PC 5-13-2025

Item No.2 Objective Design Standards

Presentations



Agenda

1. PROJECT WELCOME

2. ODS BACKGROUND

3. CUPERTINO'S DESIGN PRIORITES

4. DEVELOPING ODS

5. COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

6. PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION





WELCOME

PROJECT TEAM



- Luke Connolly
 - Assistant Director of Community Development, City of Cupertino
- Piu Ghosh
 - Planning Manager, City of Cupertino
- Greg Goodfellow
 - Senior Associate II, PlaceWorks
- Charlie Knox
 - Principal, PlaceWorks





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Welcome to the Cupertino ODS Project

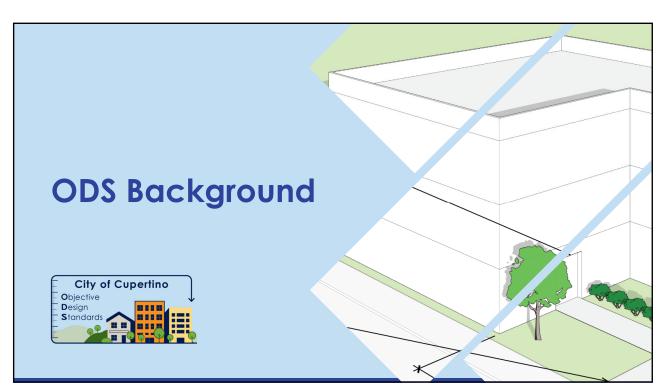


- The City is in the process of developing Objective Design
 Standards (ODS) for all types of multi-family and residential mixed-use development projects.
- Tonight's study session has 3 goals:
 - 1. Explain **what** ODS are and **why** the City is developing them.
 - 2. Illustrate potential approaches to ODS and existing ODS.
 - 3. Solicit Planning Commissioner feedback on design priorities and ODS approaches.

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CA Housing: A Statewide Challenge



■ Insufficient supply

» 80,000/decade built v. 180,000/year needed.

■ Unaffordability

- » Lowest ownership rates since 1940.
- » 1.5 million households devote 50% of income to rent.
- » 22% of national homeless population.

■ Challenges

» Materials, labor, state & local regulations.



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CA Housing: Legislative Response



■ Two themes:

- 1. California needs multifamily housing.
- 2. Discretionary review constrains production.

■ One common provision

» Subjective criteria can not be used to determine eligibility for residential streamlining.

■ SB 330: Housing Crisis Act

"Cities can't disapprove...a multifamily housing project, including through design review...unless project is shown to be inconsistent with 'objective, quantifiable standards.'"

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CA Housing: A Statewide Response



■ Multiple laws require objective criteria:

- » SB 423 (SB 35): Streamlined Ministerial Approval
- » SB 330: Housing Crisis Act
- » SB 167: Housing Accountability Act
- » SB 6: Middle Class Housing Act
- » SB 9: Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency Act
- » AB 2011: Affordable Housing and High Road Job Act



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ODS: Preserving Local Design Control



■ Traditional design guidelines no longer have approval authority.

ODS: Design standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion.



- Measurement
- Definable requirement
- Rate
- True/false

- Score
- Numeric range
- Required quantifiable options



City of Cupertino Objective Design Standards

Subjective vs. Objective



Subjective	Objective
Provide articulation to reduce the apparent mass and scale of the building and to be sensitive to the neighborhood .	At intervals of at least 100 feet of building length, there shall be a plane break along the facade composed of an offset of at least 5 feet in depth by 25 feet in length. The offset shall extend from grade to the highest story.
Rooftop mechanical equipment should be screened from public view by a parapet wall, decorative equipment screen, or other architectural treatment.	Rooftop mechanical equipment shall be screened from public view by a parapet wall or decorative equipment screen.
Provide ample width and design for universal access along pathways and walks.	The paved section of sidewalks shall be at least 8 feet in width.

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ODS: Applicable Development



■ Subject to ODS

- » All multifamily (2+ units) residential projects.
- » Includes townhomes.
- » All residential mixed-use projects with at least 30% residential.

■ Not subject to ODS

- » Single family homes.
- » Non-infill sites (less than 75% developed perimeter).
- » Hazardous sites.
- » Natural resource impact.
- » Wetlands site.
- » Historic impact.



City of Cupertino Objective Design Standards

ODS v. Zoning Standards



■ Zoning standards

- » Regulate all types of uses.
- » Regulate development basics such as building height, setbacks and lot size.
- » Intent is safe, consistent, contextsensitive built environment, not streamlining.

ODS

- » Limited to housing projects.
- » Regulate design and aesthetics only, with the goal of streamlined review.
- » Existing MU/MF zoning standards still apply.
- » Do not repeat or conflict with zoning.

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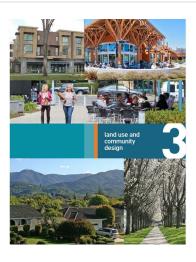
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Design Direction: General Plan



- Plan sites to enhance streetscapes.
- Promote diverse architecture and articulation.
- Design active frontages for inviting pedestrian environments.
- Link blocks, boulevards and nodes.
- Reduce visual impact of parking.



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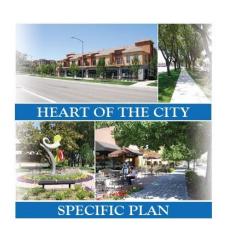
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Design Direction: Specific Plans



- Screen unsightly building features.
- Allow for special architectural features.
- Design livable common & private open spaces.
- Promote variety in building facades via window, materials and other design details.
- Require attractive, landscaped easements.



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Design Direction: Zoning Code



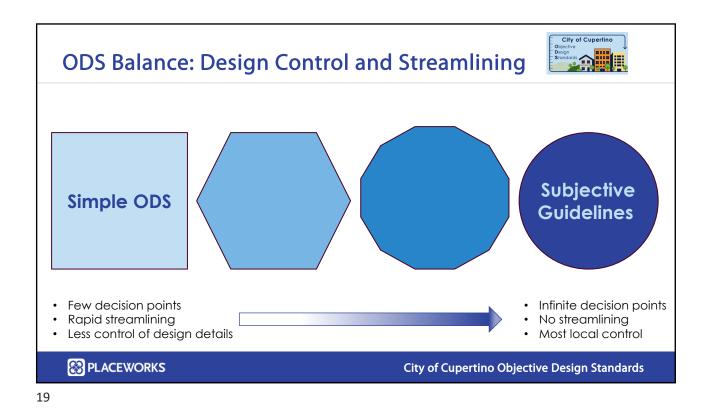
- **■** Building stepbacks.
- Standards for visual privacy.
- Balcony and private open space standards.
- **■** Vehicle entryway limits.
- Various townhome design standards.
- Building glass and lighting standards.

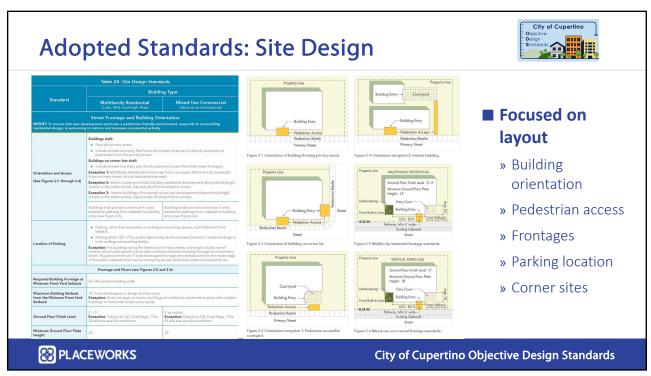
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Adopted Standards: Site Design



- ... coverage, setbacks, parking ratio, and open space requirement) shall be that specified for the zoning district in which the project is located. a. Site design requirements (including density, building height, site
- Residential complex developments with 8 to 14 buildings¹ shall provide a minimum of two distinct color schemes. A single color scheme shall be dedicated to no less than 30 percent of all residential buildings.
- c. Residential complex developments with 15 to 29 buildings¹ shall provide the following. The number of buildings in a single style shall be no less than 30 percent.
- i. Two architectural styles from Chapter 4 and
- ii. Two distinct different color schemes.
- d. Residential complex developments with 30 or more buildings¹ shall provide the following. The number of buildings in a single style shall be no less than 30 percent.
- i. Three architectural styles from Chapter 4 and
- ii. Three distinct different color schemes.
- e. Architectural styles capped at three stories (i.e., Craftsman and Farmhouse) may be allowed to build an additional story if the fourth story footprint is less than 70 percent of the ground-level footprint.
- f. Larger projects (greater than 150 units) shall contain at least two of the following to reduce the appearance of bulk:

 Vary roof heights





■ Focused on sitewide aesthetics

- » Design themes
- » Architectural styles
- » Visual consistency
- » Roof and facade standards

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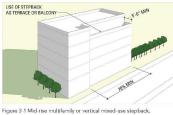
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Adopted Standards: Massing and Roofline



- Required setbacks depending on building height
- Use of setbacks
- Pitched roof standards
- **■** Flat roof standards



3-STORY BUILDING BASE

City of Cupertino Objective Design Standards

CORNICE: 18" HEIGHT MIN 6" DEPTH MIN

2'-0" MIN. ROOF PROJECTION

Figure 3-2 High-rise multifamily or vertical mixed-use stepback

Figure 3-12 Flat roof variation

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Adopted Standards: Target Landscaping

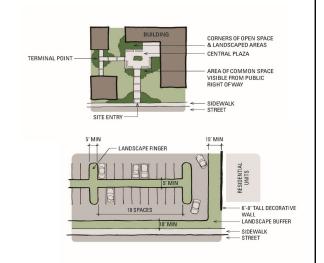


■ Focal Point Landscape Standards

- » Entries
- » Plazas
- » Terminal points of pedestrian pathways

■ Surface Parking Landscape Standards

- » Required Buffers
- » Islands planting
- » "Fingers"



City of Cupertino Objective Design Standards

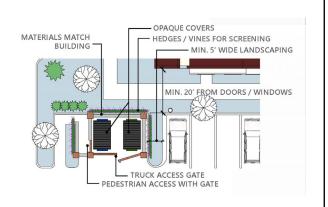
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Adopted Standards: Trash and Services



- » Trash enclosures shall be finished using at least two (2) materials used on primary building.
- » Trash enclosures visible from upper stories of adjacent structures shall have an opaque horizontal cover/screen.
- » Storage areas shall not be closer than 20 feet from doors or operable windows of adjacent structures.



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City of Cupertino Objective Design Standards

Adopted Standards: Exterior Lighting



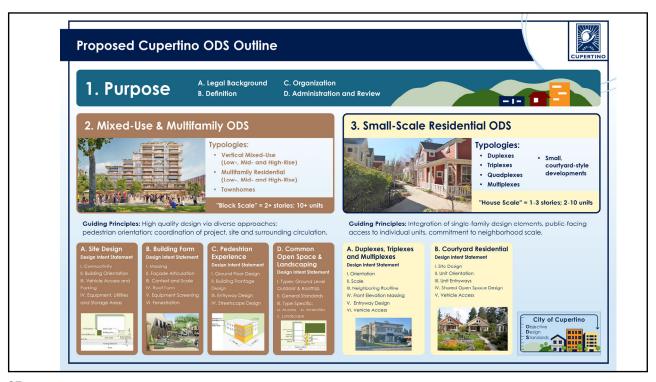
- Lighting Fixtures. All building- and ground-mounted lighting shall be oriented away from the street and adjacent properties and be fully shielded so that no light is emitted above a 90-degree angle.
- 2.4.4.2 Entryway Illumination. The front porch, landing, other recessed entryway, including garage recess, shall include a lighting element consistent with the design, materials, and/or color of the structure.
- 2.4.4.3 Ground-Mounted Lighting. Ground-mounted lighting to illuminate driveway edges, landscaped areas, or stair approaches shall be limited to three feet tall.



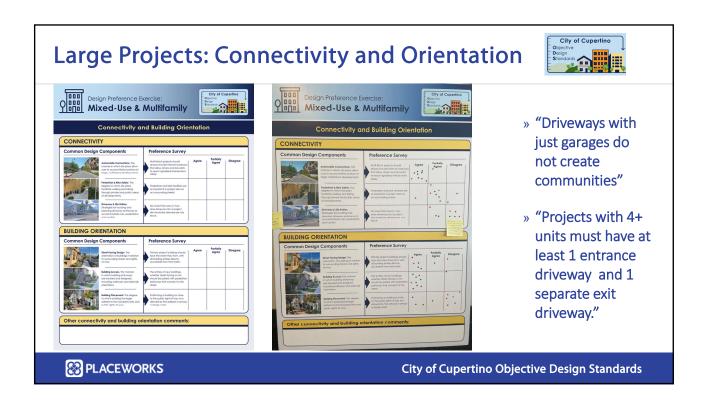
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PC 5-13-2025

Item No.3
Steven's
Creek Blvd.
Corridor
Vision Study

Presentations

Stevens Creek Blvd Corridor Vision Study

A Multijurisdictional Long-Range Planning Study

Matthew Schroeder

City of Cupertino Senior Transportation Planner



Project Background

History

 Informally initiated in 2017 as a working group for regional transportation coordination with VTA, Santa Clara, San Jose, and the County. The project was initiated in 2019 with the adoption of Resolution No. 19-089.

Purpose

- Develop an aspirational community 'vision' for the Corridor
 - Balancing the needs of all roadway users
 - Not an immediate, prescriptive plan
 - Phased approach based on agency discretion











Cupertino's Role

Directed by Resolution No. 19-089

- Support efforts to study improving transit efficiency and streetscape.
- Support continuing ongoing conversations regarding highcapacity transit service along the Corridor, with the understanding that it would:
 - Not use general-purpose lanes or adversely impact vehicular capacity on City surface streets;
 - Be grade-separated and time-competitive with automobile travel;
 - Study an alternate alignment along I-280.

Project Location

Project Limits

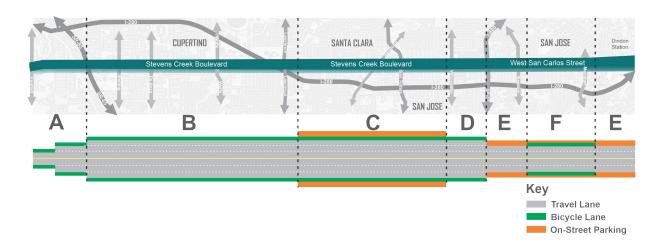
- Stevens Creek Boulevard/West San Carlos Street (9 miles)
 - From Foothill Blvd in Cupertino to Diridon Station in San Jose



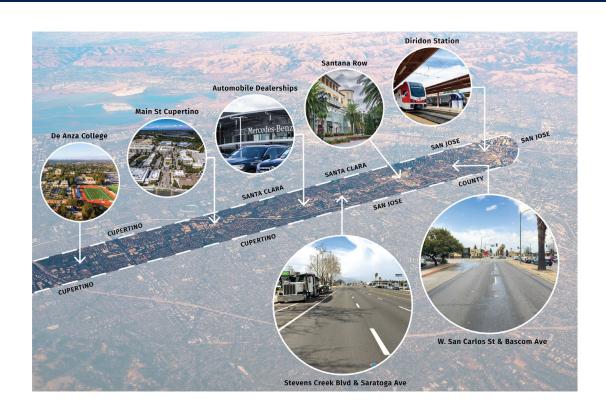
Project Location

Project Limits

- Stevens Creek Boulevard/West San Carlos Street (9 miles)
 - The roadway varies along the Corridor



Project Location

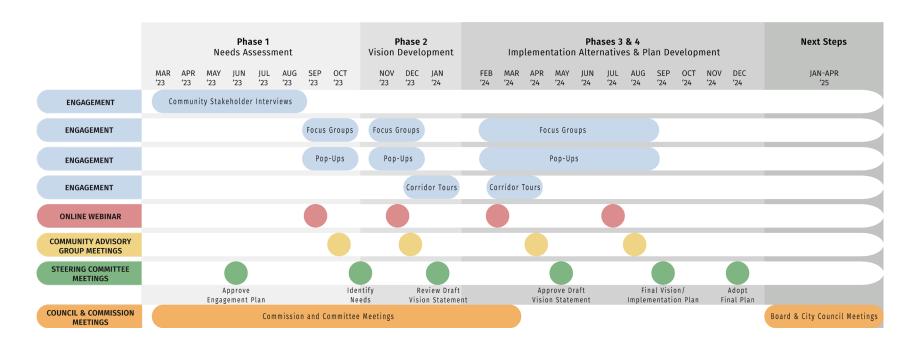


Project Structure

Group Roles & Responsibilities

- Steering Committee 5 members
 - Elected officials from Cupertino, Santa Clara, San José, Santa Clara County, and VTA
- Community Advisory Group (CAG) 12 members
 - Residents, businesses, and advocacy groups
- The Public
 - Surveys, webinars, and pop-up events
 - Outreach led by Winter Consultants

Project Schedule



Community Outreach

Engagement Methods

- Stakeholder interviews (40)
- Focus groups (4)
- Pop-Ups (7)
- Corridor tours (4)
- Online webinars (4)
- Community Advisory Group meetings (4)
- Steering Committee meetings (5)
- Website/agency communications/surveys



Community Outreach

Engagement Methods

 Agencies provided an equivalent amount of outreach

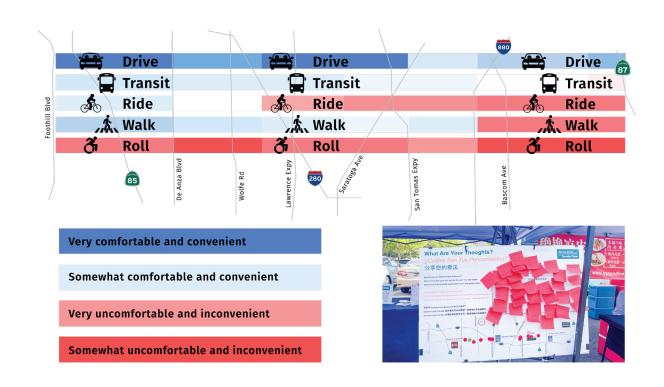
Cupertino Events

- De Anza Farmers Market
- Cupertino 4 All Regular Meeting
- Bike Corridor Tour
- Steering Committee Corridor Tour
- High School Student Virtual Corridor Tour

- Walking/Transit Corridor Tour
- College Student Virtual Focus Group
- De Anza Flea Market



Community Outreach



Community Feedback by Phase

Phase 1: Needs Assessment

- Vehicle Speed are too high
- Safety Concerns for all modes
- Barriers
- Better transit, walking, and biking infrastructure
- Better Crossings

Phase 2: Vision Development

- Better transit service
- Complete streets
- Community integration
- Bikeability and walkability
- Corridor Connections





Phase 3: Project Recommendations

- Protected bike lanes
- Transit lanes
- Separated transit
- Shade trees
- Crossings



1 00:00:58 1 question 16 of 23 (69%) participated	
What do you think would be the appropriate treatments in Reliability in parts of the Stevens Creek Boulevard Corridor's select all that apply) (Multiple choice) 16/16 (100%) answered	
Centralized Transit Signal Priority	(12/16) 759
199	1.07
Bus Islands and Other Loading Area	(11/16) 691
Bus Islands and Other Loading Area	(11/16) 691



The Vision

Vision Statement

• "The Stevens Creek Boulevard Corridor transportation infrastructure changed little in the past 50 years while the area it serves grew into a worldwide hub of innovation. Therefore, we envision the transportation corridor our community deserves to support continued residential and commercial vibrancy: safe and enjoyable travel for people of every age, ability, and chosen mode."

The Vision

Vision Statement

"Residents, businesses, and visitors would be served by:

- A high-capacity transit system supported by station access enhancements to connect the Cities of Cupertino, Santa Clara, and San José from Diridon Station and Downtown San José to De Anza College within twenty minutes, with connection to Foothill Boulevard, for reliable travel to local and regional destinations. Station areas would be well-maintained and inviting community assets.
- A stress-free and enjoyable walking and bicycling environment. High-quality pedestrian
 and bicycle infrastructure would be prioritized to connect neighborhoods to the corridor
 within a 20-minute walk of transit stops.
- Safe and efficient vehicle travel would be accommodated for connections to neighborhoods, businesses, and expressways and freeways.

This Vision would be implemented by an open and inclusive process of continuous evaluation to promote equitable access and use."

Recommended Projects

'Implementation' Plan

- Near-Term (5 Years)
 - Corridor identity and maintenance
 - Bus speed, reliability, and experience
 - Enhanced corridor walking and biking infrastructure and connections
- Mid-Term (10 Years)
 - Intersection and crossing improvements
- Long-Term (20+ Years)
 - Separated, high-capacity transit

Near-Term Projects

Corridor Identity and Maintenance

- Convene businesses and business groups to explore:
 - Joint advertising and branding opportunities
 - Marketing and special events
 - Public safety and hospitality
 - Small business grants/loans
- Communicate business resources to Corridor businesses.
- Coordinate street cleaning and maintenance, including graffiti removal and sidewalk and vegetation maintenance.

- Reduce the speed limit to 35 miles per hour from Lawrence Expressway to Harold Avenue.
- Coordinate vehicle speed enforcement and speed education efforts.
- Develop a process for ongoing community input and engagement for corridor issues through the Stevens Creek Boulevard Corridor Steering Committee.





Near-Term Projects

Bus Speed, Reliability, and Experience

- Complete an administrative policy for the four agencies operating signals in the Corridor to cooperate with VTA to implement a corridor-wide transit signal priority through a centralized system.
- VTA will develop a Speed and Reliability Improvement Plan for the frequent network routes.
- Cupertino does not support the conversion of general-purpose lanes for transit.



Near-Term Projects

Enhanced Corridor Walking and Biking Infrastructure and Connections

- Physically protect/separate/buffer bicycle lanes while maintaining access to driveways.
- Widen sidewalk widths consistent with City standards
- Plant shade trees.
- Review locations for installation of median refuge islands.
- Implement existing agency plans.

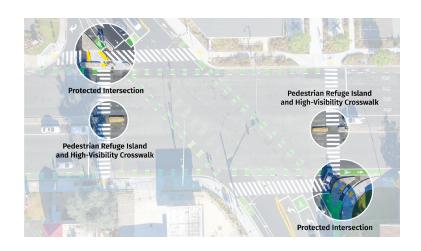
- Review the potential for leading pedestrian intervals at signalized intersections (LPIs).
- Implement pedestrian-oriented lighting when street lighting is installed or replaced in the corridor.



Mid-Term Projects

Intersection and Crossing Improvements

- Implement enhanced, highvisibility crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Implement curb extensions and protected intersections.
- Prioritize crossings of barriers for pedestrians and bicycles
- Review key hotspots for crossing improvements, such as Monroe Street and Stevens Creek Boulevard at I-880, for potential reconfiguration to accommodate clearer travel patterns for all modes.



Long-Term Project

Separated High-Capacity Transit

 Continue conversations and pursue grant funding to study the project.

Example Project Delivery Timeline

- Preliminary Engineering (2025-2028)
- Design and Engineering (2029-2030)
- Environmental Clearance (2031-2036)
- Utility Relocation (2037-2039)
- Construction (2040-2045)





Final Steering Committee Meeting

December 18, 2024

- Acknowledged the participation of new members on the Steering Committee moving forward due to recent elections.
- Supported a review of the document and proposed that each agency organize a study session tailored to the needs of each jurisdiction.
- Approved the amended plan, changing the name from Implementation Plan to Recommendation Plan.

Cupertino BPC Meeting

April 16, 2025

- Passed a motion recommending that the City Council accept the Study with specific qualifications.
 - The City maintains final decision-making authority regarding any projects or recommendations contained within the Vision Study.
 - The BPC reaffirms the City's commitment to the provisions contained within Resolution 19-089.
 - All projects within the City of Cupertino, including any intersection modifications, will conform to the City's standard processes, plans, and procedures relating to public outreach and approval.

Next Steps

Ongoing Coordination

- Reconvene the long-term Stevens Creek Vision Steering Committee and staff working group to lay out near-, mid-, and long-term strategies for projects.
- Pursue grant opportunities to advance project recommendations.
- Accepting the Plan now doesn't constitute the approval of approving the Plan's recommended projects, like the gradeseparated transit project.

Recommended Action

 Recommend that the City Council accept the Stevens Creek Boulevard Corridor Vision Study.

