

# Pedestrians along expressways: County Board of Supervisors (BOS) policies and orders

Compiled by Akos Szoboszlay, Modern Transit Society  
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This page is an abridged version of a web page that contains links to sources (document scans, or County's pdf files) for the quotes on this page. The web page also describes (with photos) violations by County staff of these policies and orders of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors:

[moderntransit.org/quote](http://moderntransit.org/quote)

- 1. 1991 Board Action:** Ordered staff to create pedestrian paths on *all* expressways. "Approve the proposed new program to **provide pedestrian pathway facilities along the expressway system** at the annual level of \$75,000." [1991]
- 2. Staff report for that Board Action:** "The [predecessor] Transportation Agency's position is that **it will take several years** [from 1991] **to remove all obstacles** [basically, "cut back brush"] in the buffer area [between curb and property-line] **from the entire expressway system.**" [1991]
3. [Superseded by #4, next]
- 4. The 2003 County Expressway Plan** (formally titled *Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study Implementation Plan*, states: "**shoulder or path facilities can serve ... for occasional pedestrian use.**" [2003]
- 5. "Wide shoulder or path"** is listed in the map legend on all expressway-pedestrian maps in the 2003 County Expressway Plan, showing exact locations of these wide shoulders and/or paths. [2003]
- 6. The BOS ordered staff** (on 1/10/06) **to seek repeal of SB 1233**, legal text that County Roads inserted into an unrelated bill, to hide it from the County. It eliminated the right of both bicyclists and pedestrians to use public roads in California. [See [ModernTransit.org/restore/contents.htm](http://ModernTransit.org/restore/contents.htm)]
- 7. "Landscaping needs to be kept trimmed back at intersection areas and along the travel way so pedestrians do not have to enter the travel lane."** [2003] Paths are most needed at:  
(a) intersection areas, where shoulders are reduced or non-existent, and  
(b) where people are forced to walk in the traffic lane — all caused by destruction of bike lanes.
- 8. "Expressway crossings of barriers (freeways, rivers, and railroads): A sidewalk/path on at least one side** of the expressway will be provided to the adjacent public street intersection in both directions from the barrier." [1991]
- 9. "It is the policy ... to not eliminate existing sidewalks/pathways/informal paths."** [1991]
- 10. The BOS approved sidewalks along all expressways**, shown block by block, on pedestrian maps of the 2008 County Expressway Plan. [ See: [ModernTransit.org/expy/ped-element.html](http://ModernTransit.org/expy/ped-element.html) ]

## Some related California Vehicle Codes

**CVC 21949:** "all levels of government ... work to provide convenient and safe passage for pedestrians on ... all streets and highways, increase levels of walking and pedestrian travel, and reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries." [Became law in 2001]

**CVC 21966:** allows pedestrians to use bike lanes where the road lacks "an adjacent adequate pedestrian facility." [Became law in 1977]

**Link to County Expressway Plans, process and history**, by Akos Szoboszlay  
[ModernTransit.org/expy/ped-element.html](https://ModernTransit.org/expy/ped-element.html)

## Links requesting compliance with the County Expressway (Master) Plan

Letter to County Supervisor Otto Lee, to repeal prohibitory ordinances, full version:

[ModernTransit.org/2024/repeal.pdf](https://ModernTransit.org/2024/repeal.pdf)

One-page version of above:

[ModernTransit.org/2024/SupLee.pdf](https://ModernTransit.org/2024/SupLee.pdf)

Letter to Supervisor Ellenburg, to restore 2.1 continuous miles of destroyed paths:

[ModernTransit.org/2024/SupEllenburg.pdf](https://ModernTransit.org/2024/SupEllenburg.pdf) **Letter contains Plan maps!**

Photos of destroyed pedestrian paths along San Tomas:

[ModernTransit.org/st/destroyed-paths/destroyed-paths.html](https://ModernTransit.org/st/destroyed-paths/destroyed-paths.html)

Letter to Supervisor Chavez, to remove new signs inhibiting transit patrons walking to Capitol Light Rail Station:

[ModernTransit.org/2024/SupChavez.pdf](https://ModernTransit.org/2024/SupChavez.pdf)

## Links for repeal of prohibitory ordinances

Expressway Topics, Links page by Akos Szoboszlay, Modern Transit Society:

[ModernTransit.org/expy](https://ModernTransit.org/expy)

Timeline of expressway events, by Akos Szoboszlay, Modern Transit Society:

[ModernTransit.org/expy/#timeline](https://ModernTransit.org/expy/#timeline)

## Contact:

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