



I-280/Winchester Boulevard Interchange Improvements Project

Public Meeting and Open House

August 14, 2023

Welcome



Introductions



- Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei
- Zahir Gulzadah
- Neil Ong
- Josephine Kimura
- Naomi Gregorio
- John Ristow



- Joon Kang
- Charlie Winter



- Gene Gonzalo
- Chris Lillie
- Deanna Bolio
- Lani Lee Ho
- Ann Calnan

Meeting Agenda and Format

6:00 – 6:30 Presentation

A recording of this presentation will be available online for those who could not make it tonight.

6:30 – 7:30 Open House

At the conclusion of the presentation, please join as at the exhibits around the room. Staff will be available to answer questions.

VTA Code of Conduct: Demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech will not be tolerated. VTA staff will remove participants who refuse to adhere to this code.

Presenters

- Deanna Bolio, Community Outreach Supervisor, VTA
- Lani Lee Ho, Senior Environmental Planner, VTA
- Chris Lillie, Project Manager, VTA
- Sasha Dansky, Principal, Mark Thomas & Company
- John Hesler, Principal, David J. Powers & Associates

Purpose of this Public Meeting



Purpose of this Public Meeting/Open House

- Provide an overview of the proposed project including location, purpose, and description of improvements.
- Provide an update of design changes since the environmental scoping period.
- Provide an overview of the environmental review process and contents of the draft environmental document.
- Provide instructions on how to submit written comments.

Draft EIR/EA is Available for Public Review

- Caltrans, in cooperation with VTA and the City of San Jose, prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project.
- The Draft EIR/EA is available to download and review online. Scan the QR code on the exhibit by the entrance.
- Printed copies are also available to read at the VTA Administrative Office (Building B Lobby, 3331 North First Street, San Jose), and at the Bascom Branch Library (1000 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose).

Focus of Public Review

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15204 recommends that commenters provide detailed comments that focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated.
- Comments on the Draft EIR/EA must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, **September 8, 2023**.

How to Submit Comments

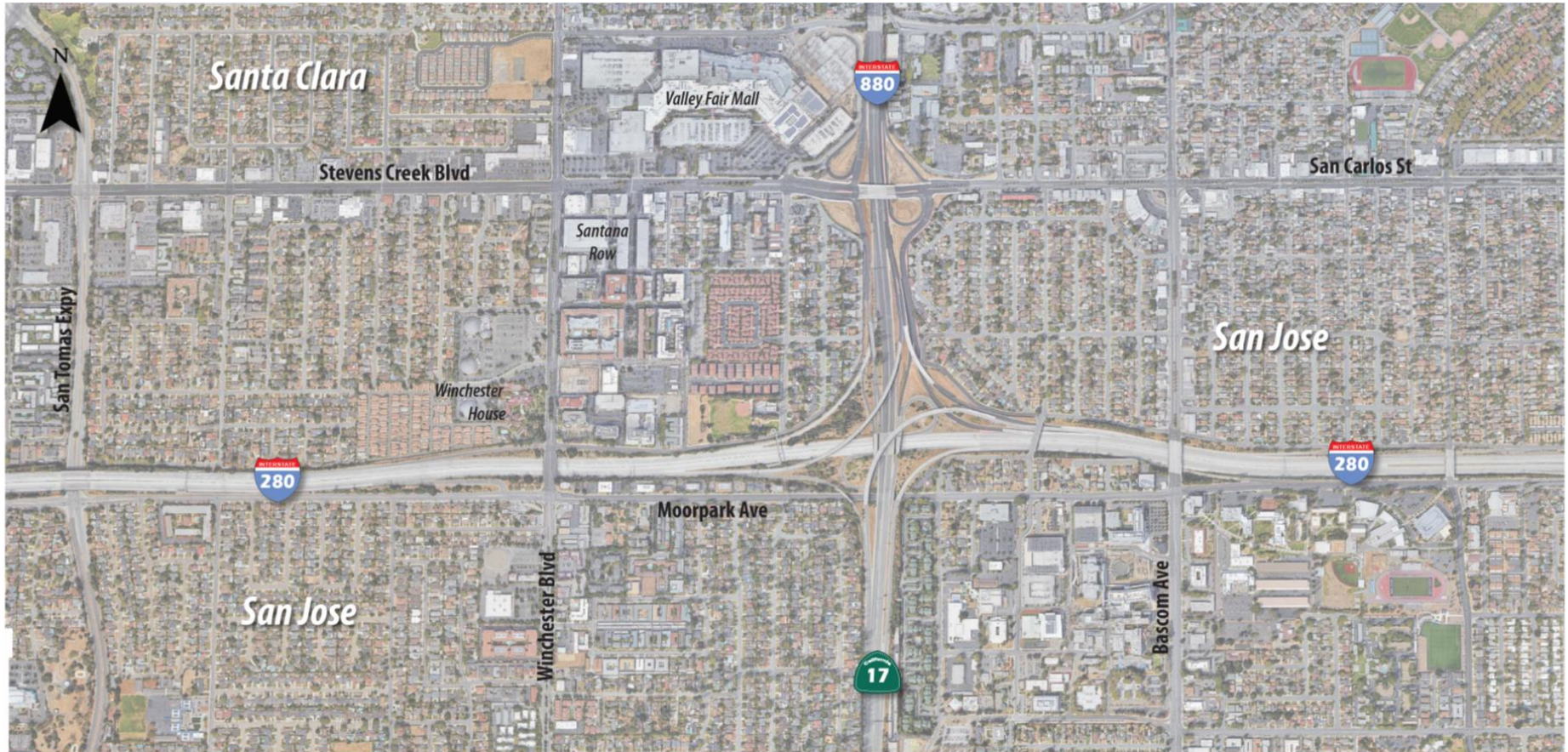
- Please use the **Comment Cards** provided at today's meeting.
- You can also submit written comments after the meeting by **email** to 280-winchester@vta.org or by **mail** to:

Caltrans, District 4-Office of Environmental Analysis
Attn: Charles Winter
P.O. Box 23660 MS-8B
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Project Description



Project Location



Project Purpose and Need

- Improve traffic operations and reduce congestion on the local roadways in the project area
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian access and transit connectivity in the project area
- Improve access from I-280 to the project area

Public input obtained to shape Build Alternative

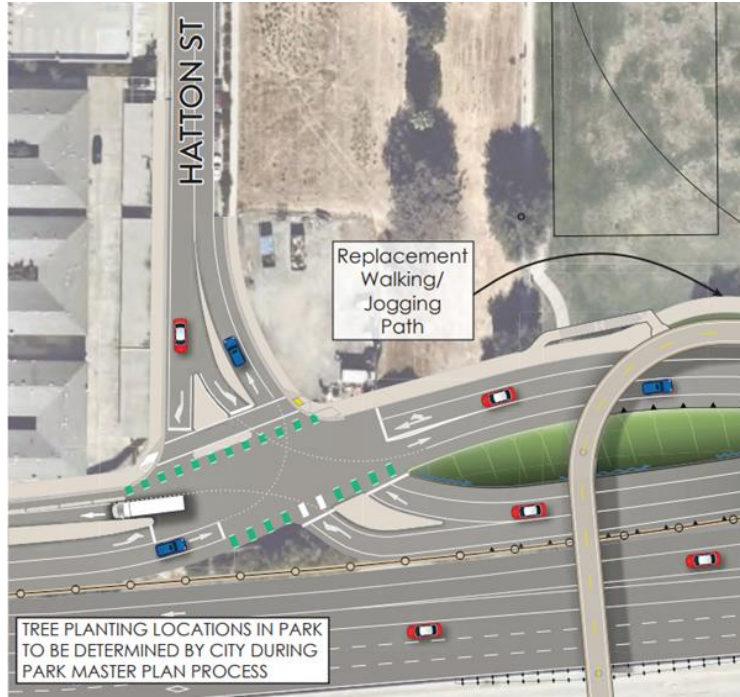
- **Held numerous meetings with neighborhood associations and key stakeholders like City of San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) division.**
 - I-280 Interactive Transportation Survey
 - Project Open House at Cypress Community Center
 - Community stakeholder meeting at VTA River Oaks Office
 - Cory Neighborhood Association meeting at Westfield Valley Fair
 - Winchester Neighborhood Action Coalition meeting
 - Winchester Orchard Neighborhood Association meeting
 - Winchester Ranch meeting
 - Neighborhood association meetings (Virtual meetings)
 - Environmental Document NOP - Public Scoping Meeting

Proposed changes due to public input

- **Maintain Tisch Way as a two-way street. One way traffic heading westbound was previously proposed.**
- **Added staircase to Monroe St. Pedestrian Overcrossing for more direct access to Santana Row. Alignment previously touched down at Monroe Street only.**

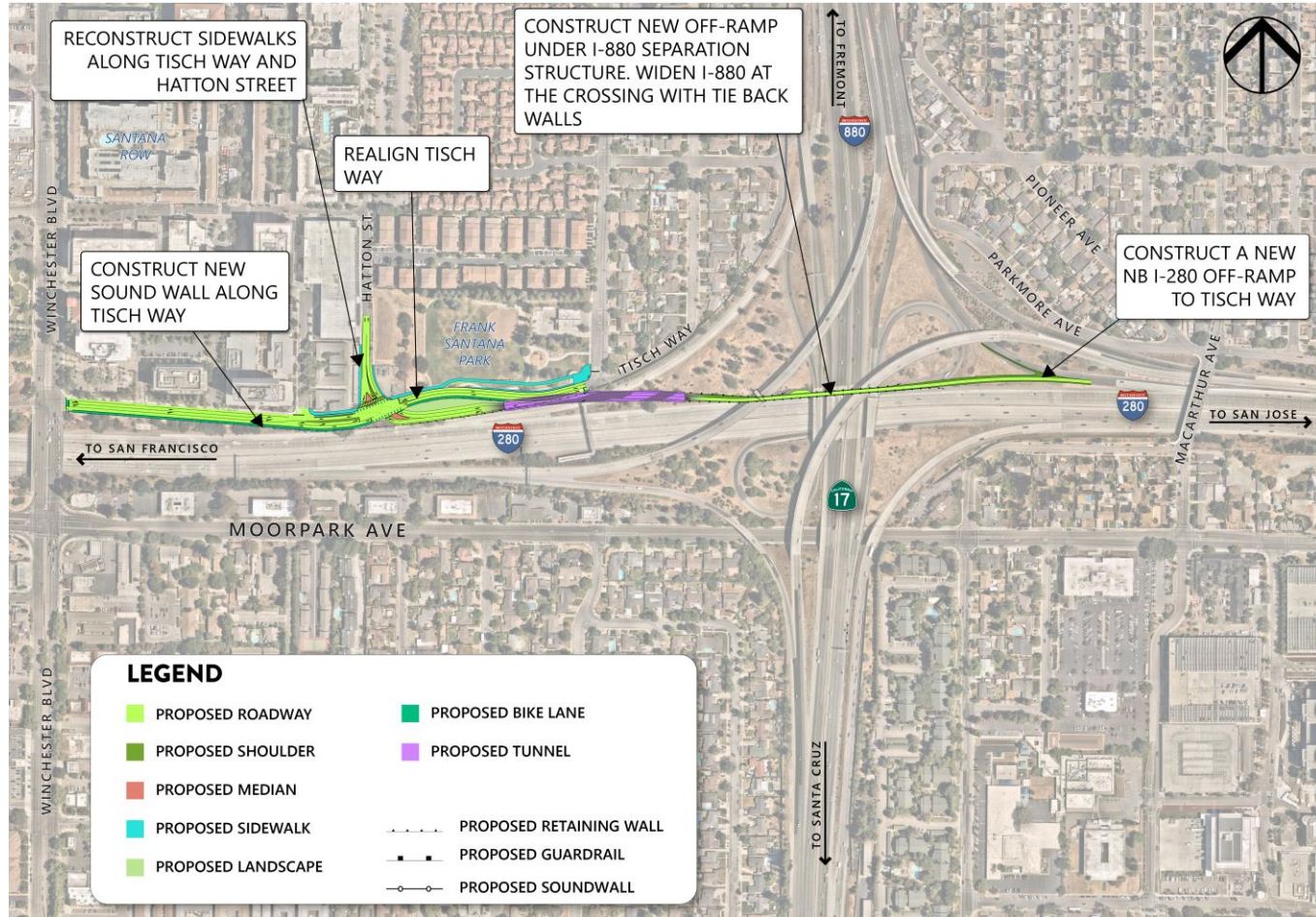


Proposed changes due to public input

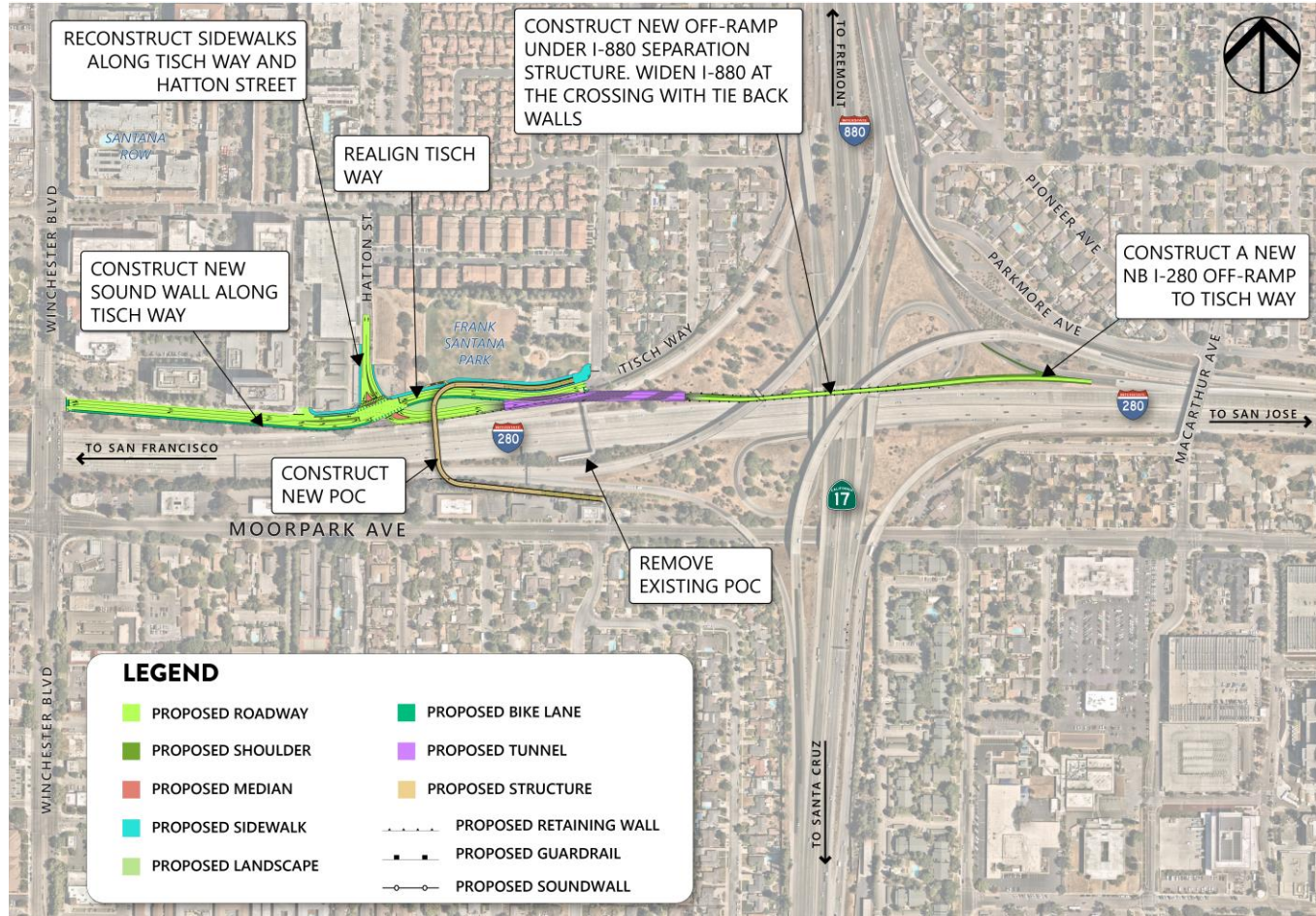


- **Eliminated right-turn from new Tisch Way-Hatton Street off-ramp. Ramp traffic must proceed to Hatton Street or Winchester Blvd. No access to Monroe Street.**
- **Added on-street parking and park access from Tisch Way to Frank Santana Park.**

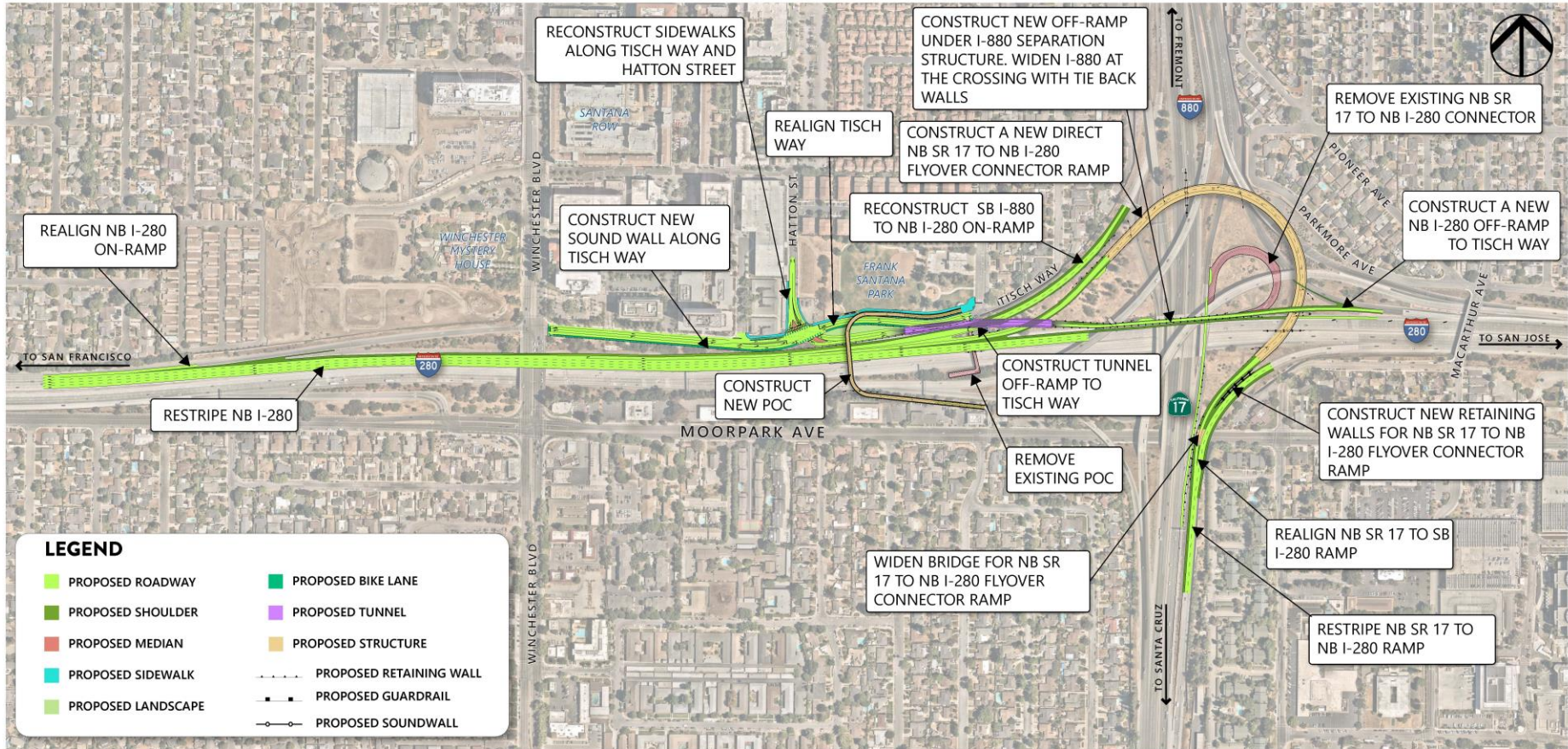
Proposed Project



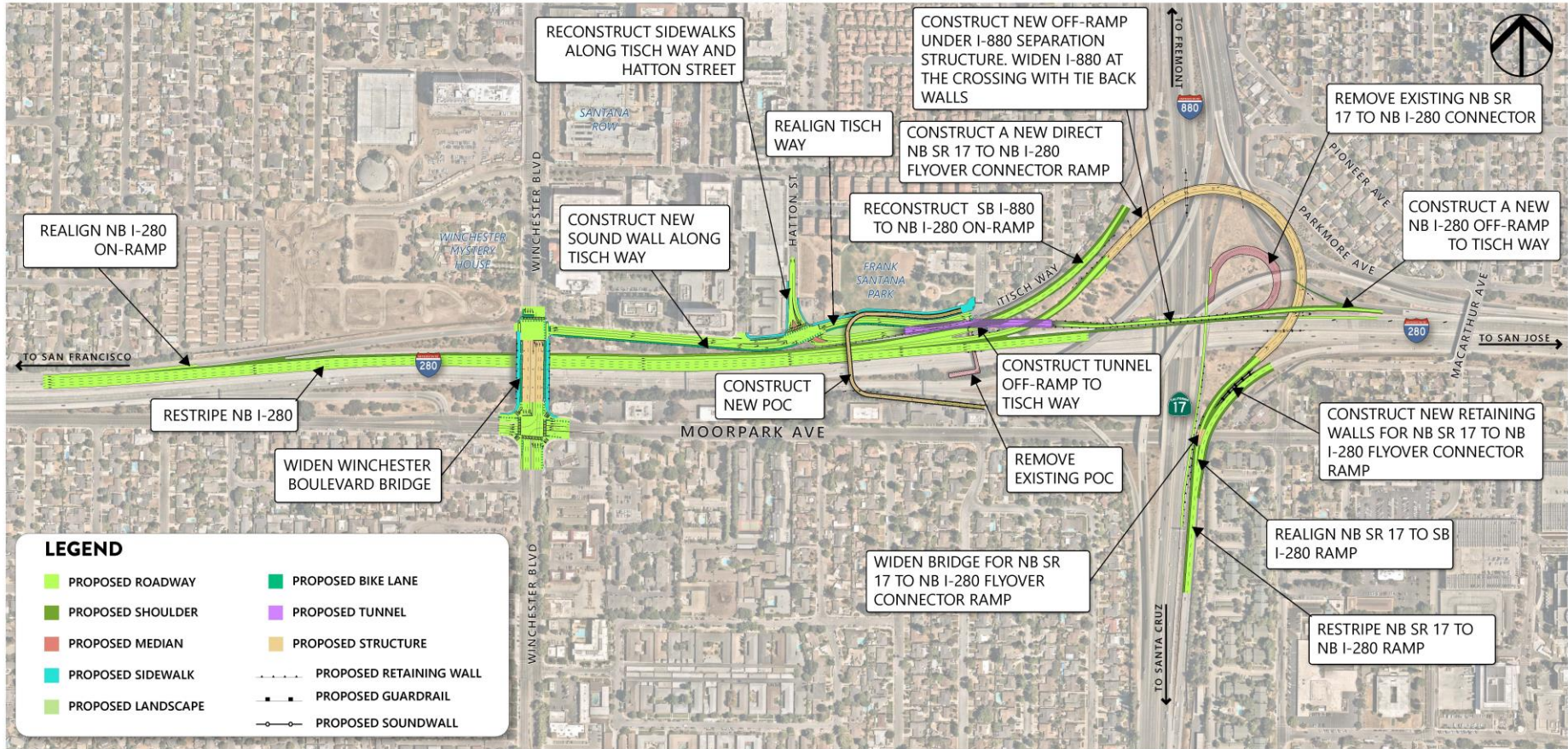
Proposed Project



Proposed Project



Proposed Project



Environmental Review Process



Preparing the Draft EIR/EA

- A Notice of Preparation stating that a Draft EIR/EA will be prepared was published and distributed on Sept. 8, 2020.
- During the early consultation or scoping period, comments regarding aesthetics, air quality, land use, noise, safety, public services, construction, and transportation/traffic were received.
- In preparing the Draft EIR/EA, technical analysis was completed to assess the impact of the proposed Project on the environment. This analysis considered the scoping comments and physical environment/setting of the project area.

Environmental Issues Considered

Technical studies, reports, and other analysis were conducted for the following topics:

- ✓ Parks and recreation facilities
- ✓ Environmental justice
- ✓ Growth/community impacts
- ✓ Utilities/emergency services
- ✓ Traffic and transportation/
pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- ✓ Visual/aesthetics
- ✓ Cultural Resources
- ✓ Water quality
- ✓ Geology
- ✓ Paleontology
- ✓ Hazardous materials
- ✓ Air quality
- ✓ Noise
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Animal species
- ✓ Invasive species
- ✓ Cumulative impacts

Environmental Issues Considered

As part of project scoping and environmental analysis, it was determined that the proposed Project would not result in impacts to the following resource areas:

- Farmlands
- Timberlands
- Coastal zones
- Community cohesion
- Wild and scenic rivers
- Flooding
- Sensitive habitats and waterways
- Wetlands
- Plant species
- Threatened and endangered species

Contents of the Draft EIR/EA

- Description of the No Build and Build Alternative, including project purpose and need and other alternatives considered during the development of the proposed project.
- Analysis of potential environmental impacts from construction and operation of the proposed Project.
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Description of the early consultation and scoping process, including coordination with agencies and organizations.

Overview of the Environmental Process

- After public circulation of the Draft EIR/EA, all comments will be considered, and a Final EIR/EA will be prepared.
- The Final EIR/EA will include responses to comments and identify the preferred alternative.
- If a decision is made to approve the project, Caltrans will issue a Notice of Determination in compliance with CEQA, and a Finding of No Significant Impact in compliance with NEPA.

Summary of Environmental Impacts



Impacts to Frank Santana Park



Mitigation Measures for Santana Park

- Impacts to the Park would be fully offset by purchasing two adjacent, vacant parcels. This would result in a net gain of 0.18 acre to the Park.
- Walking path would be replaced with a new path directly north and parallel to the existing path.
- Softball field would be shifted north and be reconstructed.
- Trees would be replaced according to minimum ratios based on tree type and size.
- Tree replacement would be coordinated with the City to ensure locations are compatible with the layout of future facilities as part of the Santana Park Master Plan.

Visual Impacts

- Proposed SR 17/I-280 flyover connector ramp would impact views from the Parkmoor Avenue neighborhood.



- Existing landscaping along the westside of Parkmoor Avenue would be enhanced with the planting of rapidly, growing, tall tree species.
- While this landscaping would reduce the visual impact, it cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Air Quality

- Long- and short-term air quality effects of the proposed Project were evaluated.
- Compared to the No Build Alternative, long-term emissions would be reduced. This is largely due to the overall decrease in vehicle miles traveled.
- Short-term emissions would occur during construction. These include particulate emissions (dust) from construction activities, such as excavation, and emissions from construction equipment and vehicles.
- Best management practices and measures to minimize these temporary impacts would be implemented.



Noise

- Future noise levels were quantified and compared to existing noise levels. Increases in noise from the proposed Project would not be considered substantial.
- Most construction activities would generate average noise levels, except for short periods of pile driving and heavy demolition where higher noise levels would be expected.
- The proposed Project would remove and replace an existing soundwall along Tisch Way. Traffic noise levels would increase during the interim period between when the soundwall is removed and when it is replaced. This is estimated to take up to one year. There would be no increase in noise after the replacement soundwall is built.



Construction Impacts

- Construction would take approximately three years and occur in phases.
- Construction would include temporary lane closures, narrowing of lanes on local roadways and on freeways through the construction zone, and temporary loss of parking.
- Prior to construction, a Transportation Management Plan would be prepared to address traffic handling, pedestrian and bicycle safety/access, and coordination with emergency responders.

How to Submit Public Comments

- **Comment Card**
- **Email:** 280-winchester@vta.org
- **Postal Mail:** Caltrans District 4, Office of Environmental Analysis
Attn: Charles Winter
P.O. Box 23660, MS 8B
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on **September 8, 2023.**

Thank You

Deanna Bolio, VTA Community Outreach
(408) 321-7575
community.outreach@vta.org

For more information, please visit the project
webpage at **www.vta.org/280winchester**.

Open House Session

