



# City Council

**Item No. 1.B, RTC 25-1103**  
**Study Session on**  
**Pedestrian Access on**  
**County Expressways**

**November 18, 2025**

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## Agenda

- Background
- Expressway Operations and Enforcement
- Regulatory Framework
- 2006 City Council Review
- Current Pedestrian Restrictions
- Expressway Signage
- Enforcement/Collisions
- Current Conditions and Safety Considerations
- Staff Recommendations

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**POST MEETING MATERIAL**

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## Background

- Mr. Akos Szoboszlay requested repeal of Council Resolution 5603 (1991).
  - Prohibits pedestrians on portions of Lawrence and San Tomas Expressways.
- Mr. Szoboszlay has stated that the prohibition is unnecessary and that pedestrians should be allowed to walk on County Expressways, even portions without sidewalks.

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## Expressway Operations and Enforcement

- County of Santa Clara (County), Roads and Airports Department:
  - Operates and maintains the Expressway system
  - Manages pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic
- Santa Clara Police Department provides traffic enforcement/investigations on the Expressways within City limits.

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## Regulatory Framework

- Both the County and the City have jurisdiction related to pedestrian use of County Expressways
- California Vehicle Code 21960 allows the County and local authorities to prohibit or restrict pedestrian use of expressways.
- Current: Resolution 5603, adopted June 4, 1991, prohibits pedestrians on portions of Lawrence and San Tomas Expressways.

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## 2006 City Council Review

- June 20, 2006: Council reviewed a petition from Mr. Szoboszlay to repeal Resolution 5603
- Council action:
  - County to lead on pedestrian prohibition ordinances where appropriate
  - Repeal Resolution 5603 upon adoption of future County ordinances modifying pedestrian prohibitions.
  - Request County to develop program and funding to add sidewalks.

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# Current Pedestrian Restrictions



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# Current Pedestrian Restrictions



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## Expressway Signage

- County has pedestrian prohibition signage in areas where restrictions are in place and where sidewalks do not exist.
- County implementing new guidance sign installations for alternative pedestrian routes where sidewalks are absent.

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## Expressway Signage



Southbound San Tomas at Walsh

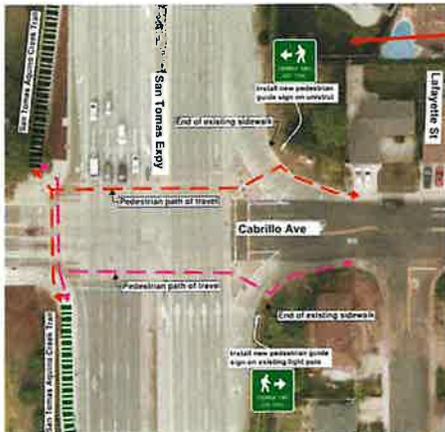
Northbound San Tomas at Monroe



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# New Guidance Signs



Northbound San Tomas at Cabrillo



Northbound San Tomas at El Camino Real 11

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# Enforcement/Collisions

- **Expressway Citations (Jan 1, 2023 – Oct 27, 2025):**
  - 2,085 citations issued
  - No citations related to pedestrians
- **Expressway Collisions (Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2024)**
  - 808 collisions
  - 18 collision involved pedestrians (17 at intersections)

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## Current Conditions & Safety Considerations

- Areas without sidewalks do not meet ADA/pedestrian design standards.
- Limited lighting reduces nighttime visibility.
- Debris, uneven surfaces, and drainage structures pose walking hazards along expressway shoulders.
- High-speed traffic, breakdowns, and maintenance activities create conflicts.
- Absent of sidewalks, restricting pedestrian access may mitigate liability from unsafe conditions.

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## Staff Recommendations

- Align with Council's 2006 direction:
  - County to lead on pedestrian prohibition ordinances where appropriate.
  - Repeal Resolution 5603 upon adoption of future County ordinances modifying pedestrian prohibitions.
- Collaborate with and support the County's Active Transportation Plan.
- City development projects include construction of new expressway sidewalks.

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# Questions/Comments



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