

**From:** [Jim Wing](#)  
**To:** [Transportation](#)  
**Subject:** CSC PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM NOT ON AGENDA 05/29/2024 MEETING DATE  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2024 3:09:45 PM

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CSC Chair Venkatraman and Distinguished Commission Members

CSC 05/29/2024 Meeting, Public Comment, Item Not on Agenda

Subject: Pedestrian Safety / Traffic Congestion improvement for Foothill Expressway / Main Slip Turn at Chevron Station corner



### **FOOTHILL / MAIN SLIP TURN PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK**

**Would you please request future agenda item to review / advise Pedestrian Safety / Traffic Congestion at Foothill Expressway / Main / First Street intersection at Chevron Station corner? Main safety problem is right turning cars traveling on 45MPH Foothill Expressway can not slow down / stop quickly enough for pedestrians in slip turn pedestrian crossing. Goal of review is to advise Santa Clara County Airport / Roads Department Expressway Traffic Engineers that this project is an important CSMP pedestrian safety project.**

This is not a new problem. County understands need to do project for pedestrian safety and because it will reduce Foothill Expressway through travel lane congestion due to backup of cars turning right to Main. Prior discussions with county expressway traffic engineers about pedestrian safety in slip-turn crosswalk and Foothill Expressway thru lane backups at right turn to Main produced a “root cause” design change solution. **Extend Foothill Expressway right turn deceleration lane 200 to 300 feet.** This change will give right turning traffic a space to slow down / stop until pedestrians have safely crossed slip turn. Also allows safe place for right turning Expressway cars to stop while Main Street short traffic buffer between Expressway / 1<sup>st</sup> is full of cars. Santa Clara County owns right-away space for deceleration lane extension and is same design concept used for successful Foothill Expressway / El Monte / San Antonio project.

In 2017 / 2018, County Traffic Engineers considered “bundling” this change with Foothill Expressway / El Monte / San Antonio project. Measure B funding was delayed due to law suit

and that wait caused construction costs to increase. Foothill / Main was deleted from overall project to keep costs within County budget. Main reason Foothill Expressway / El Monte was started so quickly after release of Measure B funds is Los Altos Council approved funds, for design construction drawings and project was “shovel ready” when Measure B funds were released. This an option you may want to consider.

For the past several years, Los Altos residents have written letters to County expressing their pedestrian safety concerns with this slip-turn. Cars exiting Foothill at high speeds have difficulty slowing down and stopping for pedestrians in crosswalk. Following usage information is for you to consider as justification for improving safety and minimizing Foothill Expressway thru lane traffic backups:

- One to two hundred pedestrian’s daily use this slip-turn crosswalk. The heaviest use is midmorning to midafternoon, Wednesday thru Sunday. This crosswalk provides downtown Los Altos access for 300 households within one-mile radius, 3 parks, 3 churches, 141 auxiliary downtown parking spaces on Lincoln, meeting halls at Shoup Park and Jesuit Retreat Event Center. Many families with strollers and senior citizens use this crosswalk.
- Short distance traffic buffer on eastbound Main between Foothill Expressway and 1<sup>st</sup> often is full and causes midday gridlocked of Foothill traffic using slip-turn for access to eastbound Main. Due to very short Foothill right turn deceleration lane, right turning cars backup and block Foothill thru traffic lane. Most backups occur Wednesday through Friday at noontime.

Keep in mind that CSC has responsibility to advise / advocate on “connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries”. This project does not require any Los Altos Staff design time or involvement. Their comments to County would be welcome!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos