KEY FACTS
Mission Traffic Down—Speeding Enrollment at Ohlone College

Working with the City of Fremont, Ohlone College has seen a recent decrease in the number of cars on Mission Boulevard during rush hour. And these aren’t temporary fixes – Hans Larsen, the Public Works Director for the city has assured the college that not only are the traffic reduction measures working, they will be tweaked as needed to ensure I-680 commuters stay on the freeway and not use Mission Boulevard and neighborhood streets as a shortcut. By adjusting signal timing, restricting turns at certain intersections, ramp metering at freeway entrances and partnering with the Waze app, a 33% reduction in traffic on Mission Boulevard has been achieved. Also, construction has begun on adding a new northbound lane to I-680 in Fremont and through the Sunol Grade which will further alleviate traffic congestion issues in the area when the project is complete in November 2020.

As congestion is easing on Mission Boulevard, Ohlone College and its students, staff, and neighborhood communities will benefit. Residents in the surrounding neighborhoods will encounter fewer blocked streets, while students will have less challenging traffic to negotiate on their way to and from Ohlone College, their homes, jobs, or the college’s center in Newark.

DID YOU KNOW?
40% of cars on Mission Boulevard are motorists cutting through who do not live or work in Fremont.

Source: “Taming Traffic in Fremont”, City of Fremont, 2017
CAUSES OF TRAFFIC IN FREMONT:

Severe jobs and housing imbalance in the Silicon Valley and Peninsula
Silicon Valley has added 50,000 new jobs per year, but only 5,000 new homes per year during the same period. These new workers are settling into affordable housing found in the fastest growing cities over the Sunol Grade, in the Central Valley and Tri-Valley area.

Fremont is at the crossroads
Fremont’s location at the crossroads between the jobs and the affordable housing over the Sunol Grade means commute routes pass right through Fremont and are a main source of our traffic congestion. In fact, 40% of cars on Mission Boulevard are motorists cutting through who do not live or work in Fremont.

The rise of navigation apps
Our regional cut-through traffic issue is intensified with commuter’s use of navigation apps such as Waze. These apps redirect regional traffic onto our local streets to save users a few minutes of travel time.

LOCAL EFFORTS

Ramp Metering
Caltrans uses ramp meters to enhance freeway traffic flow by regulating the volume and spacing of vehicles that enter freeways. A smoother flow of traffic on I-680 attracts motorists to remain on the freeway and eliminates the need to use local streets to bypass congestion.

Stop Signs
The addition of stop-controlled intersections on Paseo Padre Parkway has reduced cut-through traffic, and residents can more easily access their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Cut-Through Traffic Relief Project
Enforceable turn restrictions have been placed in key locations to prevent commuters from cutting through residential neighborhoods. This makes bypassing freeway congestion difficult, unproductive, and potentially costly due to traffic tickets.

Waze Partnership
The City of Fremont has partnered with Waze to develop better driving route options. Since implementation of the turn restrictions, Waze has removed the cut-through routes from their navigation algorithms, keeping commuters on the freeway and major roads that are designed for high traffic volumes.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

I-680 Express Lane
This project will provide an express toll and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane on northbound I-680 from State Route 237 in Milpitas to State Route 84 in Sunol. Construction has started and is planned for completion in early 2020.

Alameda County Transportation Commission Funded Projects
The Alameda CTC is delivering on the promises of Measure BB to fund critical transportation projects in Alameda County. Funded projects in Fremont include modernizing the traffic signal system, optimizing the timing of traffic signals, and upgrading streets and bikeways.

BART Extension
The Milpitas and Berryessa BART Stations are scheduled to open in 2018. The BART extension to San Jose will provide direct access to Silicon Valley jobs from Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and the Tri-Valley Area.

FREMONT’S MOBILITY ACTION PLAN

IN THE FALL OF 2017, Fremont’s Mayor Lily Mei and the City Council formed a 14-member community task force to address the issues of traffic congestion, travel alternatives, traffic safety, and emerging transportation technologies. The Mobility Task Force is working with City staff and consultants to prepare a 5-year Mobility Action Plan for Fremont to be completed later this year. Work activities over the next two months (from April 20th thru June 20th) include an extensive community education and input process that includes public meetings, booths at community events, and an online survey.

DID YOU KNOW?

Due to the City of Fremont’s broad efforts to ease traffic congestion, traffic on Mission Boulevard and the surrounding area is now down 33%.