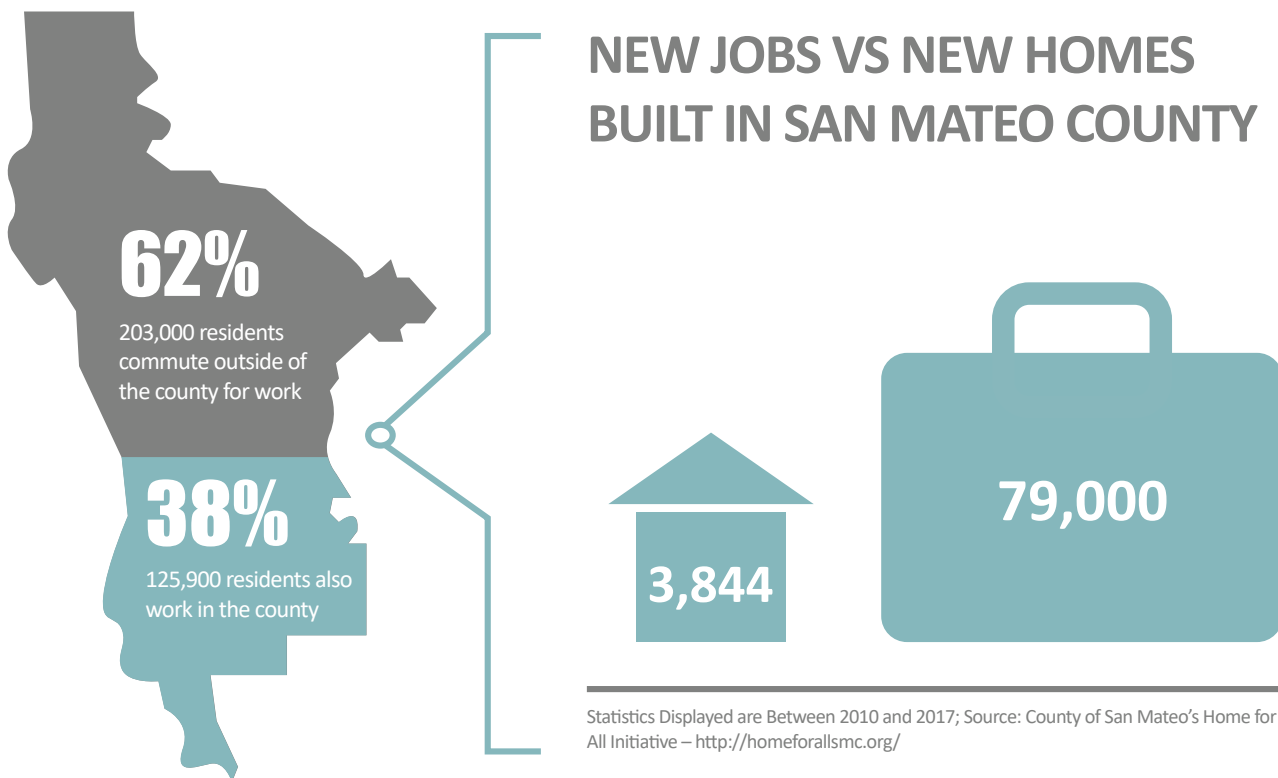
With the support of the City Council, the Bike Master Plan was funded, completed, and adopted in the past year. Bike lanes and sharrows were constructed on Beach Park Boulevard last year based on recommendations from the Bike Master Plan. Recently, Foster City also received \$400,000 in Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds. The City will continue to seek grant funding to further complete the City's bicycle network to make Foster City's streets more safe & convenient for all modes of transportation.



LOCAL EFFORTS

## The Severe Imbalance of Jobs and Housing in San Mateo County

One of the key causes of traffic congestion in Foster City is the severe imbalance of jobs versus housing in San Mateo County. Between 2010 and 2016, 79,000 new jobs were created in San Mateo County, while only 3,844 new housing units were built – a stark 16:1 ratio (as illustrated below). Generally, San Mateo County has not produced as much housing as other inner Bay Area counties. (Source: CA EDD, US Census, American Community Survey)



JOBS - HOUSING GAP



## A Message from City Manager Jeff C. Moneda

Foster City is faced with a traffic congestion dilemma caused by a strong economy and lack of affordable housing along the Peninsula. With many jobs prevalent along the Peninsula, Foster City experiences a considerable amount of traffic from commuters living in the East Bay. We are doing all we can to improve local conditions.

Our City Council has been supportive of the City's efforts, listening to staff and our residents' suggestions for traffic improvements, and providing policy direction and necessary funding in order to do our best in keeping everyone moving in Foster City.

- Four (4) new traffic signals are approved for safety and traffic flow.
- The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan proposed several improvements, which have been installed. New bike lanes and sharrows now exist on Beach Park Boulevard and East Hillsdale Boulevard, paid for by a Transportation Development Act (TDA) grant (\$400,000).
- A resident suggested improvements on Highway 101 to help Foster City residents in the evening commute home, which is moving forward through the Caltrans process.
- A resident voiced concerns in the City of San Mateo on his way home from work. Foster City staff led the effort to engage the City of San Mateo to make changes, resulting in better traffic flow.

Additionally, at our Community Dialogue Series meeting last year, residents requested improvements to limit cut-through traffic in Foster City. As a follow-up to this request and many hours of evaluating of how this could be implemented, we are now ready to meet with the community to hear any comments regarding a proposed pilot program.

We will continue to listen, evaluate, and suggest to the City Council any improvements that may enhance overall traffic congestion and safety. Foster City is committed to working for you and with you!

Jeff C. Moneda, P.E.  
City Manager

For more information on our efforts to address traffic congestion in Foster City, or to provide your comments or concerns, please contact:

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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