

# Grand Boulevard Initiative



Transportation Trifecta: Local, Regional & State  
Transportation Come Together

League of California Cities: Planners Institute  
March 21, 2012



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## Presentation Overview

- The Grand Boulevard Initiative as the regional context for smart growth
- Daly City's "Top of the Hill" Project and how it began and developed
- Securing funding for Complete Streets improvements
- Keys to a successful project >>> partnerships
- Moving forward with the Grand Boulevard Complete Streets Program

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## The Grand Boulevard Initiative

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- Collaboration of stakeholders united to achieve a shared vision for El Camino Real/Mission Street
- Transform strip-commercial State highway corridor
- Regional opportunity to bring needed homes to San Francisco Peninsula
- Increase travel and mobility options



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## The Opportunity to Transform a State Highway Corridor

- 43 miles long – Daly City to San Jose (Downtown)
- Connects SF Peninsula downtowns
- Buses and train stations within walking distance
  - Caltrain – 10 stations within ¼ mile
  - BART – 5 stations within ¼ mile
  - SamTrans and VTA buses
- Opportunity to increase transit options and live/work near public transportation



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## The “Coalition of the Willing”



### Grand Boulevard Task Force

- First convened in March 2006
- 19 Cities, 2 Counties
- Agencies with purview over El Camino Real
- Elected officials and leaders from regional and local agencies and organizations

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## Regional Context

**The Grand Boulevard “Vision”**

*“El Camino Real will achieve its full potential as a place for residents to work, live, shop, and play, creating links between communities that promote walking and transit and an improved and meaningful quality of life.”*




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**Grand Boulevard Guiding Principles (2007)**

- 10 Guiding Principles to frame the vision
- Adopted in 2008 By City of Daly City
- “Top of the Hill” Guiding Principles focus:
  - Create a pedestrian oriented environment and improve streetscapes, ensuring full access to and between public areas and private development.
  - Develop a balanced multimodal corridor to maintain and improve mobility of people and vehicles along the corridor
  - Improve safety and public health
  - Encourage compact mixed-use development and high-quality urban design and construction

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**The Genesis of “Top of the Hill”**

- Mission Street Urban Design Plan (1990)
- Mission Street Streetscape Master Plan (1997)
- San Mateo County Peninsula Corridor Plan
  - 2001-2004
  - Community-based planning in seven cities to revitalize rail station areas
  - Target transportation to improve livability
  - Daly City focus on revitalizing Mission Street Camino Real corridor




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**Peninsula Corridor Plan**

Daly City “Placemaking” Goals:

- Coordinate with transit providers
- Improve transit waiting environment
- Re-design Mission (SR-82) as a “Complete Street”
- Use transportation improvements to revitalize as a vibrant, ethnically diverse commercial district




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## SamTrans' Interest

- 600+ weekday boarding passengers – highest in system
- Nexus with BART (1/3 mi.) & SF Muni (<1/4 mi.)
- Challenging transit environment
  - Weather
  - Existing transit facilities




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## “Top of the Hill” Project

**Project Goals:**

- Improve pedestrian safety
- Improve pedestrian mobility and transit access
- Provide pedestrian friendly environment and sense of place
- Enhance vibrancy of Mission Street/El Camino Real and create a “Grand Boulevard”



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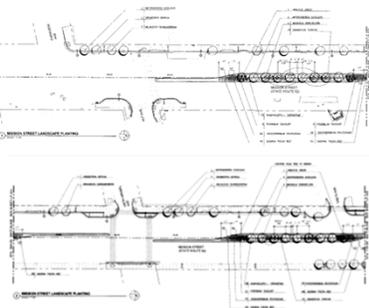
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## Streetscape Improvements

- Street crossing improvements
- Infrastructure relocation (water main/utilities)
- Bus Stop Relocation
- Street Trees
- New landscaped median islands
- Pedestrian scaled lighting
- Pedestrian amenities



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GRAND BOULEVARD

## Existing Bus Stops

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GRAND BOULEVARD

## New Plaza Area

Expanded into Los Olivos Cul-de-Sac  
Emergency Access  
Tiered Landscaping

PERGOLA  
BUS

EMERGENCY EGRESS

Custom Bus Shelter  
Custom Pergola Structure with Wind Screen  
Benches, Bicycle Racks, News Racks

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GRAND BOULEVARD

## Pergola and Bus Shelter

PERGOLA'S SIDE W/ WOODEN SLAT

BUS SHELTER - WOODEN PERGOLA DESIGN OUTLINE

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**New Shelter Area**

The image shows an aerial view of a city street intersection on the left and a site plan diagram on the right. The site plan includes a large rectangular area labeled 'EMERGENCY GARAGE' and a curved area with a grid pattern, likely representing a shelter or transit facility. The aerial view shows buildings, cars, and a street with a red line indicating a proposed project boundary.

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**“Top of the Hill” Partnership**

- **Caltrans** – Owner SR-82
- **Daly City** – Land use and local circulation
- **SamTrans** – Bus Service
- **Grand Boulevard Initiative** – Regional context and support
- **MTC and C/CAG** – Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian, TOD, and Livable Communities programs

The image features a central aerial view of a street with several inset photographs. The insets show: 'View from Public Bus Stop', and 'View from Public Bus Stop'. A caption below the insets reads 'Figure 6: Project Area Existing Conditions Overview'.

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**Securing Funding for “Top of the Hill”**

<b>Grants:</b>	
•MTC Housing Incentive Program	\$615,000
•MTC Transportation for Livable Communities	\$900,000
•C/CAG Regional Bike and Pedestrian Program	\$499,000
•C/CAG TOD Program	\$281,000
•Federal “Grand Boulevard” Earmark	\$700,000
<i>Grant Total</i>	<b>\$2,295,000</b>
<b>Match:</b>	
•Gas Tax Funds	\$795,000
•Water Fund	\$1,000,000
<i>Match Total</i>	<b>\$1,795,000</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$4,790,000</b>

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**Design Challenges**

- Caltrans Design Exceptions :
  - Travel lane and turning lane widths
  - Shoulder and median widths
  - Addition of a crosswalk at the major intersection
- Community Issues:
  - Loss of on-street parking
  - Business impacts through construction
- SamTrans
  - Service changes during construction
  - Driver education for post construction lane configuration



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**Why “Top of the Hill” Succeeded**

- Ongoing commitment by City staff to long term vision
- Partnership of Daly City, SamTrans, Grand Boulevard, MTC, C/CAG and Caltrans
- Willingness to shape project to meet partner goals and secure funding
- Patience and persistence!



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**Lessons Learned from “Top of the Hill”**

**Understand the Big Picture**

- Know your vision
- What are the rules of the game?
- Understand the regional vision and reasons to collaborate
- Who are the players and what are their specific issues?
- Where is the money coming from?
- Find a common vision that meets your needs and the regional needs

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**FHWA Transportation, Community, and System Preservation**

*El Camino Real Complete Streets Program*

**Federal Grant:** \$365,232 to complete one design

**Local Funding:** C/CAG has offered up to \$2 M in STIP-TE for construction

**Partners:** SamTrans and C/CAG

**Goals**

- Move one Complete Streets case study from 40% to 100% final design
- Build a model project
- Create repertoire of shovel-ready improvement projects in corridor

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**Thank You**

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**Become a Friend of the Grand Boulevard!**

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