

**NORTH  
FAIR OAKS**

**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN RAILROAD CROSSING  
AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS STUDY**



# North Fair Oaks Bicycle and Pedestrian Railroad Crossing and Community Connections Study

## Final Report

San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
February 15, 2024



# Presentation Overview

- Project Overview and Recap
- Constraints with Selection of a Preferred Rail Crossing
- Conclusions and Considerations



# Planning Context and Study Goals

## Study Purpose:

To build on prior County plans exploring the feasibility for a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Caltrain tracks with safety and access improvements in the adjacent neighborhoods

- **2011 North Fair Oaks Community Plan**
- **2021 Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan**

## Project Goals:

### Access



### Community Integration



### Constructability



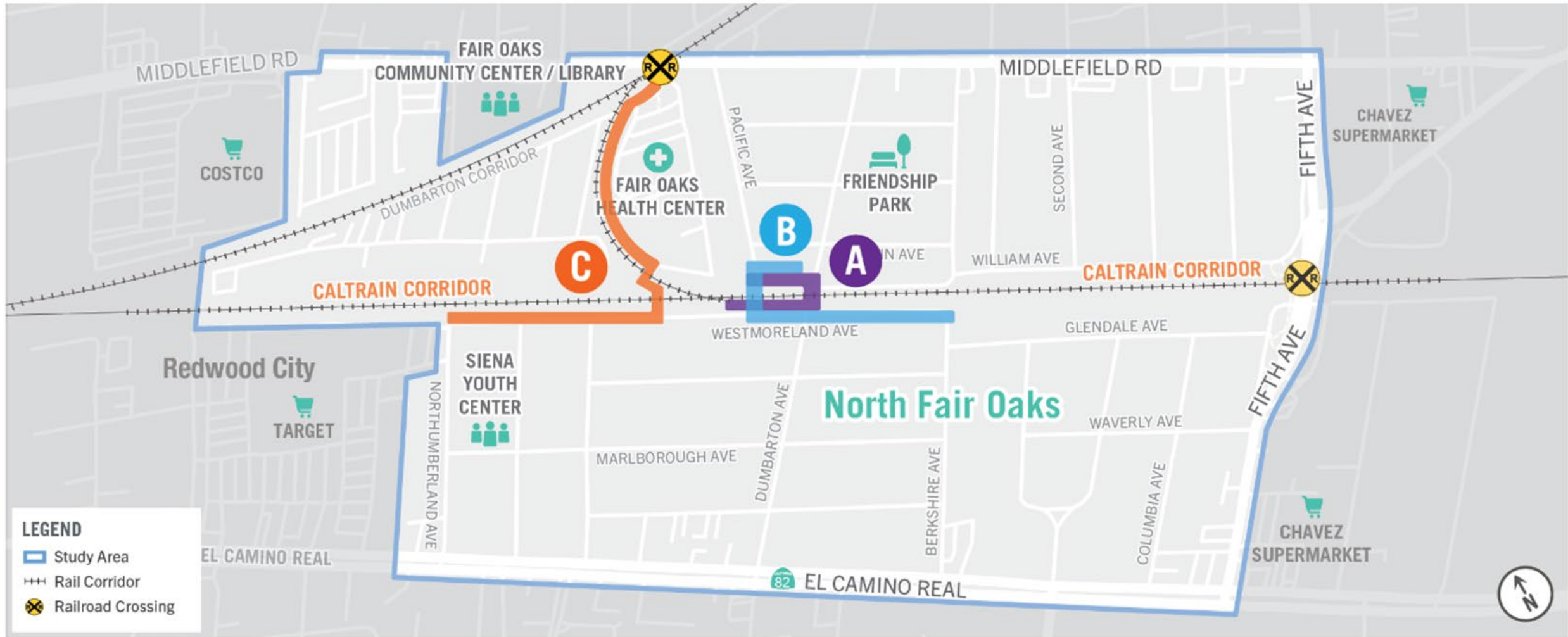
### Equity



### Safety

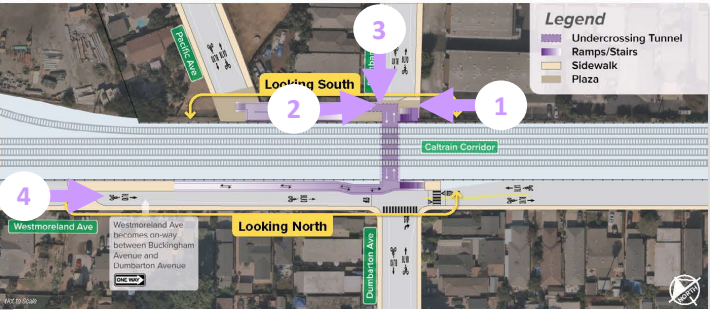


# Study Area Rail Crossing Options



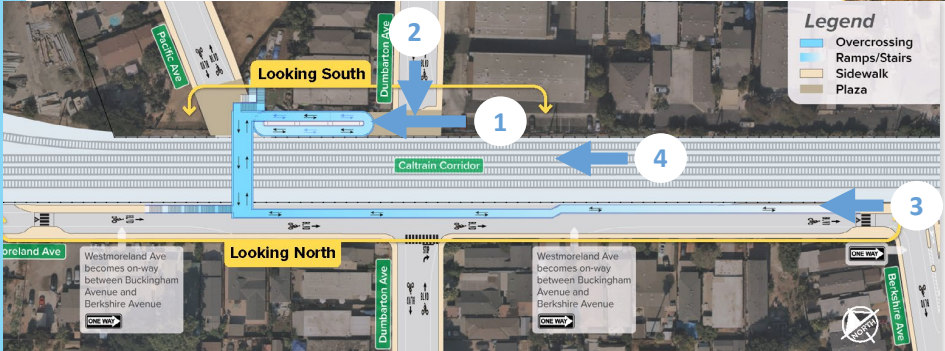


# Option A Dumbarton Tunnel Renderings



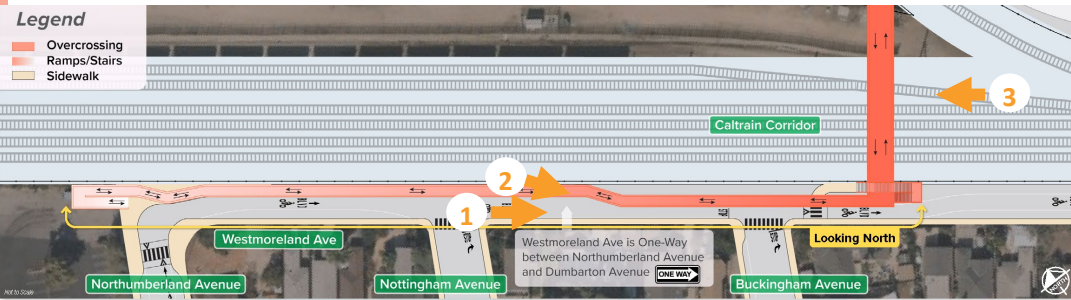


# Option B Dumbarton Bridge Renderings





# Option C Middlefield Junction Bridge Renderings





# North Fair Oaks Bicycle and Pedestrian Community Connections Study

## Recommendations - Alternative B

- Bike/Pedestrian Railroad Crossing
- Railroad Crossing Facility Access and Plaza (if feasible)
- Bike Boulevard, including Signage, Marking, and Traffic Calming
- Improve Street Lighting
- Two-way Bikeway
- Contra-Flow Bikeway
- One-Way Conversion
- Curb Bulb-outs and ADA Ramps
- Two-Stage Turn Queue Box (Bikes)
- Traffic Circle with Curb Bulb-outs and ADA Ramps
- High-Visibility Crosswalk and ADA Ramps
- Raised, High-Visibility Crosswalk and ADA Ramps
- Pedestrian Pathway

## Existing Infrastructure

Shown with Semi-Transparency

- Traffic Signal
- Class I Bikeway
- Existing Crosswalk\*
- Class II Bikeway\*
- Bus Stop
- Bicycle Boulevard
- At-Grade Railroad Crossing
- Planned Bikeway (mix of Class II & IV)
- Grade-Separated Railroad Crossing
- Planned Pedestrian Pathway
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)\*
- Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB)\*

\*Includes Under-Construction and Funded Improvement Projects

0 150 300 600 Feet



Alternative B: Pacific Avenue/Dumbarton Avenue Overcrossing - Community Connections Proposed Improvements

Figure 3

Recommended improvements are preliminary and would require further analysis during subsequent design phases.





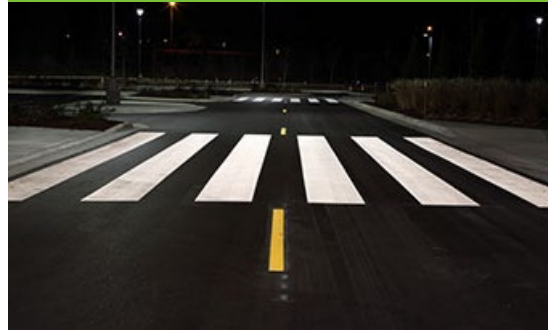
# Community Connections Improvements

Bicycle and pedestrian surface street improvements can provide improved safety and access to local destinations in the neighborhoods on both sides of the tracks and can be implemented separate from a rail crossing.

Sidewalk & Crosswalk Lighting



High-Visibility Crosswalk



ADA Curb Ramps



Curb Bulb-outs



Raised Crosswalk



Traffic Circle



Chicane



Speed Humps







# Community Engagement Round 1

## Summer 2022



### Key Survey Takeaways:



37% drive to destinations to cross the tracks but would prefer to walk or bike



30% walk, bike, or take the bus to cross the tracks but find it challenging



22% don't travel to across the tracks or do so less often because it is difficult

Top safety concerns: speeding, need for better lighting and unsafe street crossings



Top priorities: convenience, personal security, and access







# Community Engagement Round 2

Spring 2023



## Key Survey Takeaways



85% voted for a bridge rail crossing option



78% said they would use a new crossing frequently



Many shared concerns regarding personal security



Many were concerned about parking impacts



Top 3 community connection improvements: improved lighting, high visibility crosswalks and accessible curb ramps





# Caltrain Electrification Constraints

## Relevant Options

- B** Dumbarton Avenue Bridge
- C** Middlefield Junction Bridge

Caltrain's new electrification system poses many challenges crossing over the Caltrain corridor.





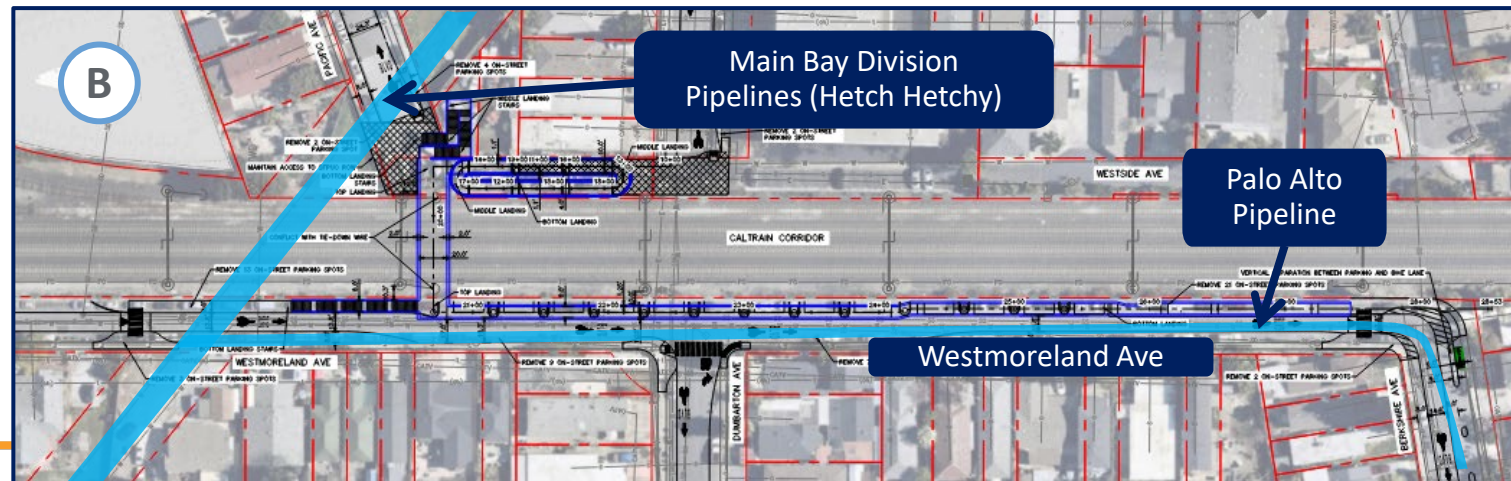
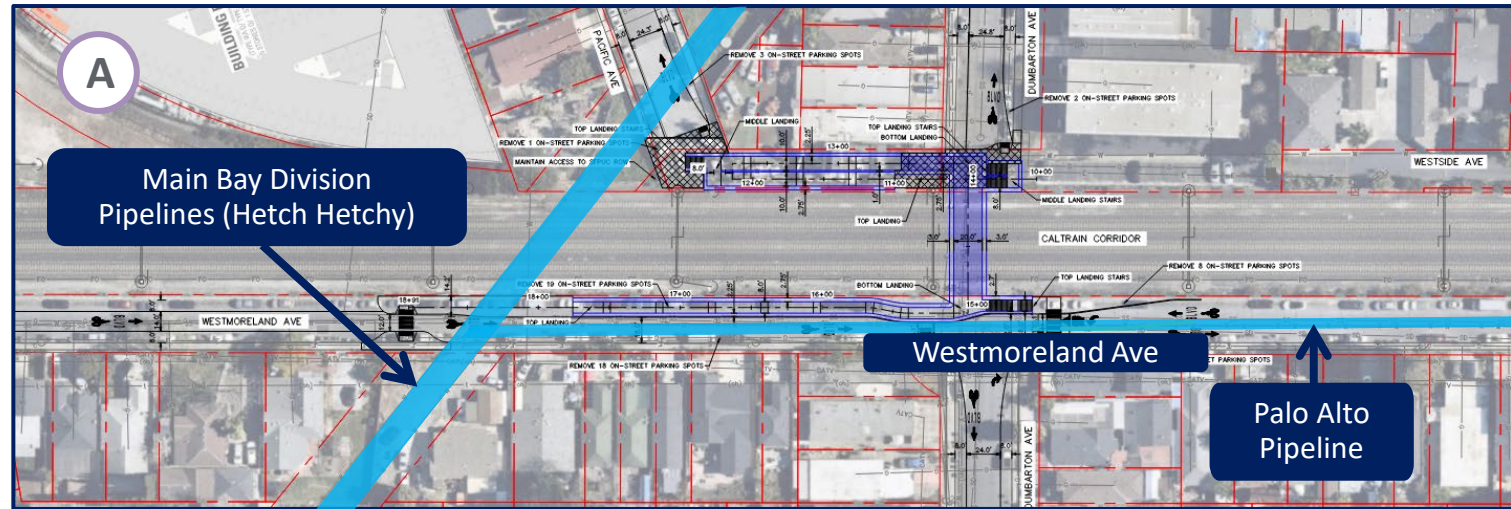


# SFPUC Water Pipeline Constraints

## Relevant Options


- A Dumbarton Avenue Tunnel
- B Dumbarton Avenue Bridge


















Two major water pipelines are likely to be impacted by construction of Option A or B





# Option Constraints - Summary

 = Relevant consideration  
or impact for Option  
implementation

	SFPUC 	Caltrain 	Spur Conflicts 	Construction 	Engagement 	Parking 
Option A						
Option B						
Option C						

Each of the three Options presents complications that could not be adequately addressed within the scope of this Study





# Community Engagement Round 3

## Winter 2023



### *Key Takeaways from Community Conversations and Open House*

- ✓ Appreciation for County's engagement efforts reaching the community
- 👏 Confirmation of prior outreach takeaways
- 📊 Disappointment at the difficulty of advancing a new rail crossing but understanding of the constraint
- 🚂 Desire by some to continue efforts to resolve crossing constraints
- 👍 Support for implementing community connections improvements separate from a new crossing



# Conclusions and Considerations

- ➔ Need and support expressed for a new bridge crossing
- ➔ Magnitude and array of constraints with each rail crossing option prevents recommendation for a preferred alternative
- ➔ Community connection improvements could be implemented separate from a rail crossing





# Questions and Comments

**Final Study Report:** [https://www.smcsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2024.02.12-North-Fair-Oaks-Rail-Crossing-and-Community-Connections-Study\\_Final-Report\\_.pdf](https://www.smcsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2024.02.12-North-Fair-Oaks-Rail-Crossing-and-Community-Connections-Study_Final-Report_.pdf)

**Final Study Report Appendices:** <https://www.smcsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2024.02.13-NFO-Final-Report-Appendix.pdf>