

County Roads actions versus BOS actions and votes regarding expressways

Year	Event	County Roads action	BOS action	BOS vote
1960		Cities prohibit bicyclists and pedestrians but State law only authorizes prohibiting from freeways, not expressways.		
1960s, 1970s		County Roads takes over pre-existing roads with bicyclists and pedestrians, and posts illegal prohibitory signs. Traffic lanes and bike lanes (“shoulders”) are added. Bike lanes are 8 to 10 feet wide. (A standard bike lane is 5 feet.) Pedestrians and bicyclists continue to use these roads because most detours are 1 mile. Speeds are unchanged.		
1988		Requested BOS to seek legislation in Sacramento to re-impose bicycle prohibitions by over-ruling cities that repealed prohibitions.	Rejected request. Voted to “support” bicycles on expressways.	4-1
1989		Opposed bike lanes at the (then) County Transportation Commission.	Required bike lanes along all expressways. (Bike lanes already exist. This was to prevent destroying them.)	5-0
1991	T2010 Plan	Eliminated bicyclists and pedestrians from all expressways in the draft Plan.	Retained bicyclists and pedestrians.	5-0
1991	1991 Policy	Ignored my requests to remove shrubs at intersection corners to create a path to prevent right-turning vehicles from killing pedestrians.	Required, and fully funded, the creation of pedestrian paths along the “entire expressway system.” Required pedestrian use of expressway bridges crossing rivers, freeways and train tracks. Required paths at corners.	5-0
2003	2003 County Expressway Plan	Tried to eliminate pedestrians from (estimated) 70% of expressway miles by claiming that unless there is a sidewalk, expressways are unsafe.	Recognized that “shoulder or path facilities can serve for ... occasional pedestrian use.” Recognized that expressways are, in fact, arterial roads. Approved detailed specifications for bike lanes along all expressways.	5-0
2003 to 2004		Refused to remove “Pedestrians Prohibited” signs in Sunnyvale after the City repealed the prohibition.	Gave a direct order to staff to remove these signs in Sunnyvale and to comply with the law.	5-0
2004 and 2006	SB 1233	Without informing the County, added legal text to an unrelated State bill that eliminated the right to ride a bicycle or to walk on public roads in California.	Directed staff to seek repeal of this law (on 1/19/2006). Staff never complied. Staff wrote one letter and then dropped the matter because staff wanted the law kept. (They wrote the legal text.)	5-0
2008	2008 County Expressway Plan	Went to every city BPAC to oppose sidewalks on expressways by faking accident statistics, but lost all the votes.**	Required sidewalks along all expressways, on both sides of the road, as per Sidewalk Maps for each expressway.	5-0
2024 in May	2003, 2008 County Expressway Plans	Censored the 2003 and 2008 County Expressway Plans by eliminating them from the County website.	I (Akos Szoboszlay) informed the BOS under “Public Comment” of the censoring. Then, County Roads was forced to restore these documents. These Plans are valid today. MTC recognizes them to be Master Plans.	None
2024 in Nov.	draft ATP (Active Transportation Plan)	Eliminated all bike lanes and half the sidewalks from expressways (in the Plan). Prevented voting by entities that approved existing 2003, 2008 Plans.	TBD. Agenda item was sent back to VTA BPAC — which was prevented from voting in November — for their March 2025 meeting, then the HLUET, then BOS. See Timeline at: ModernTransit.org/expy/#timeline	

To enlarge this page, see: ModernTransit.org/2024/BOSvotes.pdf and enlarge on your computer.

For details and links for the above items, see the Timeline at: ModernTransit.org/expy/#timeline

**See the letter from County Roads Director to the City of Santa Clara at this link: ModernTransit.org/2024/SCrepeal.pdf