



## **Frequently Asked Questions about the City of Mountain View Reaching Tentative Settlement on Litigation over Narrow Streets and Bike Lane Ordinances**

The City of Mountain View and the plaintiffs in the *Navarro v. City of Mountain View* lawsuit have reached a tentative settlement over the Narrow Streets and Bike Lane ordinances. As part of the agreed-upon terms, the City will begin enforcing the voter-approved [Narrow Streets Ordinance](#) and the [Bike Lane Ordinance](#) on Saturday, Oct. 1. The tentative settlement agreement will be posted on the City's website, [MountainView.gov](http://MountainView.gov), when it becomes available.

View the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for questions about the tentative settlement agreement, parking rules in Mountain View, and local services for individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are unstably housed.

### **Q: What is Measure C?**

A: The City Council adopted the Narrow Streets Ordinance on Oct. 22, 2019. However, in December 2019, a referendum petition against the Narrow Streets Ordinance, signed by the required number of qualified voters, was filed with the City, which required City Council to either repeal the ordinance in its entirety or submit the ordinance to the voters. Per the requirements of the Elections Code, the ordinance was suspended and, in January 2020, the City Council placed the ordinance on the ballot. The ordinance, known as Measure C, passed by nearly 57% in the November 2020 election.

### **Q: Why were the Narrow Streets and Bike Lane ordinances not enforced after Measure C passed?**

A: The City had to install over 2,000 signs on all narrow streets and streets with bike lanes throughout the entire city in order to provide notice about the parking restrictions. It was necessary for the City to make the signs, hire a contractor to install the signs, and provide advance notice to residents on every street before installing the signs. Sign installation began at the beginning of July 2021. On July 14, 2021, a lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in the Northern District of California, San Jose Division, over the Narrow Streets and Bike Lane ordinances. The Bike Lane Ordinance prohibits oversized vehicle parking on streets with bike lanes. Since then, the litigation has been on hold while both parties were involved in settlement negotiations. In accordance with the latest stipulated agreement, the City agreed not to ticket or tow oversized vehicles for failing to comply with either ordinance until Aug. 30, 2022. The City and the plaintiffs in the *Navarro v. City of Mountain View* lawsuit reached a tentative settlement in late August 2022.

### **Q: What are narrow streets? Is my street considered narrow?**

A: In Mountain View, a narrow street is defined as a street that is 40 feet or less in width. Of the City's 525 total public streets, 470 streets, or 1,081 blocks, qualify as narrow.

View the [Narrow Streets List](#) for specific streets and the [Narrow Streets Map](#) for general reference (as of May 24, 2022).

**Q: What is the definition of an oversized vehicle?**

A: The City ordinance defines an oversized vehicle as any vehicle, or combination of connected vehicles, which exceeds 22 feet in length or 7 feet in width or 7 feet in height, such as recreational vehicles, boats and large trucks.

**Q: What does the Bike Lane Ordinance do?**

A: The [Bike Lane Ordinance](#) prohibits oversized vehicle parking on streets with bike lanes.

**Q: Now that there is a tentative settlement on litigation over the Narrow Streets and Bike Lane ordinances, when will the City begin enforcement?**

A: The City will conduct outreach about the tentative agreement to individuals living in oversized vehicles as well as schedule meetings with community-based organizations over the coming weeks. The City will begin enforcing both ordinances on Oct. 1, 2022.

**Q: Has the City enforced any parking violations since the litigation stay on enforcement of the Narrow Streets and Bike Lane ordinances went into effect?**

A: The City has been and will continue to enforce health and safety violations associated with parked vehicles. Such violations would include illegal dumping of waste or hazardous materials.

**Q: Where can someone who lives in an oversized vehicle park when the City begins enforcing these two ordinances on Oct. 1, 2022?**

A: As part of the settlement, the City will ensure that there are at least three (3) miles of public streets where oversized vehicle parking is allowed for the next four (4) years. However, as with any parking spot, availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis and other parking restrictions (such as the 72-hour parking restriction) will still apply. The City will distribute a map showing where parking is allowed and restricted, including streets where the narrow streets and bike lane ordinances apply, streets where there is no parking anytime for any vehicles, and streets with timed parking limits in Mountain View.

The map, which is available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian, can also be found on the City website, [MountainView.gov/ParkingRestrictionsMap](http://MountainView.gov/ParkingRestrictionsMap), and in print at Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro St., and Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St.

The City also provides a Safe Parking Program in conjunction with Santa Clara County, with wraparound services, up to 101 parking spaces, and operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The City's Safe Parking program is the largest in the County.

**Q: If someone is unable to move their oversized vehicle, what happens to them?**

A: If the owner is unable to move their oversized vehicle, the City will connect them with community-based organizations that may be able to assist with repairs, towing assistance, and/or additional community resources.

**Q: What are the exemptions to the Narrow Streets Ordinance?**

A: The ordinance includes the following limited exemptions:

1. Any oversized vehicle actively engaged in the loading or unloading of materials, supplies or goods in the delivery of goods, wares, merchandise or other materials at an adjacent business or residence for no longer than sixty (60) minutes;
2. Construction vehicles with a valid City of Mountain View-issued excavation or encroachment permit;
3. Commercial loading zones;

4. Any vehicle belonging to or under contract with federal, state or local government authorities, or a public utility, and any emergency vehicles as defined by California Vehicle Code Sec. 165;
5. Any commercial, business or public transit bus or commuter shuttle for no longer than two (2) hours, and any bus in an area specifically posted to allow bus parking for a prescribed time; and
6. Wheelchair-accessible vans with a valid disabled placard or license plate issued and properly displayed pursuant to the California Vehicle Code.

The Municipal Code Section can be found here: [Municipal Code: SEC. 19.79.4. - Parking of oversized vehicles on certain narrow streets prohibited.](#)

**Q: Are changes coming to where overnight parking is allowed in Mountain View?**

A: At the [Tuesday, May 24 meeting](#), the City Council modified the list of city streets subject to the 2-6 a.m. parking restriction to reduce the number of streets subject to this parking ban. As a result, 30 streets will see their overnight parking ban lifted. [View No Parking 2 a.m.-6 a.m. map.](#)

In late August 2022, City crews began removing the signage where overnight parking had previously been prohibited. Most of these streets are wider than 40' and, therefore, oversized vehicle would be allowed to park on these streets overnight except where parking is otherwise prohibited such as blocking fire hydrants or entrances near driveways.

**Q: Are there other parking rules in Mountain View that the public needs to be aware of?**

A: Starting Oct. 1, the City will also begin enforcing all [timed parking ordinances](#). This includes the 72-hour-parking ordinance, which means a vehicle is only allowed to park in the same spot on a public street for up to 72 hours. After 72 hours, the vehicle must move to a different location. Vehicles parked beyond this time may be issued a warning, cited, and/or towed.

Vehicles that violate health and safety regulations (for example, illegal dumping of waste) are subject to immediate enforcement, including citation and/or towing.

To avoid citations when parking on a public roadway, the public is encouraged to pay attention to time limits, fire lanes and limitations indicated by painted curbs or signs. Time limits, such as 2-hour or 5-hour parking, are posted on signs. The 72-hour parking limit is citywide and applies to all streets regardless of signage or painted curbs.

The Mountain View Police Department will prioritize educating the public on the new parking rules and will enforce parking rules through routine police patrols and on a complaint basis.

**Q: Does the 72-hour parking ordinance apply to all vehicles?**

A: The 72-hour parking limit applies to all vehicles parked on any street within the city regardless of size of the vehicle and regardless of signage or painted curbs.

**Q: What should I do if I come across an abandoned vehicle?**

A: The public can report abandoned vehicles by calling the City's Abandoned Vehicle Hotline at 650-903-6358 or use the online Ask MV service request tool, [MountainView.gov.AskMV](#).

**Q: What should I do if I am experiencing access or sight line issues at a driveway or intersection due to oversized vehicle parking?**

A: The public can use the online Ask MV service request tool, [MountainView.gov/AskMV](#), or call Public Works

at 650-903-6311 to request a traffic engineering review to determine if red curb or signage is needed to improve driveway access or sight lines.

**Q: Has the City made any clean up efforts to address trash or human waste around vehicles?**

A: The City has been enforcing health and safety violations throughout the pandemic. City staff has conducted 19 clean-up days on various City streets since September 2021 alone. This includes hauling trash, cleaning up areas in the public right of way, and addressing any health and safety violations such as illegal dumping of waste or hazardous material. This is a challenging matter as City staff may clean up a street or area in the public right of way one day and the same location may have trash again shortly thereafter. In addition, the City relies on the public's help to alert staff about potential illegal dumping that may be occurring. Often when City staff arrives onsite, the offending party is no longer around and staff are unable to address the health and safety violation with the individual(s). The public can call the Police Department at 650-903-6344 to report any health and safety violations.

**Q. Does the City have services available to assist individuals who are experiencing homelessness?**

A: The City of Mountain View is a strong partner in providing a regional response to ending homelessness. The City's efforts include:

- [Safe Parking Program](#), with up to 101 parking spaces provided in conjunction with the County of Santa Clara and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The City's safe parking program is the largest in the County.
- Emergency sheltering, with 65 beds provided in conjunction with the County.
- Funding for a permanent supportive contract with the County to provide assistance to 20 households.

The City is also currently working with the County to convert the Crestview Hotel into 67 permanent affordable housing units in an effort to help people who are experiencing homelessness.

The City recognizes that the demand for affordable housing is greater than the housing stock that is currently available within Santa Clara County. As one city alone cannot meet the housing demand, the City of Mountain View continues to support and engage in a regional approach for finding solutions to end and prevent homelessness.

**Q: Does the City offer any programs to help individuals and families transition to stable housing?**

A: [LifeMoves Mountain View](#) opened its doors in Mountain View in May 2021. The interim housing community provides wraparound services to help people experiencing homelessness transition to permanent housing through case management and housing location services. The site features private modular units for 100 households with beds for up to 124 people, including families and children. LifeMoves Mountain View was recently recognized for development excellence in North America by the Urban Land Institute.

More information about local services available to individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are unstably housed in Mountain View is available on the [City website](#).

**Q. What else is the City doing to help residents with lower incomes?**

A: The City is a recognized leader and has demonstrated a commitment to supporting our most vulnerable community members. In addition to the programs mentioned above (Safe Parking Program, LifeMoves Mountain View, Crestview Hotel conversion), other examples of recent efforts include:

- Launching a Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program called *Elevate MV* in September 2022. The program will provide \$500 per month to 166 low-income Mountain View residents for two years. The

pilot has been in the planning stages for over a year, and City staff has been working in close partnership with Santa Clara County and the Community Services Agency, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research, Stanford University Basic Income Lab, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

- Providing over \$5 million in rent relief and direct assistance funding to the most vulnerable residents during the pandemic, working in close partnership with the Community Services Agency to disburse funding
- Providing \$1.8 million in funding to the Mountain View Solidarity Fund, working with the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation, to disburse one-time flexible financial assistance to extremely low-income residents, including residents who are unstably housed.

For more details, visit [MountainView.gov/NarrowStreets](https://MountainView.gov/NarrowStreets).

### **About the City of Mountain View**

Located between the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Francisco Bay, Mountain View is a diverse community with an estimated population of 83,864. Mountain View covers just over 12 square miles, featuring over 1,000 acres of park and wildlife areas including the 750-acre wildlife and recreation area called Shoreline at Mountain View. In the heart of Silicon Valley, Mountain View is home to a vibrant downtown and headquarters to many nationally and internationally known corporations including Google, LinkedIn, Intuit and NASA's Ames Research Center. For more information, visit [MountainView.gov](https://MountainView.gov).

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