

TRAFFIC RELIEF PILOT PROGRAM: FAQs

In an effort to address regional 'cut-through' traffic, the City is implementing a three-month Traffic Relief Pilot Program restricting left-turn and U-turn movements as a means to discourage cut-through traffic in Foster City. During this pilot phase, the impacts of the program will be closely monitored.

1. What are the effective dates of the Pilot Program?

The Pilot Program is scheduled to begin Monday, February 11, 2019, for three months and conclude on Friday, May 10, 2019.

Note: The City Manager may terminate the Pilot Program at any time if deemed unsafe.

2. What is 'cut-through' traffic?

'Cut-through' traffic refers to the traffic resulting from motorists who seek alternative routes on Foster City streets to avoid the freeway gridlock on Highway 101 and State Route 92. For example, at peak times during the afternoon commute, many drivers commuting on East Hillsdale Boulevard and East 3rd Avenue are just passing through in order to bypass the Highway 101 and State Route 92 interchange, only to get back onto Highway 92 to continue their travel eastbound across the bridge.

3. How does the program work?

During the peak commute hours of 4PM-7PM, Monday-Friday, left-turns and U-turns will be prohibited at two key intersections that experience high volumes of evening commuter congestion:

- Eastbound East Hillsdale Boulevard onto Northbound Edgewater Boulevard
- Eastbound East Hillsdale Boulevard onto Northbound Shell Boulevard

Public signs have been set up to highlight these new changes. In addition, delineators, or barriers, will be installed to physically prohibit these left-turns and U-turns.

Restricting these turns increases travel time for drivers coming off Highway 101 or State Route 92, cutting through Foster City and re-entering Eastbound State Route 92 to cross the San Mateo Bridge. Once these cut-through routes no longer provide an advantage to drivers, the routes will be abandoned and cut-through traffic is expected to be reduced.

A detailed overview of the program was presented to the City Council in December 2018. Click [here](#) to read the December 17, 2018 Staff Report.

4. How do I determine the best alternate route for me?

The City understands that some residents will be adversely impacted by this program and appreciates the community's patience in trying a new solution to address traffic.

Since every driver has different goals and needs, no one alternate route will be right for any individual. It is recommended that drivers check their route on a map or a mapping program to become familiar with alternate arterial routes to their destinations.

5. Will U-turns at the intersection at East Hillsdale Boulevard and the left-turn entrance into the Metro Center Shopping Center be prohibited?

The traffic signal at Metro Center Shopping Center is intended to facilitate entrance into the shops in the center and does not lead to a through street. Traffic on private property is regulated by its owners.

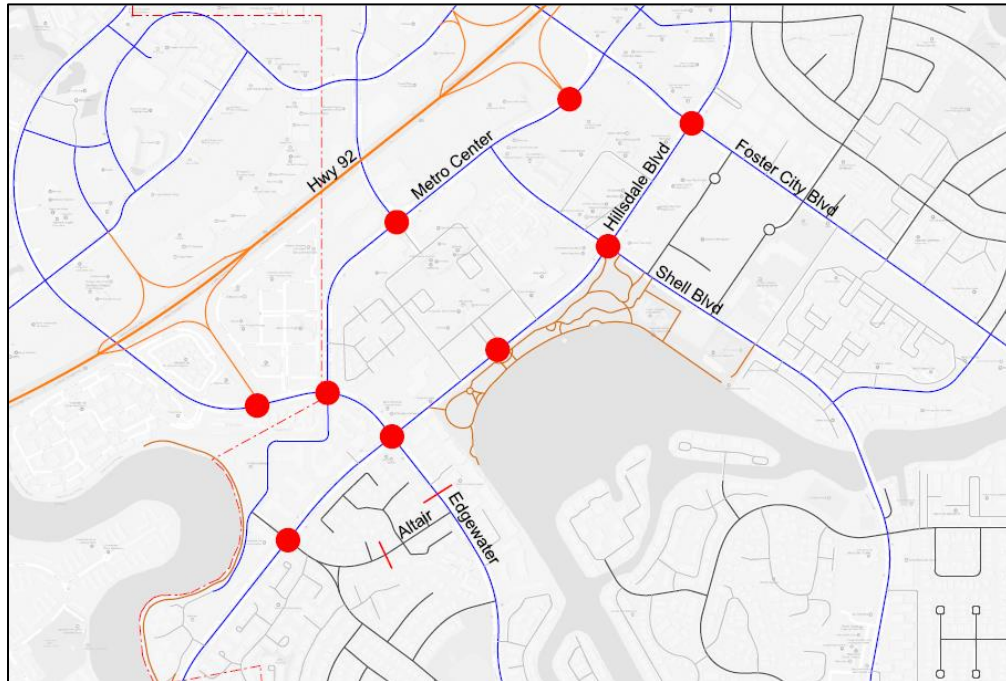
There are no plans to restrict movements at these locations.



6. How will the success of the program be evaluated?

Traffic volume studies have been conducted to determine flow volumes prior to implementation of the Program. Studies will be conducted while the program is in place and after the program. Comparing the results will help to demonstrate the effect of the program on the two directly impacted intersections as well as the effect on the nine (9) other intersections in the vicinity (illustrated in the map below).

This data, along with the professional observations of the City's traffic engineering and public safety, will be presented to the Traffic Review Committee for development of recommendations to the City Council for moving forward.



7. How is the City working with navigation apps?

Foster City has been in conversation with multiple navigation apps to address cut-through traffic routes in our City. We have reported the new Program restrictions to Google Maps, and have confirmed that Apple, Here, and Waze maps will reflect the designated left-turn and U-turn prohibitions during the Traffic Relief Pilot Program timeframe.

We have also partnered with Waze in its Connected Citizens Program, working mutually to report local driving conditions and provide better route options. These conversations are vital in addressing traffic congestion in our community and the City will continue the dialogue on potential solutions.

8. What has the City done to educate the public about the Pilot Program?

To educate the public on the Pilot Program, the City issued a press release, presented the Program in multiple public meetings, and posted the information on the City's electronic message boards, website, e-newsletter, and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Nextdoor). Program information was also published in the Islander Newspaper.

All properties within a 500-foot radius of both subject intersections were notified via mail and Public Works staff met with homeowners associations and businesses at their request.

The City has also coordinated with property managers to provide requested 'no through traffic' signage.

9. How were these intersections selected for the program?

The two intersections were selected based on the volume of traffic that they experience during a typical commute day.

10. Why aren't left-turns at Foster City Boulevard prohibited?

After extensive research and analysis, Foster City Boulevard was not identified as an intersection eligible for the Program to ensure access was maintained on the street due to safety concerns.

11. How will I know when the left-turn lanes are restricted?

Electronic sign boards have been posted at each intersection to alert drivers of the Pilot Program, and will remain in place throughout Program implementation. The subject left-turn lanes will be clearly marked with signage and/or delineator posts during the Program hours.

The area will be monitored throughout the Program period, but especially during the evening commute hours, by engineering and law enforcement staff.

12. How do I report unsafe traffic situations?

Citizens are encouraged to report unsafe non-emergency situations to the Foster City Police Department non-emergency line at 650-286-3300. Emergency situations should be reported immediately by dialing 9-1-1. Motorists are asked to be responsible and safe when using cell phones to report incidents.

Traffic Relief Pilot Program Contact Information:

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www.fostercity.org/trafficreliefpilotprogram