



Relaunching GBI: 2025 Priorities

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What is the Grand Boulevard Initiative?

- Collaboration between cities, agencies, nonprofits, and the private sector initiated in 2006
- Original vision: *“El Camino Real will achieve its full potential as a place for residents to work, live, shop and play, and create links between communities that promote walking and transit and improve the quality of life.”*
- SamTrans is leading relaunch to focus on transportation challenges in San Mateo County



GBI's Objectives



Visioning

Create a unified, cohesive vision for transportation improvements along ECR in San Mateo County, building off past work.



Partnerships

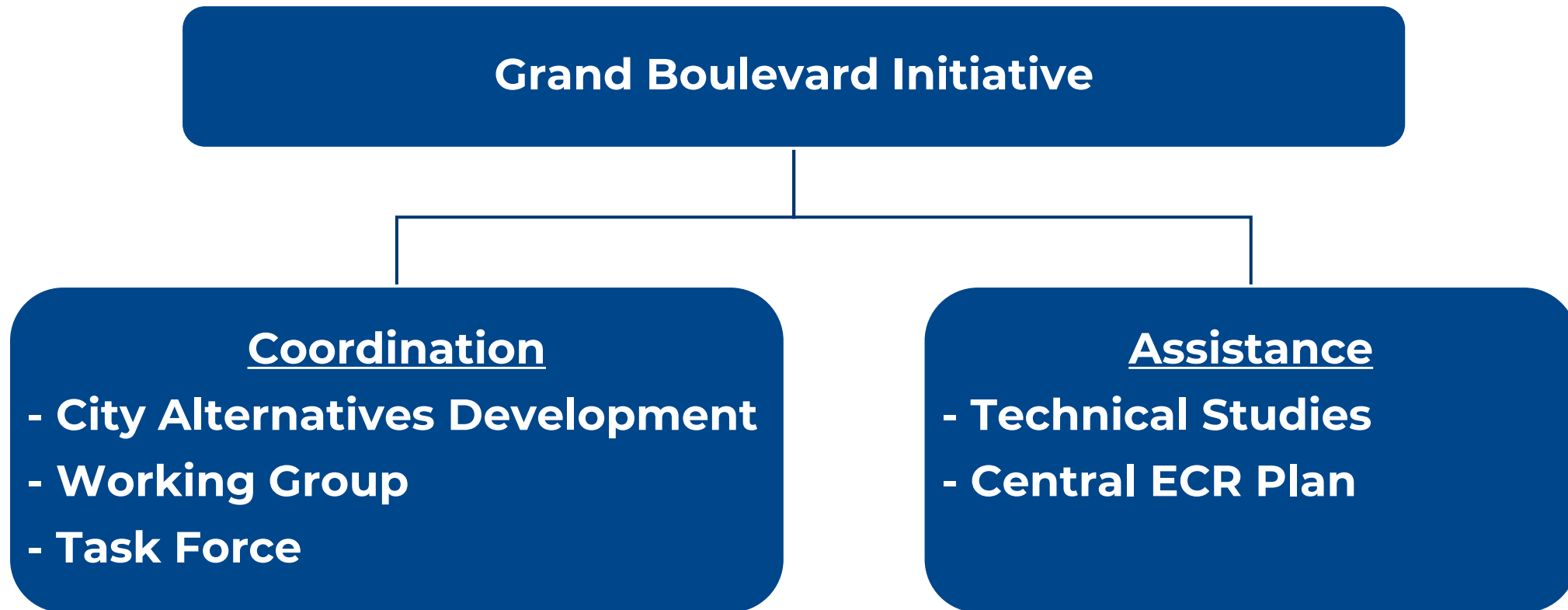
Create a forum for coordination and collaboration to reinvigorate past partnerships and forge new partnerships that enable implementation of ECR projects.



Implementation

Address implementation challenges through alignment of policies and plans, providing technical assistance, and developing an Action Plan and coordinated Project Initiation Document.

GBI's Dual Role



Today's Challenges



Transit Operations

Route ECR takes over two hours from Daly City to Palo Alto and has unreliable operating conditions



Active Transportation

El Camino Real poses barriers to comfortably walking and biking



Safety

El Camino Real has a disproportionate share of injury collisions as a part of San Mateo County's High Injury Network



GBI Agency Partners & Roles



- Primary bus service provider in San Mateo County
- Coordinating countywide El Camino Real planning efforts with SMCTA



- Funds transportation improvements in San Mateo County
- Directs funding towards El Camino Real projects



- Prepares the San Mateo County Congestion Management Program (CMP) and identifies strategies to relieve congestion
- El Camino Real is a CMP roadway



- Owns and maintains El Camino Real as a state highway (SR 82)
- Reviews and approves proposed changes to the roadway



- Coordinates and funds Bay Area regional transportation
- Providing grant funding for El Camino Real planning and Caltrans approval efforts



Opportunities for Input

GBI Inputs

- Challenge Statement
- Problem Identification & Prioritization
- Needs Assessment
- Recommendations for Countywide Vision
- Local planning efforts

GBI Outcomes

-  **GBI Action Plan**
-  **Caltrans Project Initiation Document**



What is Currently Happening in Each City?

Jurisdiction	Planning/Visioning	Project Delivery
Daly City	SamTrans-led technical study underway	--
Colma	Completed 2019	PID completed, PA&ED initiated
South San Francisco	City study commencing in Summer 2025	--
San Bruno	C/CAG study underway	--
Millbrae		--
Burlingame	Caltrans-led study completed	Caltrans-led project under construction
San Mateo	SamTrans-led "Central El Camino Multimodal Plan" underway	--
Belmont		--
San Carlos		--
Redwood City	Completed 2018	Caltrans-led project breaking ground in FY2028, supplemented by SamTrans BusAID grant
Atherton	SMCTA-supported city-led study nearly complete	--
Menlo Park	SamTrans-led technical study underway	--

Planning Completed

Planning underway, led by SamTrans

Planning underway, led by other jurisdiction



Priority Issues We've Heard from GBI:

SAFETY

- **Deteriorating, missing, or inadequate infrastructure** such as crumbling sidewalks, potholes, and lack of storm drains
- Existing utility limitations
- **High stress, high injury**, high crash rates
- **Lack of protected crosswalks and signals** for traveling along ECR and across ECR
- **Lack of protection from extreme heat and weather** for those not driving
- **High-risk travel** choices like walking, biking, taking transit
- **High-speed** vehicle traffic
- **Disproportionate safety impacts** on those who walk, roll, bike, or take transit

MOBILITY

- Complex interplay of deteriorating, missing, or inadequate infrastructure across jurisdictions
- **Fragmented improvement efforts and priorities across jurisdictions**
- **Buses stuck in traffic** and have suboptimal service
- **Missing or discontinuous cycling and pedestrian facilities**
- **Poorly coordinated traffic signals**
- Underperforming mobility spine that creates **disproportionate challenges for low-income people or those who travel by modes other than driving**
- Lack of high-quality alternatives to driving

Supporting Evidence

More Info & Updates Online

- Multilingual factsheets and frequent project updates posted online at: samtrans.com/GBI
- Email us at: grandboulevard@samtrans.com

What is the **Grand Boulevard Initiative?**

*Project Factsheet
March 2025*

Project Overview

El Camino Real (State Route 82), more commonly known as El Camino, is a Caltrans-maintained road and the spine of San Mateo County. People want a safe experience on El Camino, whether walking, biking, riding transit or driving to get to downtowns, businesses, schools, and other destinations. The Grand Boulevard Initiative (GBI) will build on new momentum to re-envision the future of mobility on El Camino. SamTrans, the cities along El Camino, and the county are working together through GBI to better coordinate and more quickly advance improvements on the corridor.

SamTrans is sponsoring the first phase of a coordinated Caltrans project development process, called a Project Initiation Document (PID) for all of El Camino Real in San Mateo County. Once complete, the PID will define the purpose and need for the changes along the corridor as well as potential design options.

The Grand Boulevard Initiative aims to transform El Camino Real into a safe, inviting, connected, and transit-oriented boulevard.

Project History and Relaunch

GBI first started in 2006 and secured over \$11 million in federal and state grants to support transportation and housing projects along the corridor. This relaunch coordinates local planning efforts on El Camino. GBI is led by SamTrans and brings Caltrans, neighboring cities, other public sector partners, and advocacy and public interest groups together with the GBI Task Force and Working Group. This relaunch is backed by \$2 million in funding by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with additional local match funding. The GBI relaunch aligns with ongoing state, countywide, and city plans.

Visit samtrans.com/GBI for more information.



Project Location

GBI focuses on El Camino in San Mateo County and Palo Alto.

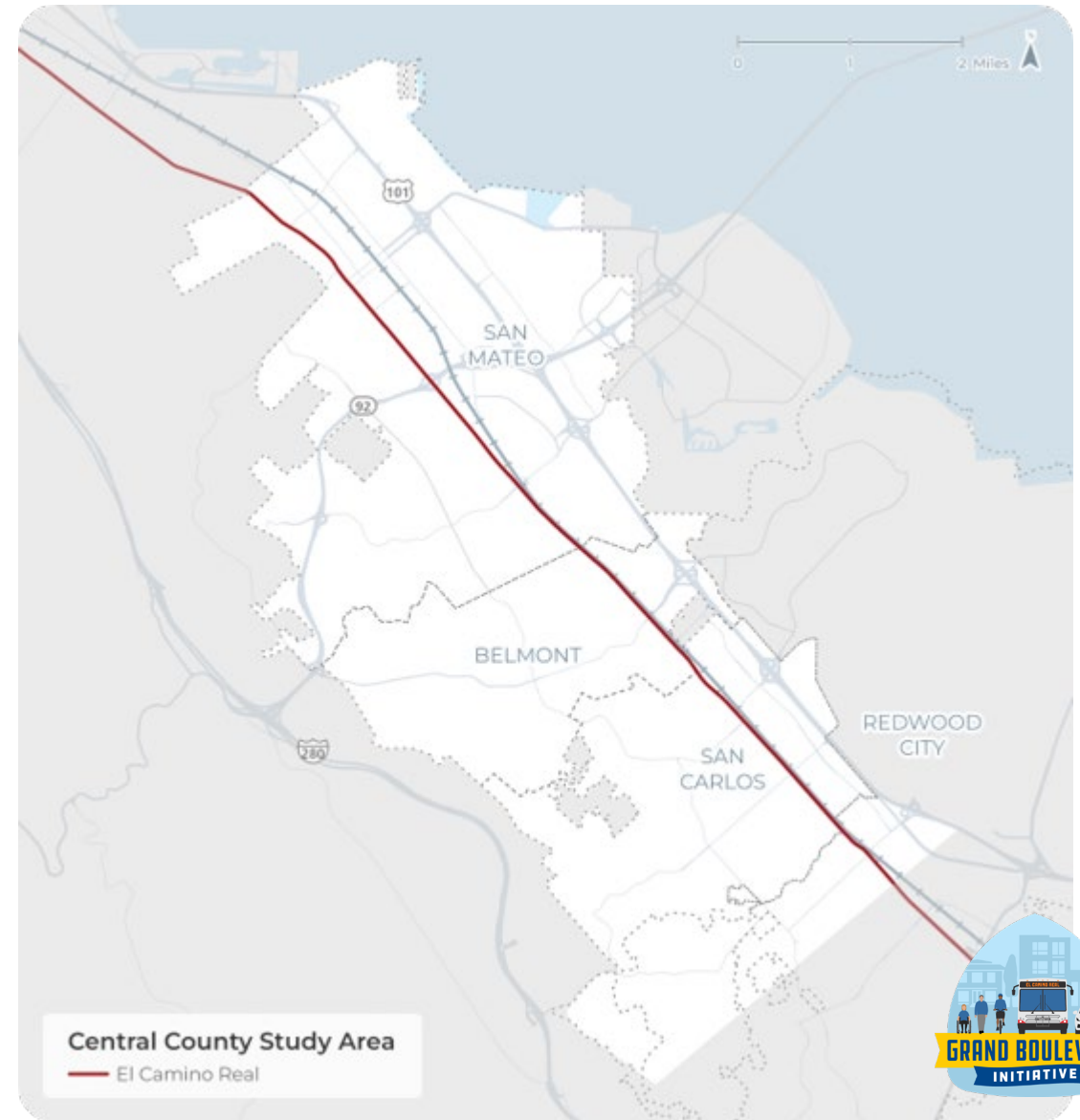


*GBI includes the City of Palo Alto to account for the Palo Alto Transit Center at the terminus of Route ECR.



Central El Camino Real Multimodal Plan

- **Focus on creating cohesive, locally-defined for multimodal vision for Central County cities** in San Mateo, Belmont, San Carlos, and a portion of Redwood City
- **Conduct an alternatives analysis**
- **Select a preferred alternative** that meets both the regional and local needs for El Camino
- **Build on and complement existing local planning efforts**



Central El Camino Engagement Timeline



MAY - JULY 2025

Phase 1: Corridor Gaps & Needs

The team will first build community awareness and learn existing conditions.



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

Phase 2: Corridor Alternatives & Trade-offs

The team will present corridor options and highlight trade-offs for community & stakeholder input.



SPRING 2026

Phase 3: Preferred Alternative & Corridor Plan

In the final phase, the team will present the preferred alternative and the implementation plan that will feed into the Caltrans project development process.



Central El Camino: Phase 1 Engagement

Dates: May 19, 2025 – July 13, 2025

Goals: Build project awareness, confirm existing challenges, and gather input on needs

Planned Engagement Activities:

- Community pop-up tabling
- Community-Based Organization meetings
- Multilingual listening sessions
- Online map-based survey
- Presentations to key stakeholder groups

Website: [SamTrans.com/CentralElCamino](https://samtrans.com/CentralElCamino)





Thank you!

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