

# STOP WIDENING 101 & 280

WE ALL HATE TRAFFIC, BUT WIDENING DOESN'T WORK



SILICON VALLEY  
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION



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**SAN MATEO**  
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**Acterra**  
**ACTION FOR A  
 HEALTHY PLANET**



**Sustainable  
 San Mateo County**  
 Economy. Equity. Environment.



To: [101-92DC@dot.ca.gov](mailto:101-92DC@dot.ca.gov)

San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA)  
 City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)  
 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Dear US 101 / SR 92 Interchange Direct Connector Project Sponsors:

Thank you for your work in service of the transportation needs of San Mateo County residents. We are writing in support of the No-Build Alternative for the recently proposed [US 101 / SR 92 Interchange Direct Connector Project in San Mateo and Foster City](#). We oppose all three Build Alternatives as they will be expensive, ineffective, bad for the environment, and fail to address the most pressing transportation needs of San Mateo County taxpayers.

- **Highway widenings don't reduce congestion** - More lanes will simply encourage more people to drive instead of taking transit, walking, or biking.
- **Encouraging driving threatens the viability of public transit** - Caltrain and BART are facing a fiscal cliff due to the lack of dedicated funding sources. Encouraging more people to drive will further suppress transit ridership, requiring additional taxpayer subsidies for them to stay viable.

- **The project could threaten quality of life in San Mateo and Foster City neighborhoods** - The project may use eminent domain to take property from local residents. Air pollution will worsen, as auto traffic increases, at Fiesta Gardens Elementary, Fiesta Meadows Park and nearby communities. Air pollution often results in higher rates of childhood asthma for kids growing up next to the highway. Traffic in the neighborhood will worsen as more drivers race to get on a widened 101 and 92. Also, any crashes on a widened 101 or 92 will result in even more cut through traffic on neighborhood streets, increasing danger for residents who walk and bike.
- **It is expensive and not the best use of our taxpayer dollars** - The project could cost more than \$200 million. Taxpayers would prefer that their scarce transportation dollars go towards filling potholes, making transit more convenient and reliable, and improving the safety of our streets for those who walk and bike.
- **The benefits (if any) will be for East Bay residents and corporate shuttles** - Why are SM County taxpayers paying to encourage East Bay residents to drive to the Peninsula instead of taking BART? The San Mateo Bridge already handles 100,000 vehicles per day. If the tech companies want to speed their corporate buses, let them pay for this project.
- **Climate change will worsen** - Transportation is responsible for >50% of greenhouse gas emissions in San Mateo County. Encouraging more people to drive is climate suicide.
- **There will be no benefit to public transit and lower income riders who don't own cars** - Currently, there are no public buses that cross the San Mateo Bridge. AC Transit's transbay service was canceled during COVID and hasn't been reinstated. Low income bus riders would see greater benefit from a transit-only lane on the bridge.
- **It runs counter to our housing efforts** - We are making a major effort to increase the supply and affordability of housing on the Peninsula so tech workers can live closer to their jobs, improving their quality of lives. Why are we spending hundreds of millions of dollars to encourage driving from the East Bay, if not Stockton and Modesto, where housing costs are much lower?
- **This could facilitate other widenings** - At recent meetings, staff acknowledged that this project would make it easier to widen SR 92 all the way to 280, greatly increasing traffic throughout the City of San Mateo and adjacent communities.

We encourage the project sponsors to cease investment in this flawed project and instead allocate our scarce taxpayer dollars to making transit more convenient and affordable and making our streets safer for those who walk and bike instead of driving.

Sincerely,

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[Stop the 101 & 280 Widening](#)

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