

Mission Boulevard Streetscape

Fremont, CA



Mission Boulevard needed streetscape improvements with a light touch to complement historic Mission San Jose and nearby shops as well as to provide basic drainage. The resulting design added post-top decorative streetlights between parked cars to help “pinch down” and reduce the visible street width.

BEFORE

- The street’s agricultural-era lack of storm drains, curbing, and consistent sidewalks was charming but substandard. Residents feared improvements would introduce an arterial look unsympathetic to historic Mission San Jose and had previously opposed a road widening.



Mission Boulevard’s existing rural charm came with lack of storm drainage and curbs, substandard ADA access and minimal auto-oriented lighting.

ASSIGNMENT

- Through a community workshop process, design and implement basic storm drainage, sidewalks, street trees, and furnishings for a one mile long street on a limited budget, yet help enhance pedestrian-oriented scale and detail to support the historic character of Mission San Jose district and its visitor-based economy.

OUTCOMES

- The project design began in 1996 and construction was completed in 1999, on time and on budget.
- On a modest budget, the streetscape added high quality warm-white metal halide lighting, historically compatible light fixtures, benches, and trash receptacles. Existing roadway height “Mission Bell” streetlights were retained and post-top lights were supplemented in between.
- New streetlights and street trees were strategically placed to visually “narrow” the perceived road width

CLIENT: Nolte & Associates, Inc. (prime consultant) for the City of Fremont

IN COLLABORATION WITH: MTH Engineers, Inc.; Fehr & Peers Associates, Inc.; ISC Group, Inc.

FTB: When this project was completed the firm name was Freedman Tung & Bottomley (FTB).



Mission Boulevard’s pedestrian scale was strengthened through placement of new decorative post-top streetlights between parked cars, as well as street trees, benches and other improvements.



Sidewalk corner bulb-outs, limited use of decorative pavers, and irrigated hanging flower baskets at streetlights provide focused pedestrian-oriented amenity along Mission Boulevard.



An aerial view of the street corridor showing Mission San Jose, historic shops and homes, and new infill development along the streetscape.