

Bikes on Transit

General Rules:

- All bicyclists must pay the appropriate fare. There is no additional charge for bringing a bicycle on board.
- Allow other passengers to enter or exit before loading or unloading your bicycle.
- Bicyclists are responsible for loading and unloading their bicycles.
- Do not block doors, aisles, or stairwells with your bicycle while on board.
- Avoid getting chain grease on transit vehicles and other passengers.
- Muddy bicycles are not permitted on board at any time.
- Bicyclists must attend to bicycles not secured in racks while on board transit vehicles.
- Only human powered and sealed dry cell or gel cell electric-assisted bicycles are allowed on board.
- In emergency situations, please leave your bicycle on board.
- Always walk your bicycle on station platforms and at transit centers.
- Do not lock your bicycle to poles, light fixtures, railings, etc. at transit centers or on rail platforms.



Bikes on VTA Buses

All VTA buses have exterior racks that accommodate two bicycles. Newer 60-foot articulated buses also have bike parking inside the bus, accessible through the rear door. Let the operator know before loading or unloading your bike.



Bikes on VTA Light Rail

Each VTA light rail vehicle has interior racks with space for up to four bicycles. Please enter through the doors marked by a bicycle symbol.



Bikes are allowed on Caltrain and BART

See caltrain.com and bart.gov for details.

Tips for Commuting by Bicycle

- Plan your route in advance.** Use this map, online maps, and talk to other bicyclists to find the best route for you. Test your route when you're not in a rush.
- Maintain your bicycle in good condition.** Check brakes regularly and keep tires properly inflated. Routine maintenance is simple and you can learn to do it yourself.
- Ride a well-equipped bicycle.** Be sure your bicycle is adjusted to fit you properly. Outfit it with front and rear lights, a bell, rear-view mirror and fenders (for rainy rides). Racks, baskets or bike bags are also useful for carrying things.
- Dress appropriately.** Wear a helmet whenever you ride (required by law for bicyclists 17 and under). Wear clothes in layers, so you can adjust to temperature changes on longer rides. Wear reflectors or fluorescent colors when riding in the dark.
- Add transit to your ride.** Taking your bike on the bus or train means you can travel longer distances or skip sections you're not comfortable biking.
- Take a class.** Several organizations provide bicycle classes for adults. Start by contacting the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition: bikesiliconvalley.org
- Expressways:** Bicycles are permitted on all Santa Clara County expressways. The expressways generally carry high volumes of traffic at high speeds. Bicyclists are therefore advised to use caution. Although there are bike lanes on some expressways, expressways should only be used by bicyclists with advanced skills.
- On-ramps/off-ramps:** Bicyclists should exercise extreme caution in areas where freeway and expressway on-ramps and off-ramps merge with local streets.
- Bike loop detectors:** At some intersections, bicyclists can trigger a green light by placing the bicycle's wheels on the loop detector. The loop indicator may or may not be marked with a permanent stencil.



Bay Area Bike Share

Bikes are available for 30-minute rentals at Bay Area Bike Share stations. For a map of locations, pricing, and more information: bayareabikeshare.com.

Secure Bike Lockers

Secure bike parking is provided at various locations throughout Santa Clara County. See the map on the reverse side for locations.



Day-use lockers

VTA provides first-come first-serve electronic bike lockers at VTA transit centers and most light rail and Caltrain stations. A nominal fee, deducted from a "smart card" is charged for each use. To view locker locations or to sign up for a BikeLink smart card: bikelink.org (888) 540-0546.

Long-term use lockers

VTA rents bike lockers to bicyclists with a \$25 key deposit. Keyed lockers are provided at light rail stations, transit centers, and Caltrain stations. To inquire about renting a locker: (408) 321-7520, Bikelockers@vta.org.

Caltrain Stations

Most Caltrain stations in Santa Clara County offer secure bike parking. For inquiries:

Bike lockers at stations Tamien northward: contact Caltrain at caltrain.com or (650) 508-6350.

Bike lockers at stations south of Tamien: contact VTA at bikelockers@vta.org or (408) 321-7520.

Bicycle storage shed in Mountain View: City of Mountain View public.works@mountainview.gov or (650) 903-6311.

Palo Alto BikeStation: (652) 733-0106 or bikestation.org or Palo Alto Bicycles at (650) 328-7411.

BART Stations

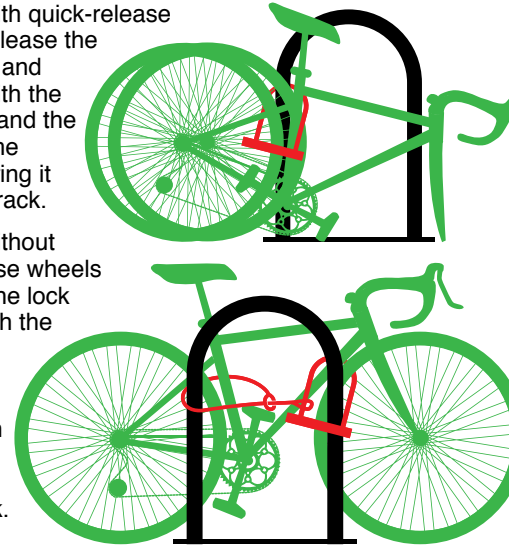
Milpitas and Berryessa BART stations will provide electronic bike lockers and a secure bike room, once they open in 2017.

Preventing Bicycle Theft

Locking your bike to a bicycle rack can prevent most bicycle thefts:

Securing your bicycle using a "U"-Type Lock

- On bikes with quick-release wheels – release the front wheel and include it with the rear wheel and the bicycle frame when securing it to the bike rack.
- On bikes without quick-release wheels – position the lock through both the front wheel and the bicycle frame when securing it to the bicycle rack.



Securing your bicycle using a cable lock or chain:

- Use a cable or chain at least 3/8" in diameter.
- Use a key lock with a 3/8" hardened shackle with heel and toe locking.
- Loop the cable or chain through each of the wheels, the bicycle frame and the rack.
- Pull up all slack in the cable or chain and make sure the lock is as high off the ground as possible.

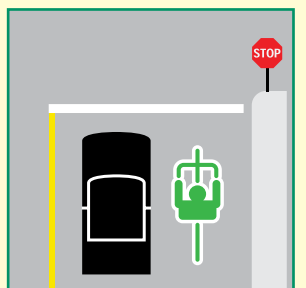
BICYCLING LAWS & SAFETY TIPS

Bicyclists, like all roadway users, must follow the California Vehicle Code. The Vehicle Code is available through the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Did you know?

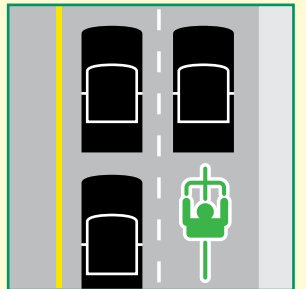
- Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists.
- Bicyclists may ride on all roadways unless it is specifically prohibited.
- When passing bicyclists, motorists must leave at least three feet between the bicycle and vehicle. If three feet is not possible, motorists must slow down and pass safely.
- Unless specifically prohibited, slower-speed electric bikes are permitted on paved paths if they have a maximum motor-assisted speed of 20 mph. Trail speed limits must be followed.

DOs



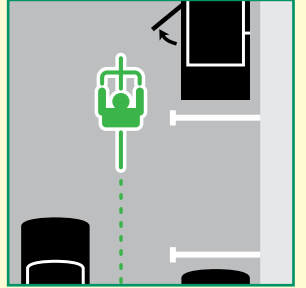
Obey traffic signs and signals

Bicyclists are required to come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.



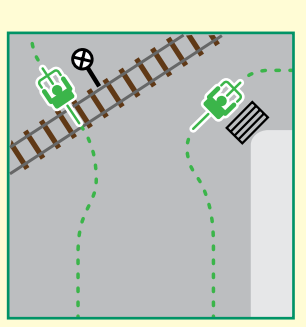
Ride in the middle of the lane in slow traffic

Don't ride the line. Get in the middle of the lanes at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.



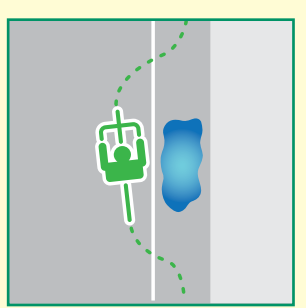
Ride with both hands, ready to brake

You may need to stop suddenly at unexpected times. In rain, allow three times the normal braking distance.



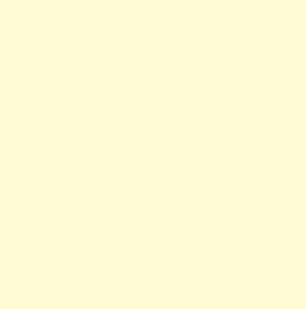
Keep clear of the door zone

Ride a door's width away from parked cars. You have the right to ride in the middle of a traffic lane if it is too narrow to share with a car.



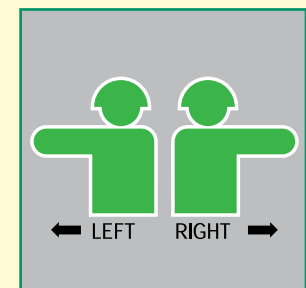
Scan the road around you

Keep your eyes roving constantly for cars, people, sand and gravel, grates, etc. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.



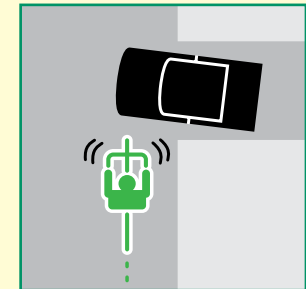
Ride the speed limit on trails

Most trails have speed limits of 15 mph or less. Respect the safety and comfort of other trail users by riding at or below the speed limit, and slowing when passing.



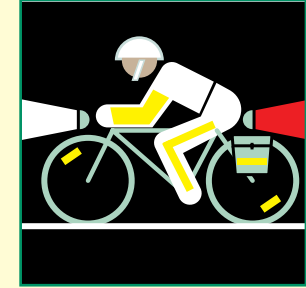
Follow lane markings

Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked right-turn only.



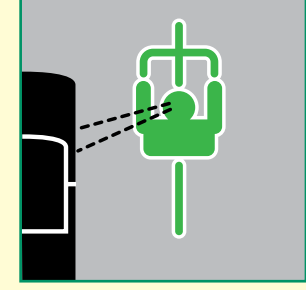
Watch for cars pulling out

Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until you are sure they do. When the sun is in their eyes, drivers may not see you.



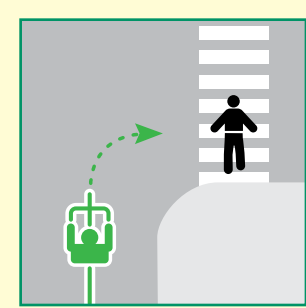
Call out when passing other trail users

Slow down, call out or ring a bell before passing other trail users, and always give at least three feet passing distance.



Yield to pedestrians

Pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks have the right-of-way. When entering or exiting driveways, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

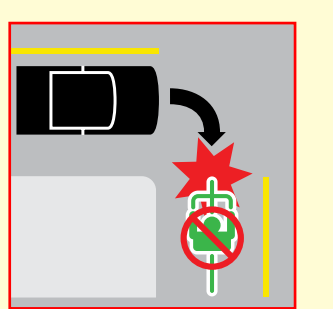


Choose the best way to turn left

There are three ways to make a left turn.

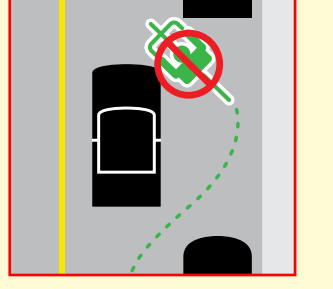
- Like a vehicle:** Signal, look back for oncoming traffic, then move into the left turn lane. Turn left when it is clear.
- Like a bicycle:** Ride to the far side of the intersection, stop, turn, and then ride across the street when the light turns green.
- Like a pedestrian:** Walk your bike across the intersection.

DON'Ts



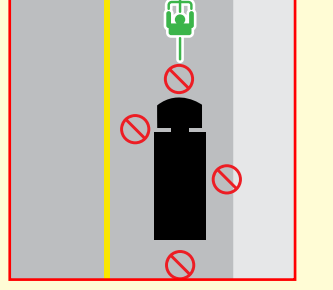
Never ride against traffic

Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding against traffic on the wrong side of the road.



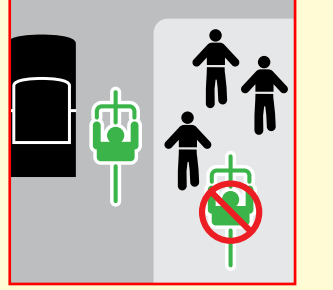
Don't weave between parked cars

Motorists may not see you when you try to move into traffic.



In front, or far behind, not beside!

To ensure drivers of large vehicles (buses, trucks and motor homes) can see you, stay out of their blind spots. Never pass on the right side. Ride far enough behind for the driver to see you, and at least four feet from the sides to avoid falling under a large vehicle.



Don't ride on the sidewalk

The sidewalk is for pedestrians. Riding on the sidewalk is against the law in some cities. If you must ride on the sidewalk, ride slowly, yield to pedestrians, and watch for cars at driveways and intersections.



Don't pass on the right

Motorists may not look for nor see a bicycle passing on the right.



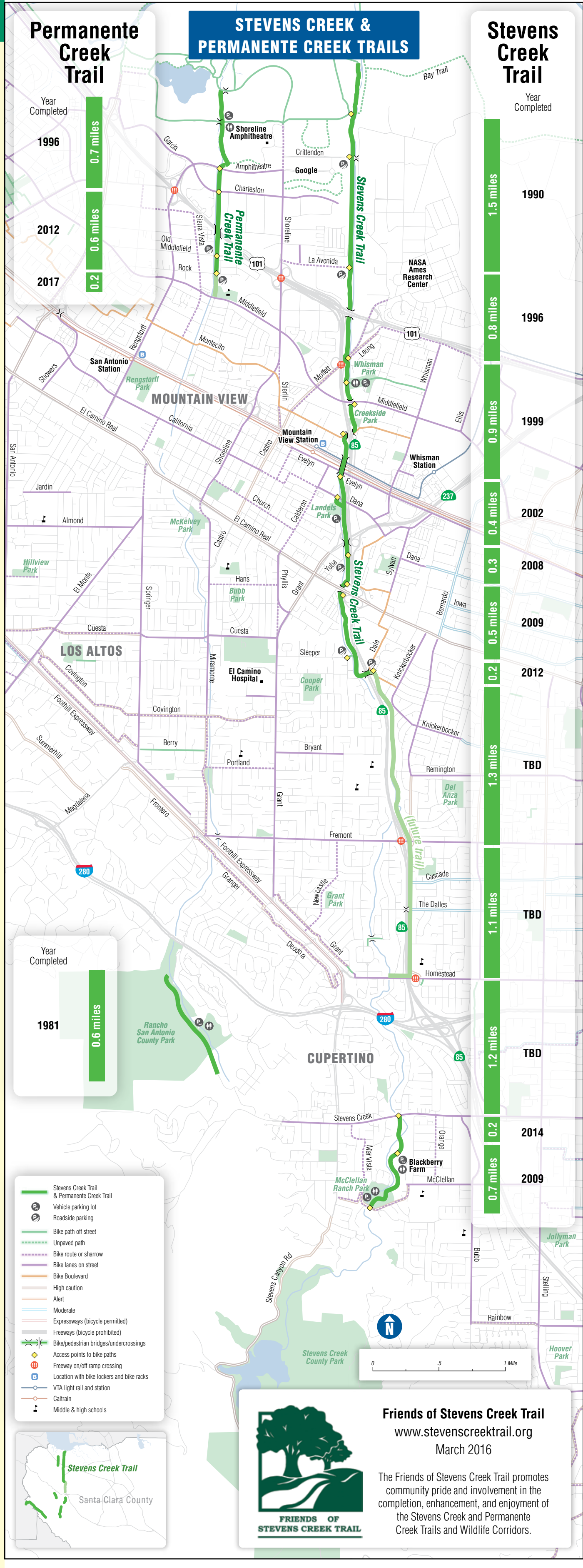
Don't bike under the influence

It is against the law to ride a bicycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



Earbuds only in one ear

It is against the law to wear earphones or earbuds in both ears while riding. You must always keep one ear free to listen to traffic.



VTA Contact Information

VTA Downtown Customer Service Center
55-A West Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Customer Service Call Center
(408) 321-2300
Automated information available 24 hours in English/Spanish
(800) 894-8908 outside Santa Clara County
(408) 321-2330 TTY
customer.service@vta.org

VTA Bike Locker Information
(408) 321-7520
bikelockers@vta.org

Lost and Found
If you forget your bike on the bus or train, you can claim it at 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134 in the Protective Service's Department located in Building C between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call (408) 321-7171 to check for your bicycle before arriving.

Get Involved

VTA and County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee . . . www.vta.org/get-involved/committees
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition . . . siliconvalleybikes.org
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail . . . stevenscreektrail.org
California Bicycle Coalition . . . calbike.org
California Walks . . . californiawalks.org

Many cities have a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) comprised of residents who provide input on bicycle and pedestrian issues. Contact your city government for more information.

The VTA Bikeways Map illustrates the bike lanes, multi-use paths, and bicycle/pedestrian bridges throughout Santa Clara County. The map also rates the level of difficulty for selected streets. The ratings were developed jointly by VTA, local jurisdictions and bicyclists. This map is also available at www.vta.org/bikes

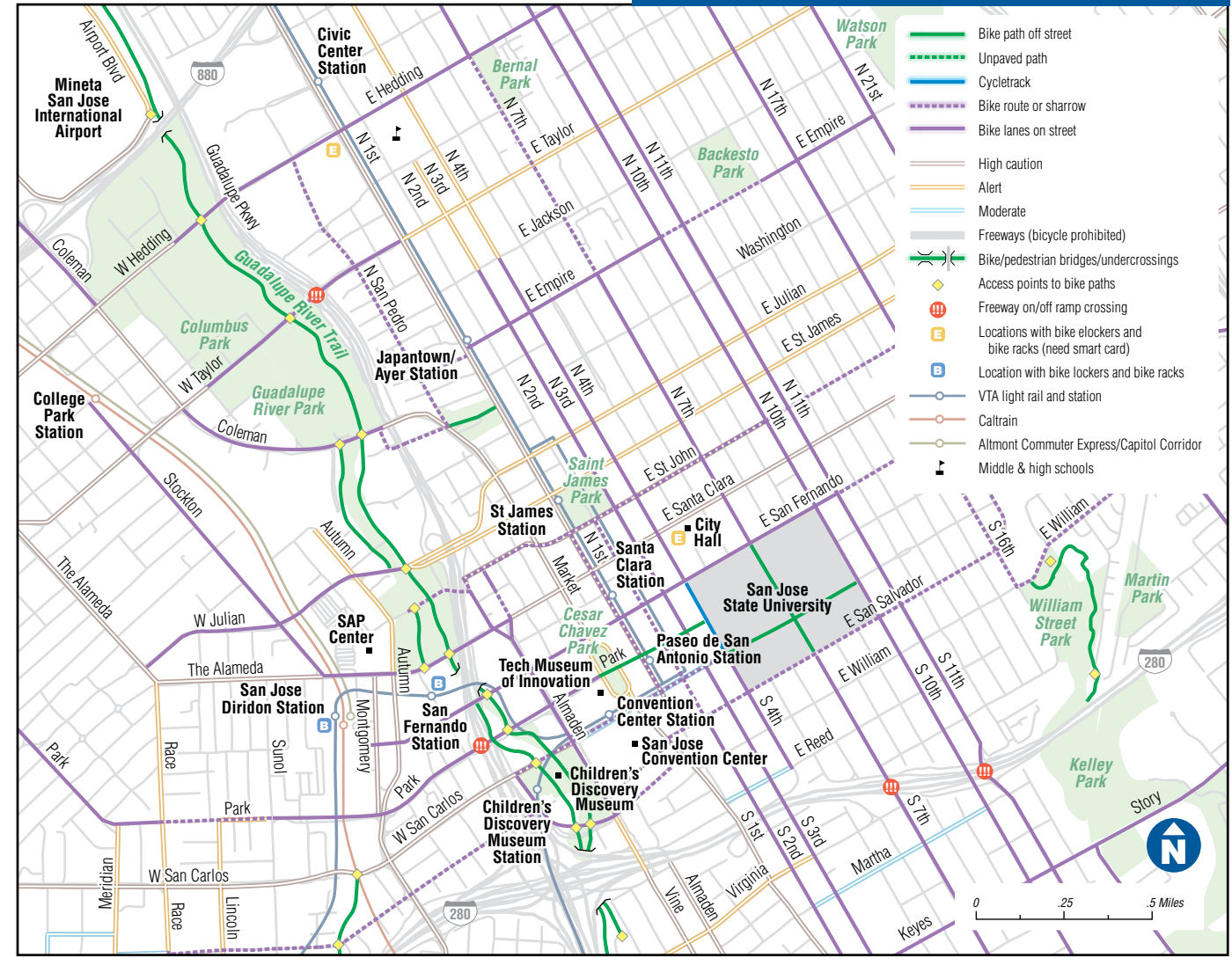


"Getting out of the car and onto the trail is the best way to see Santa Clara County's beauty."

Ken Yeager, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 4, current member of VTA Board of Directors and former Vice Chair.



DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE



Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
www.stevenscreektrail.org
March 2016

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail promotes community pride and involvement in the completion, enhancement, and enjoyment of the Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek Trails and Wildlife Corridors.