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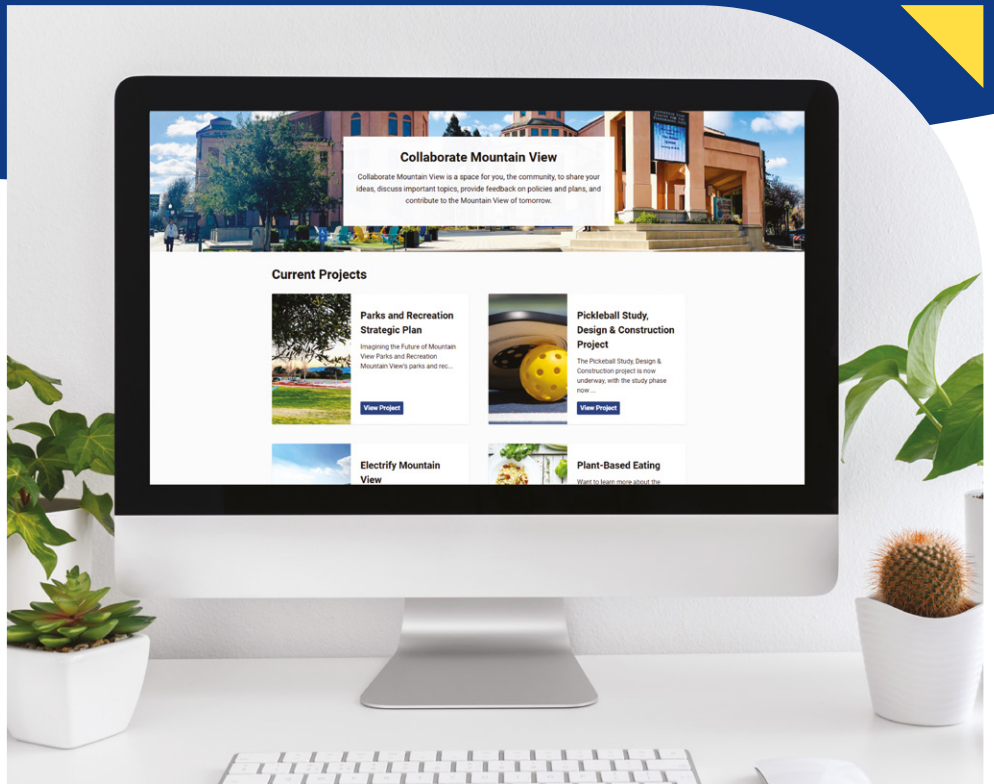
# VIEW

Spring/Summer 2024

## City Launches Website to Collaborate with the Community

The City has launched Collaborate Mountain View, an interactive digital space for our diverse community to share ideas, discuss important topics and provide feedback on policies and plans that will help shape Mountain View's future.

This exciting new way to engage with the City is part of our commitment to fostering a Community for All. The new site makes it more convenient for everyone to provide feedback and work with the City on initiatives that interest or impact them.



This platform was created with our community members in mind. Every person deserves an equal opportunity to inform the decisions that impact them. The City is committed to creating those opportunities in a way that is convenient and easy for our community.

To participate in Collaborate Mountain View, visit [Collaborate.MountainView.gov](https://Collaborate.MountainView.gov). Be sure to bookmark the page as more projects will be added to the site in the coming months.

Recent projects on the site have included:



Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan



Pickleball Study, Design and Construction Project



California Street Pilot Program



Cooper Park Off-Leash Dog Area Relocation



## Message from City Manager Kimbra McCarthy

With the warmer weather upon us, I hope you come experience Downtown Mountain View and see for yourself the changes underway that contribute to a vibrant and walkable city center.

We recently launched the Outdoor Patio Program for businesses, which provides you with convenience and safety when dining outdoors at our many Downtown restaurants. The City has also provided grants to 40 businesses to help them with the purchase of outdoor furnishings to provide a comfortable experience for visitors.

Meantime, I am delighted that Mountain View received the prestigious “Prohousing” designation by the Governor and State Department of Housing and Community Development. This designation allows us to seek additional funding for our affordable housing projects and confirms what we already know: Mountain View is a regional leader in developing housing across income levels.

All this contributes to fulfilling the vision for the Mountain View of Tomorrow. In the meantime, the City is exploring a potential revenue measure for the November 2024 ballot, which you will read more about in this edition. The community will be a part of the decision-making process as we explore next steps in the coming weeks.

## Elevate MV: One Year In

It was just over one year ago when the City of Mountain View launched Elevate MV, a two-year guaranteed basic income pilot program. The goal of Elevate MV is to empower participating low-income families and improve their financial security through a monthly direct cash payment of **\$500 per month**.

All these months later, participants are reporting the difference this program is making in their lives.

The monthly financial assistance has played a pivotal role in the well-being of participants’ families. Program participants have enhanced their family relationships by not having to work multiple jobs so they can be more present in their children’s lives, or simply affording a weekend off and enjoying a leisure activity.

As one participant stated: *“I have been able to visit places with my daughters and truly have enjoyed having somewhat of an economic stability to take them out to places and enjoy things we couldn’t in the past because mommy was always working to make ends meet.”*

To be eligible, applicants had to be a Mountain View resident, be extremely low-income, and be pregnant or a caregiver for at least one child under the age of 18 at the time of application.

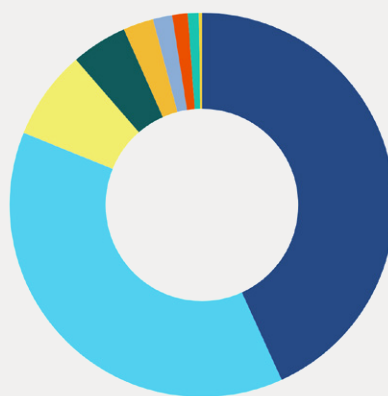
Data that is being collected from Elevate MV participants as part of a larger research effort has found participants spend the monthly cash payments in the following categories:

1. Retail sales and services (43%)
2. Food and groceries (38%)
3. Transportation-related expenses (7.5%)

At the end of December 2024, when the Elevate MV pilot program concludes, a report will be prepared that will provide insights into how participants used the funds to support their families. The report will also look at additional effects of unrestricted income on health, happiness, employment and belonging in Mountain View.

For more information, visit [MountainView.gov/ElevateMV](https://MountainView.gov/ElevateMV).

### Spending Breakdown



- 43.2% — Retail sales and services
- 37.92% — Food and groceries
- 7.51% — Transportation
- 4.71% — Housing and utilities
- 2.55% — Healthcare and medical
- 1.62% — Travel, leisure and entertainment
- 1.3% — Financial transactions
- 0.91% — Miscellaneous
- 0.27% — Education

## Revenue Measure Under Consideration

Mountain View is fortunate that its fiscal stewardship over the years has historically produced sufficient financial resources to maintain the high-quality services enjoyed by Mountain View residents today.

As with most municipalities, repairs, maintenance, and eventual replacement of facilities and infrastructure will continue to be an ongoing need in the future. The City's public safety administration building and several of our firehouses will be reaching the end of their useful lives and require replacement or extensive renovations in order to maintain best-in-class public safety services.

As such, at the June 13, 2023, City Council meeting, Council approved the Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25 Council Work Plan which included a Priority A work plan project to "explore the feasibility of a potential 2024 revenue measure."

To better understand which future priorities the residents of Mountain View believe should be addressed, the City engaged a polling firm to get resident input. Following are the key observations:

- Voters are optimistic about the direction of the City.
- Mountain View constituents feel the City is going in the right direction and are satisfied with their services as well as the City's fiscal management, a marked departure from many municipalities in California.
- Housing affordability is by far the most prominent top-of-mind concern.
- Although two-thirds believe that high-quality City services are crucial, even if it means raising taxes, fewer than half see a need for additional funding for the City, and only one in 10 perceive a great need.
- Potential measure components related to public safety and road/street infrastructure are high priorities for funding.

The City Council will ultimately decide on whether to place a revenue measure on the November 2024 ballot at the June 25 meeting.

Together we can build the Mountain View of tomorrow while maintaining our ongoing fiscal stability and high quality of services.



## City Budget Season

While there has been growth in certain revenue sources— such as property tax, sales tax, utility users' tax and investment earnings— the growth has not been as robust as in prior fiscal years. In addition to the sluggish growth, there is still a large amount of economic uncertainty that exists in the national and local economies.

Residential and commercial transactions have slowed down due to elevated interest rates. This reduced volume has, in turn, reduced property tax growth projections.

It remains to be seen if an actual slowdown of the local economy is on the horizon. Based on layoff announcements of local companies with headquarters or a large presence in the area, the City is bracing for a slowdown in revenue growth, particularly with business license tax revenue, which is based on the head count of employees working in the city. Finance staff continues to monitor economic data and activity that will be used to refine the City's forecast.

City staff is in the process of developing the Recommended Budget for FY 2024-25, which will include updated revenues,

expenditures and budget proposals. The preliminary forecast for FY 2024-25 projects total General Operating Fund revenues of **\$185.2 million**, an increase of **\$2.8 million** or **1.5%** from the FY 2023-24 estimated revenue amount, and expenditures of **\$185.0 million**, an increase of **\$15.2 million** or **9.0%** from the FY 2023-24 estimated expenditure amount.

The budget will be presented at the Tuesday, June 25 City Council meeting.

**For updates about the current City budget, visit [MountainView.gov/Budget](https://MountainView.gov/Budget).**



# Downtown Welcomes You

The City of Mountain continues its efforts to convert the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Castro Street into a pedestrian mall that feels welcoming, vibrant and active.

The City took advantage of the winter months, with the inclement weather and reduced foot traffic, to complete some critical projects and prepare for the very active spring and summer seasons. Since the resurfacing of Castro Street in November and December 2023, the City has installed 30 business patio areas, added brightly colored public seating, and adorned the street with more

greenery and flowers. More efforts are underway to beautify the Castro Street intersections.

Revitalization of the Downtown is a top priority for the City. There are four focus areas for this revitalization, including the creation of 1) a thriving business environment, 2) clean and welcoming space, 3) opportunities for social engagement, and 4) an area where people feel safe. With these objectives in mind, the City is hard at work on various projects and initiatives for Downtown. This includes, but is not limited to:



## ONGOING (Happening now)

- Downtown Maintenance & Improved Aesthetics
- Public Seating & Social Zones
- Outdoor Patio Areas
- Food Vendor Education & Enforcement
- Public Safety Strategies
- Homeless Mitigation Efforts
- Code Enforcement
- Employee Parking Permit Program
- Development Updates
- Business Support & Promotions
- Downtown Committee Meetings

## SHORT TERM (Planned for 2024-2025)

- Spring/Summer Events
- Wayfinding Signage Program
- Decorative Street Treatments
- Removal of Bus Shelters
- Facade Improvement Grant Program
- Vacant Property Analysis & Strategies
- Economic Vitality Strategy
- Development Updates

## LONGER TERM (Planned for 3+ years out)

- Private Development Projects
- Castro Street Grade Separation
- Public Safety Building
- Lot 5 Parking Structure
- Permanent Farmers' Market Location
- Downtown Precise Plan Update
- Interim Pedestrian Mall Intersection Improvements
- Permanent Pedestrian Mall\*
- Transit Center Master Plan\*

*\* Projects that are longer term (5-10 years)*

★ Residents, business owners and visitors can now keep up to date on these efforts by visiting [MountainView.gov/Downtown](https://MountainView.gov/Downtown). You can also submit feedback and questions by emailing [Downtown@mountainview.gov](mailto:Downtown@mountainview.gov).

## Receive the Downtown Digest in Your Email

To help residents, business owners, and visitors stay informed about ongoing, current and future Downtown initiatives and projects, the City is producing this monthly newsletter called Downtown Digest. To sign up to receive the

Downtown Digest in your email, or to read it online, visit the newly updated [MountainView.gov/Downtown](https://MountainView.gov/Downtown).

These sources will be regularly updated to ensure everyone has the most current Downtown information.



# El Camino Real Paving and Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements Project

El Camino Real, also known as State Route 82, is owned and maintained by the State of California (Caltrans) and serves as a vital corridor for the City's multimodal transportation network.

In 2018, Caltrans identified paving improvement needs on El Camino Real for both Mountain View and Palo Alto and design began in 2020. During the design of the paving project, the City worked with Caltrans to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle improvements into their project, including the removal of on-street parking on El Camino Real, to advance the City's vision of an improved and revitalized boulevard, consistent with the El Camino Real Streetscape Plan. Over the past two years, Caltrans has performed various pothole and spot patch maintenance

repairs in Mountain View in an effort to address localized failing pavement prior to the larger repaving project.

In November 2023, a community meeting in Mountain View was held where Caltrans presented updates to the project scope and schedule for the repaving project, noting the start of construction in 2024. Staff from Caltrans and the cities of Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto answered questions from the public regarding project phasing as well as the need for improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Caltrans' construction project to repave El Camino Real, from the Palo Alto/Menlo Park border to Mountain View near Grant Road is now underway. Construction began in Palo Alto with curb ramp replacements and other concrete elements, and the

contractor is working their way into Mountain View with this same work. The concrete phase is expected to continue until approximately June 2024, and then will be followed by the paving work this summer. In Mountain View, the project includes repaving El Camino Real, new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps, protected bike lanes, high visibility crosswalks, and three new pedestrian crossings with hybrid beacons at Bonita Avenue, Crestview Drive and Pettis Avenue.

**For more information or to ask questions about the El Camino Real project, the public can contact Victor Gauthier with Caltrans at [Victor.Gauthier@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Victor.Gauthier@dot.ca.gov).**

## Mountain View Grade Separation Projects

Safety at the Castro Street and Rengstorff Avenue at-grade Caltrain railway crossings continues to be a priority for the City.

The City has partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and Caltrain on the design of the Castro Street and Rengstorff Avenue Grade Separation Projects to improve safety, decrease traffic congestion, and enhance overall traffic movements on the adjacent streets and surrounding intersections.

### Castro Grade Separation and Access Project

The Castro Project will include the construction of an undercrossing for pedestrian and cyclists under the Caltrain tracks, as well as two additional pedestrian and cyclist undercrossings under Central Expressway.

### Rengstorff Avenue Grade Separation Project

The Rengstorff Avenue Project will include:

- Lowering the intersection of Rengstorff Avenue and Central Expressway.
- Maintaining the railway at existing elevation.
- Providing a pedestrian and cyclist bridge to maintain connectivity between the east and west sides of Rengstorff Avenue.
- Realigning the Leland connector to maintain vehicular access to the market and neighborhood on the west side.
- Providing an accessible path between Rengstorff Park and the lowered Rengstorff Avenue.

The designs of both projects are scheduled to be completed in two years. Rengstorff will start construction in 2026



Rendering of the Rengstorff Avenue Grade Separation Project.

and the Castro Street undercrossings will begin when the project is fully funded. In the meantime for the Castro Project, the City will develop and implement interim improvements on Castro Street at Evelyn Avenue that will close Castro Street to vehicular traffic at Central Expressway and improve the existing at-grade crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

**For more information on the projects, visit [MountainView.gov/PublicWorks](http://MountainView.gov/PublicWorks).**



## 2035 Climate Strategy in the Works

One of the City Council’s strategic priorities is addressing sustainability and climate resiliency. To support this effort, the City is hiring a consultant to develop the City’s 2035 Climate Strategy. The goal is to advance the City’s ongoing work around advancing decarbonization and climate resiliency over the next 10 years.

This project builds on recent successes—such as exceeding emissions reductions 20% beyond the target—and will assess the viability of a 2035 decarbonization goal. The City will work with the consultant to prepare a climate vulnerability assessment that identifies projected climate hazards and their impacts, as well as gaps in resilience information and planning. This will allow the City to amplify its progress and take the necessary next steps in reducing and adapting to climate change impacts.

One of the key elements of this plan will include identifying populations that are vulnerable to climate risks, such as extreme heat, poor air quality and flooding, and listing key community services and resources that support resilience.

### What the Community Can Expect

In the coming months, the City will hold focus groups, workshops and events, and conduct surveys to help inform the 2025 Climate Strategy.

**Read more about the City’s sustainability and climate resiliency plans and resources and subscribe for updates at [MountainView.gov/Sustainability](https://MountainView.gov/Sustainability).**

## City Receives “A” Score for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Efforts



The City received an A score for efforts such as the E-Bike Voucher Program. Mountain View is among only 119 cities, states and regions globally to receive the top grade.

The City of Mountain View is proud to receive an **“A” score for its sustainability efforts and commitment to environmental transparency from the Carbon Disclosure Project**, an international nonprofit that supports thousands of companies, cities, states and regions to measure and manage their risks and opportunities on climate change, water security and deforestation.

The City made the 2023 A List by demonstrating that it had conducted a climate risk and vulnerability assessment, adopted plans that address climate adaptation and mitigation, published a community-wide emissions inventory, established mitigation and adaptation goals, and made progress towards achieving targets.

According to CDP, A List cities report taking four times as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A list cities. Some of the notable actions Mountain View has taken include:

- Co-founding Silicon Valley Clean Energy.
- Enacting aggressive transportation demand management requirements in development plans.
- Coordinating social safety net programs such as the Elevate MV guaranteed basic income pilot program and Safe Parking.
- Adopting a Sea Level Rise Capital Improvement Program to address long-term flood impacts.

Receiving this top grade was an acknowledgement of the tireless work and incredible investment the City has put toward sustainability and climate resiliency projects and programs. But the work continues.

Along with creating the 2035 Climate Strategy—as noted in the previous article—the City of Mountain View recently joined the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative. This action signals the City’s deep commitment to building climate resilience and accelerating decarbonization.

# Mountain View Receives Prohousing Designation

The City of Mountain View is proud to receive the Prohousing designation by the Governor and the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) this year. Mountain View was the first city in Santa Clara County to earn this honor.

This designation recognizes jurisdictions that are leading the way to facilitate the development of housing across income levels, such as reducing barriers to housing, streamlining the development process, implementing effective zoning and land use policies, and funding affordable housing.

Prohousing communities receive exclusive access to State Prohousing grants, as well as get additional points in the scoring of competitive housing, community development and infrastructure funding programs administered by HCD. These funding sources are critically important for the City to continue to advance its robust affordable housing pipeline and build out the infrastructure needed to support residential development to address ongoing housing needs and maintain Mountain View's excellent quality of life.



Mountain View was the first city in Santa Clara County to receive the Prohousing designation in 2024.

**47 jurisdictions**

have received the Prohousing designation in California.

## Mountain View Fire Department's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The City of Mountain View Fire Department turned 150 years old on April 1. MVFD is one of the oldest officially formed fire departments west of the Mississippi.

On April 1, 1874, the Fire Department was formed when 50 of the town's civic-minded residents sat around a pot-bellied stove and a cracker barrel in the "Rogers & Rogers" Department Store and organized the first brigade for the then town of Mountain View. They called it "Mountain View Station Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1."

**In honor of this historic occasion, the Fire Department held a parade with celebrations and a public safety recruitment fair on Sunday, May 19, along Castro Street and in front of City Hall.**

The parade began in front of the Fire and Police Administration Building on Villa Street, headed east Castro Street and south on Castro Street, ending at City Hall Plaza. Antique police, fire vehicles and ambulances were on display, including a historic working steam fire engine from the early 1900s pulled by horses.

There were also public education booths, including an inflatable firehouse for kids and adults to learn about fire safety, a bucket brigade, and dozens of fire and police agencies with their career recruitment booths.

**For more information on this historic event, visit [MountainView.gov/Fire150](https://MountainView.gov/Fire150).**





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## Library Rolls Out New Bicycle Repair Kits for Local Cyclists

Spending time outdoors is a fun and healthy way to commune with nature and connect with your friends and neighbors, and spring is one of the best seasons for going outside! To get you started on your outdoor adventures, the Mountain View Public Library is introducing our new Bicycle Repair Kit to take with you on the trail.

Before going on your next biking trip, borrow a Bicycle Repair Kit from the Customer Service desk on the first floor of the Library. Each kit includes wrenches, a mini air pump, a crank remover, tire levers, glueless patches and a 16-in-1 multitool. The kit comes in a carry-on pouch that will conveniently strap onto your bicycle frame so you'll always have it on your long trips.



If you would like personal guidance for your bike, come to the Library's Drop-in Bike Clinic on the third Saturday of each month. Professional bike mechanic Ryan Murphy will be at the Bike Fix-it

Station outside the Franklin Street entrance to offer advice and help with changing a tire, adjusting gears and brakes, identifying mysterious noises, and more.

For more information on Library services and programs, visit [MountainView.gov/Library](https://MountainView.gov/Library).

### THE VIEW

The newsletter is published two times a year by the City of Mountain View. The View is delivered by bulk mail to every residential address and business in Mountain View.

### The View Inquiries

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City Social Media Channels  
[MountainView.gov/Social](https://MountainView.gov/Social)

### Mountain View City Council

Mayor Pat Showalter  
Vice Mayor Lisa Matichak  
**Councilmembers:**  
Margaret Abe-Koga  
Alison Hicks  
Ellen Kamei  
Lucas Ramirez  
Emily Ann Ramos

### City Council Appointees

Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager  
Jennifer Logue, City Attorney  
Heather Glaser, City Clerk

### City Vision

A welcoming, vibrant city that plans intentionally and leads regionally to create livable, sustainable neighborhoods, access to nature and open spaces, and a strong innovation-driven local economy.

### 2023-2025 Strategic Priorities

- Community for All
- Intentional Development & Housing Options
- Mobility & Connectivity
- Sustainability & Climate Resiliency
- Livability & Quality of Life
- Economic Vitality
- Organization Strength & Good Governance



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