



TAMC

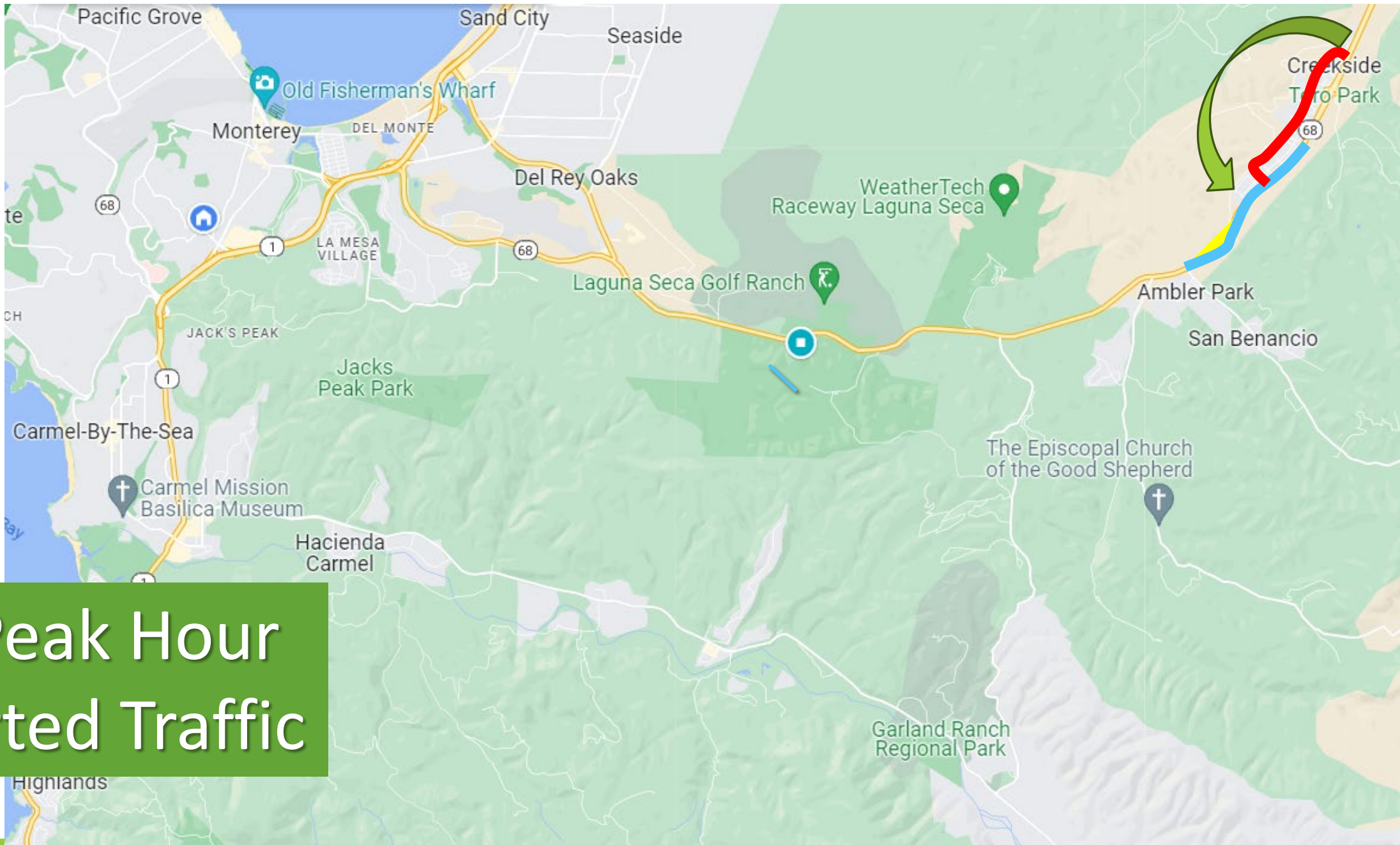
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY



Toro Park Pilot Project

TAMC BOARD

OCTOBER 23, 2024



AM Peak Hour
Diverted Traffic

Toro Park Pilot Project

SCHOOL

SPEED
LIMIT

25

WHEN
CHILDREN
ARE PRESENT





**MERGING
BACK ON
HWY 68**

Drivers started exiting Highway 68 and using Portola Drive to Bypass Congestion



Portola got so congested aggressive drivers started using residential streets



Cut-Thru Cut-Thru Traffic



Building Consensus



February 21: Toro Park HOA

- ✓ TAMC agrees to study situation

April 3: Community Workshop #1

- ✓ Project Kick-Off

April 3-May 22: 3 Traffic Committee Meetings

- ✓ Consensus on project recommendation

May 22: Community Workshop #2

- ✓ Support recommendation

Were You Heard?



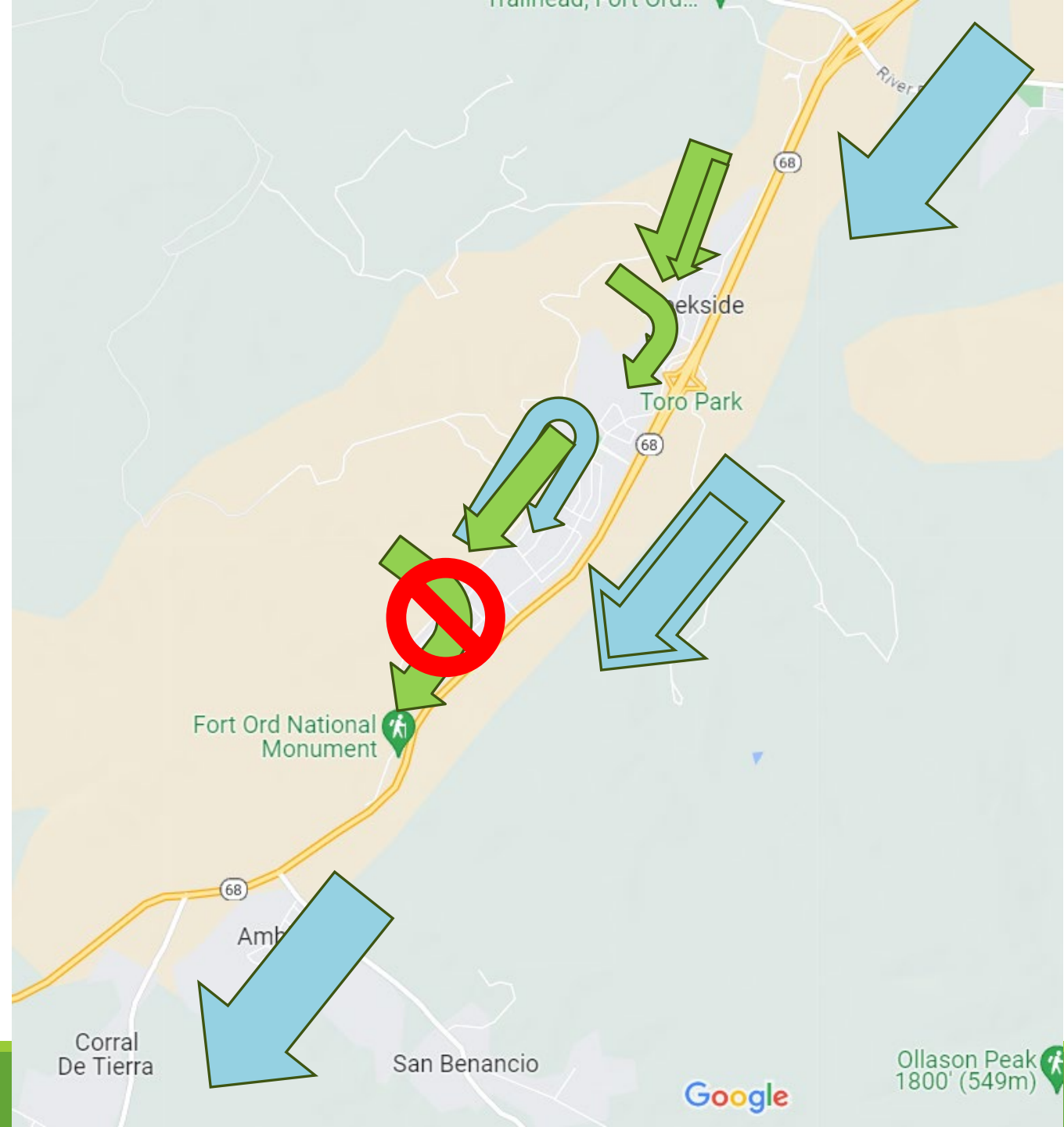
The Main Problem



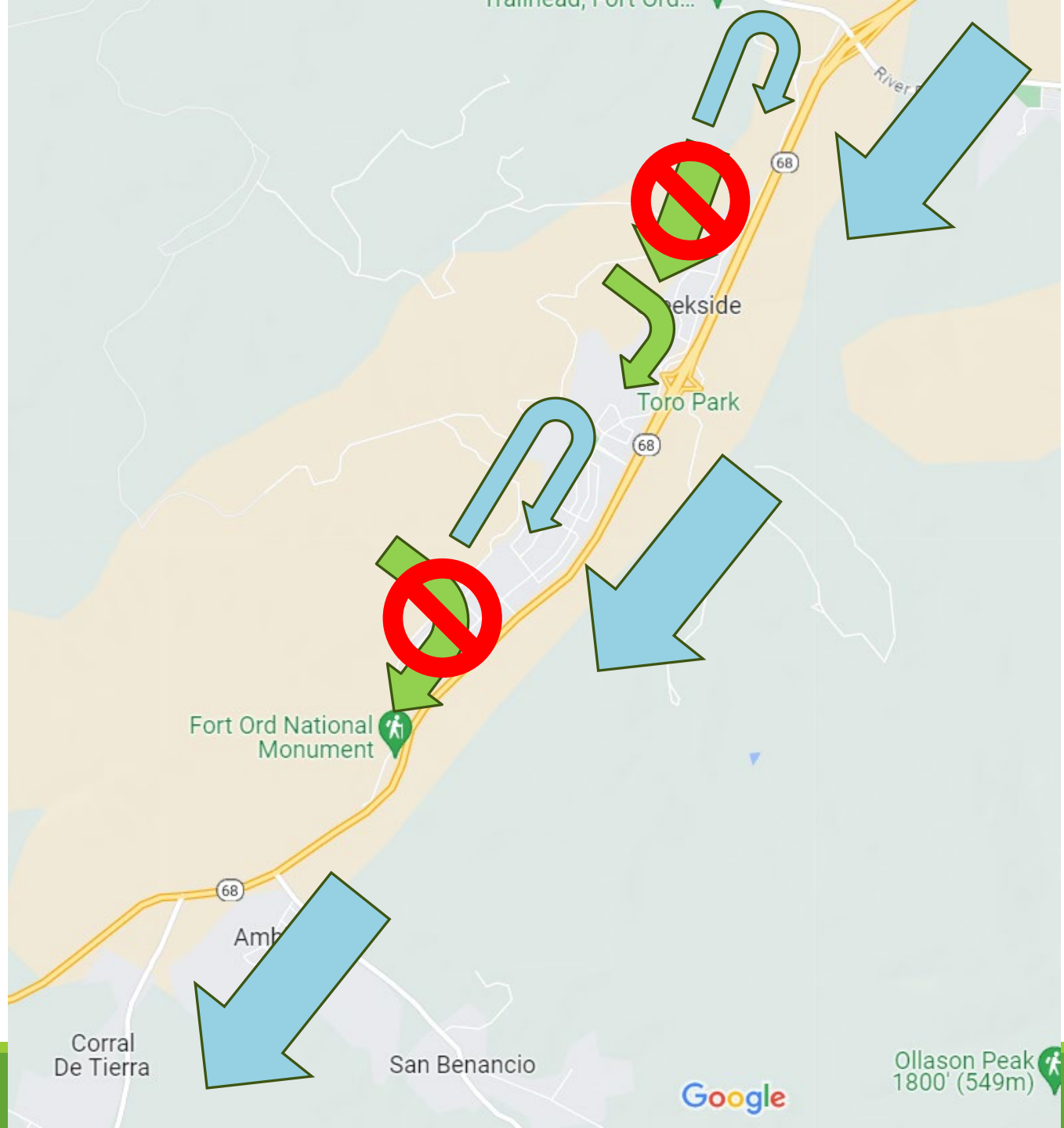
The Main Problem



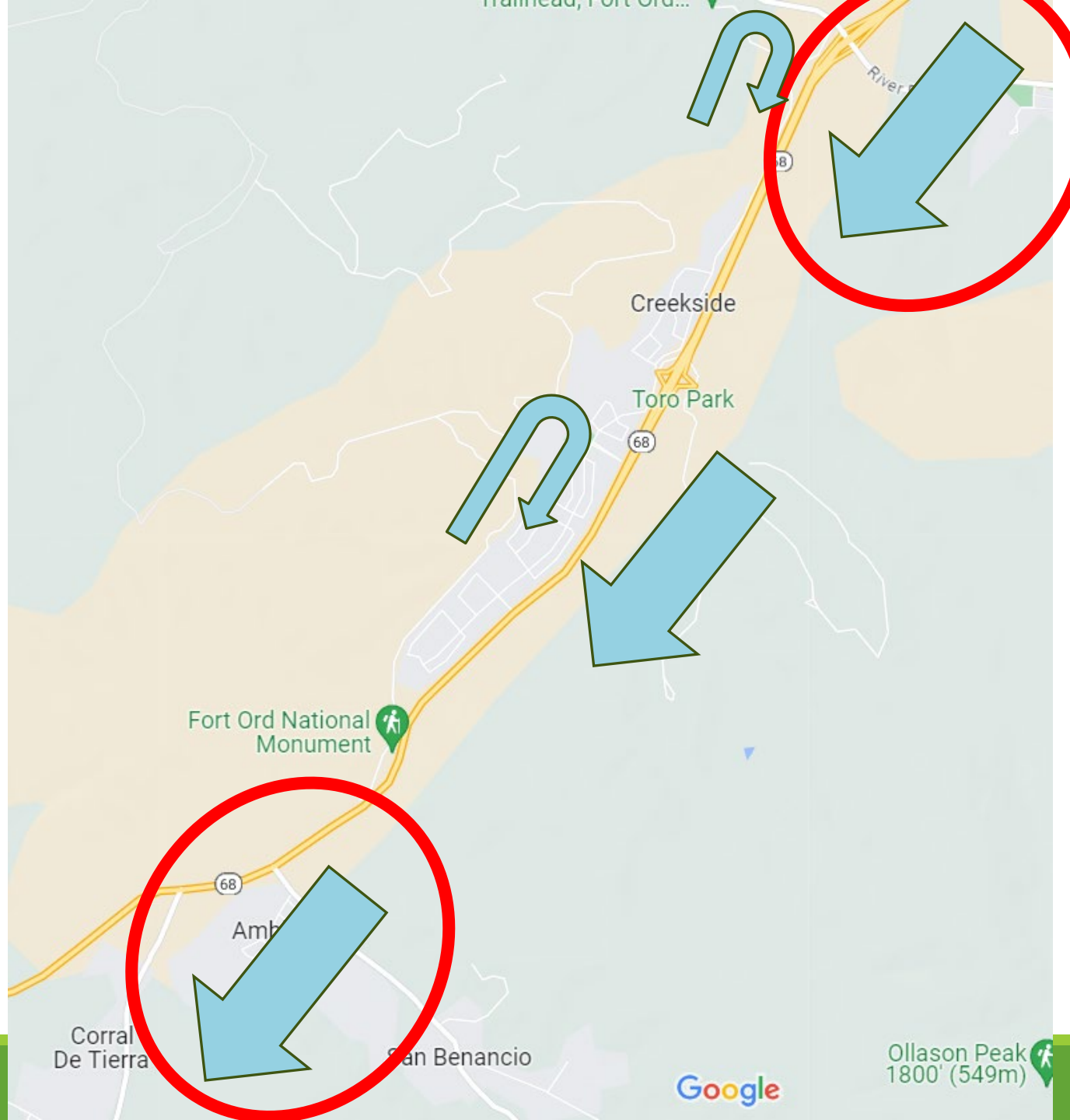
Phase I: Close Torero Exit to Hwy 68



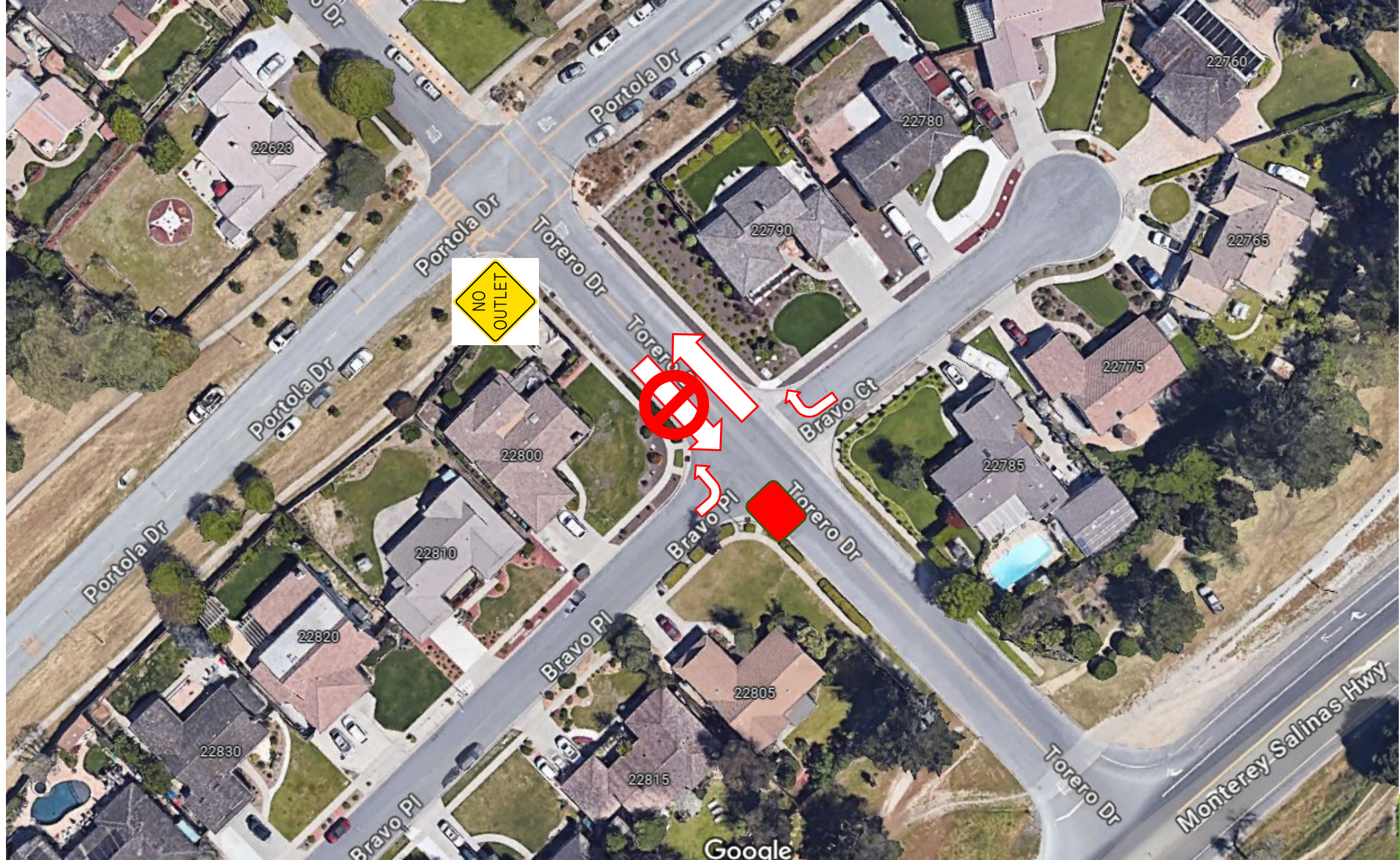
Phase II: Close Portola Entrance from Hwy 68



Where we are Now



Attachment 1:
Phase I- Partial Road Closure at Torero Dr/Bravo Ct.

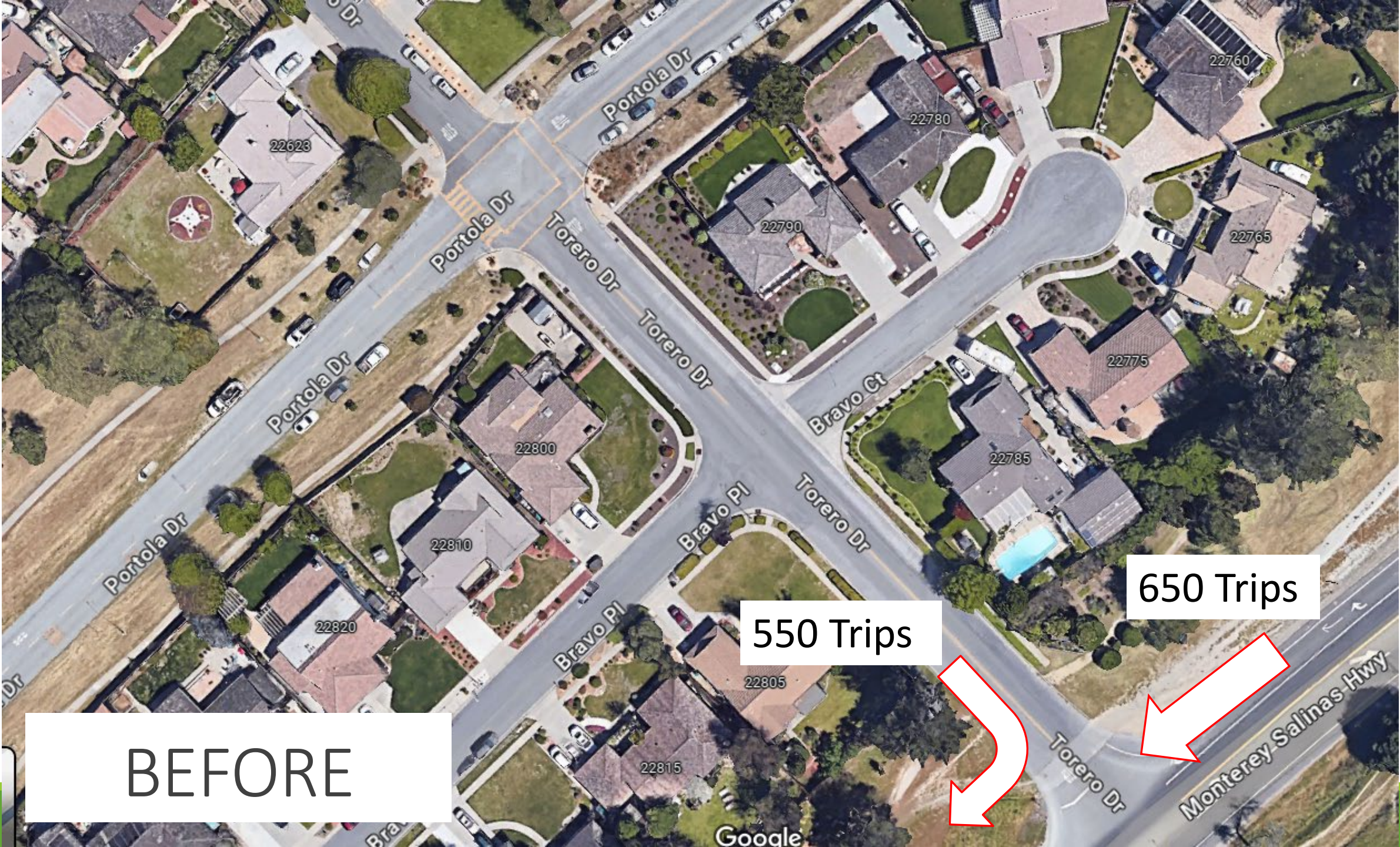




What's It Look Like?



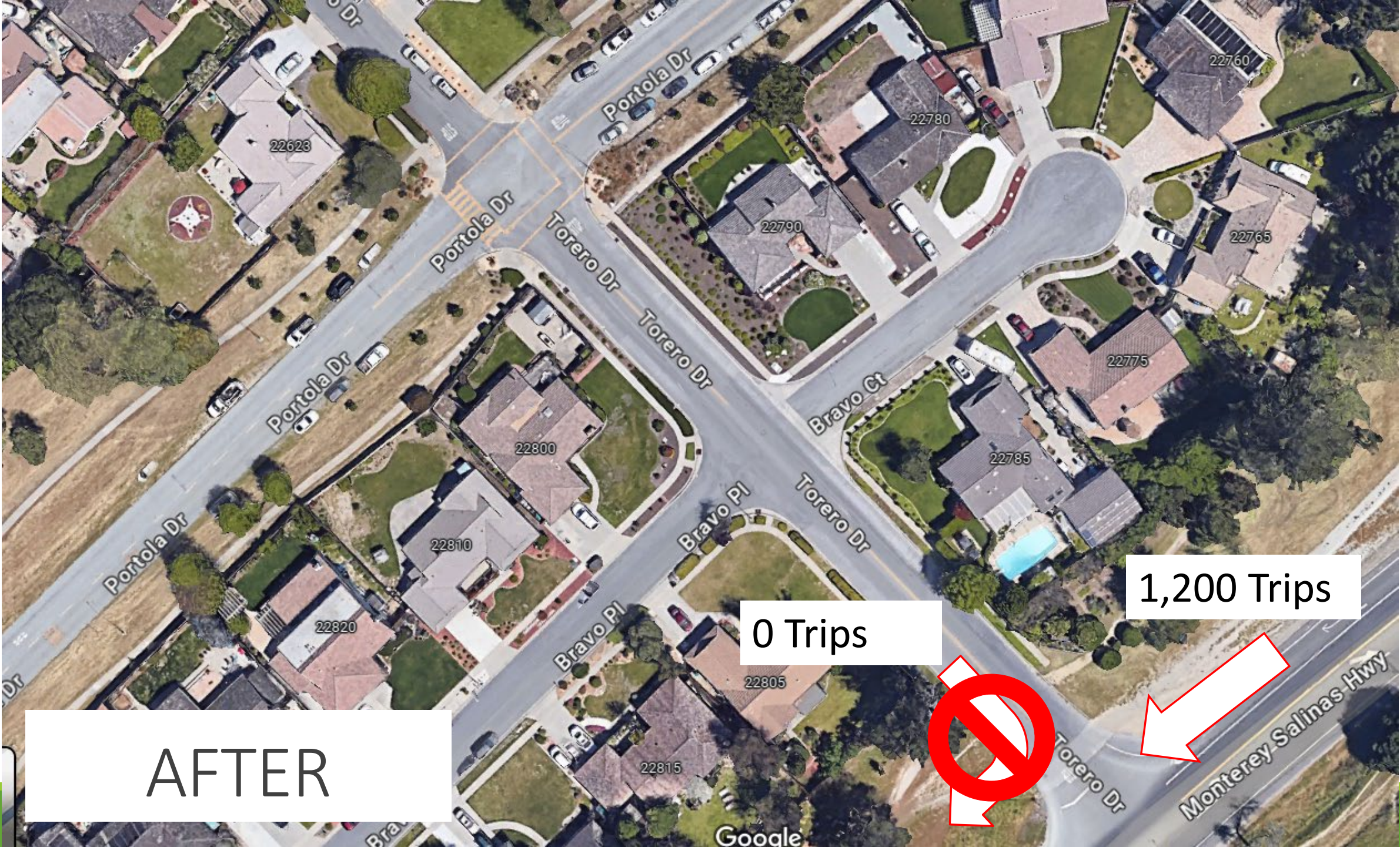
What Happens If You Ignore the Signs?



BEFORE

550 Trips

650 Trips



Portola Dr

Portola Dr

Portola Dr

Portola Dr

22623

22820

22810

22815

Portola Dr

Bravo Pl

Bravo Pl

Bravo Pl

22800

22805

22815

Torero Dr

Torero Dr

Torero Dr

Torero Dr

Portola Dr

Torero Dr

Bravo Pl

Bravo Pl

22790

22785

22805

22815

Bravo Ct

Torero Dr

Torero Dr

Torero Dr

22780

22775

22785

22815

22760

22775

22785

22815

22760

22765

22775

22785

22815

1,200 Trips

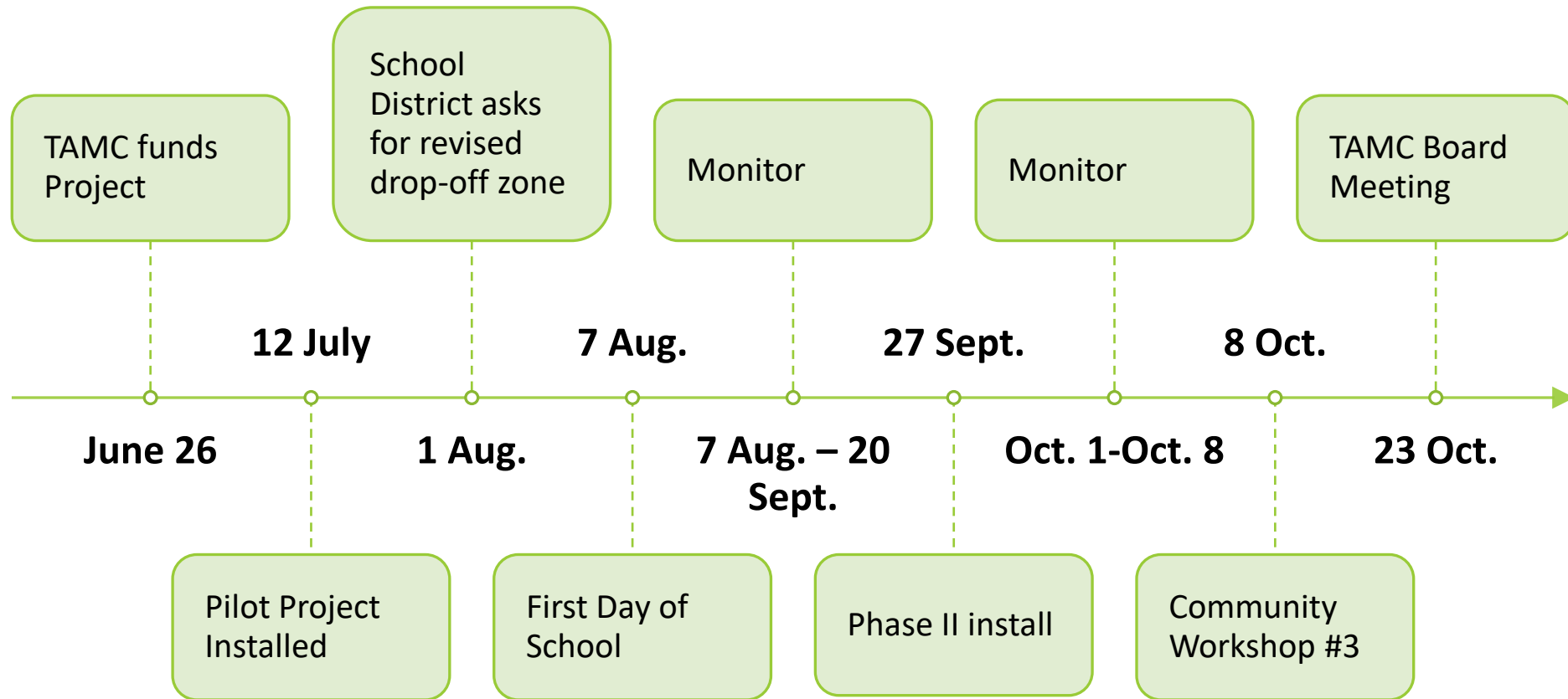
0 Trips

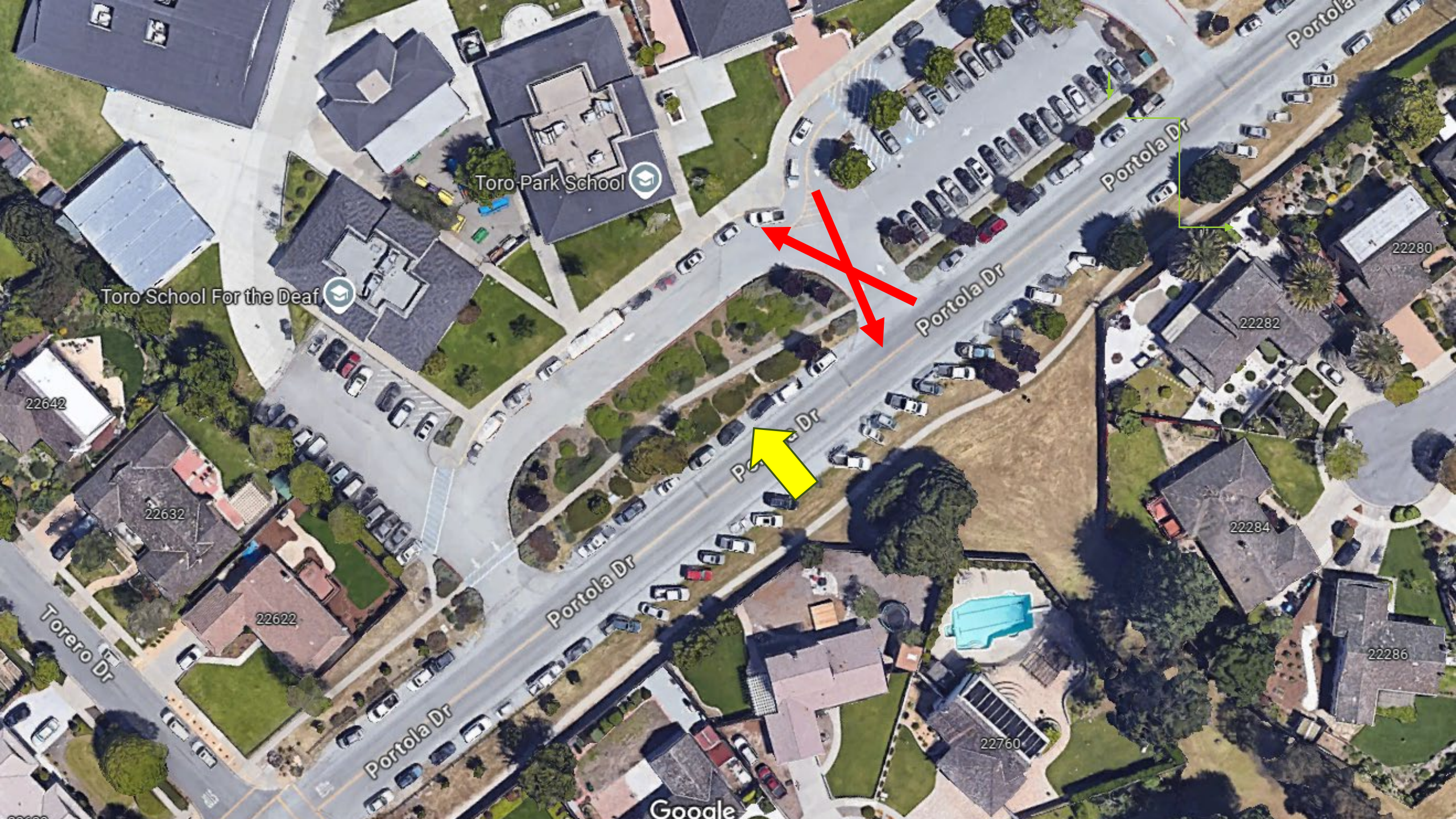
AFTER



Google

Pilot Project Quick Build





Toro Park School

Toro School For the Deaf

22642

22632

22622

Torero Dr

Portola Dr

Portola Dr

P... Dr

Portola Dr

Portola Dr

Portola

22280

22282

22284

22286

22760

Google

How did First Day of School Go?



Smooth Sailing at School Drop-Off



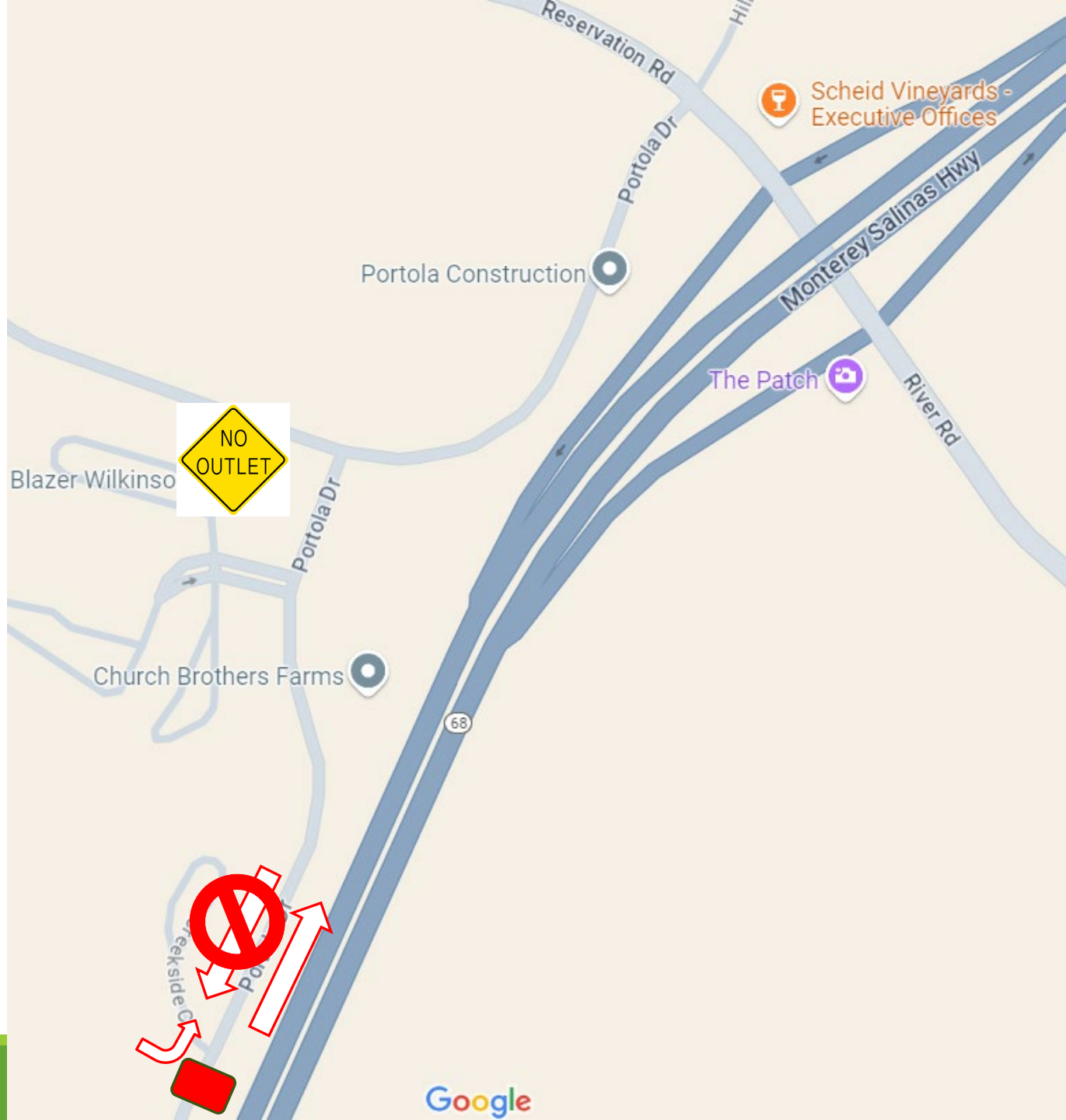


Before

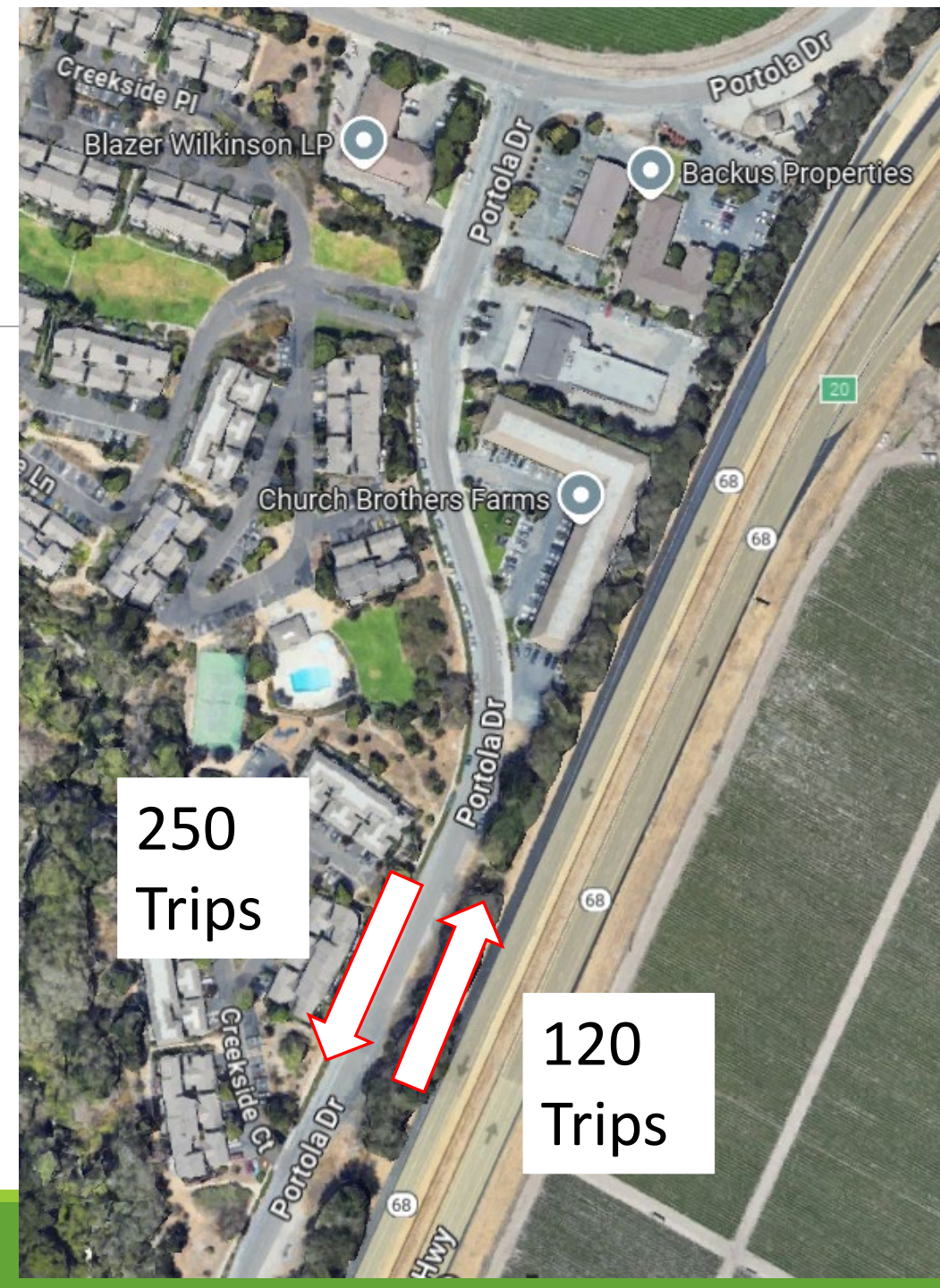


After

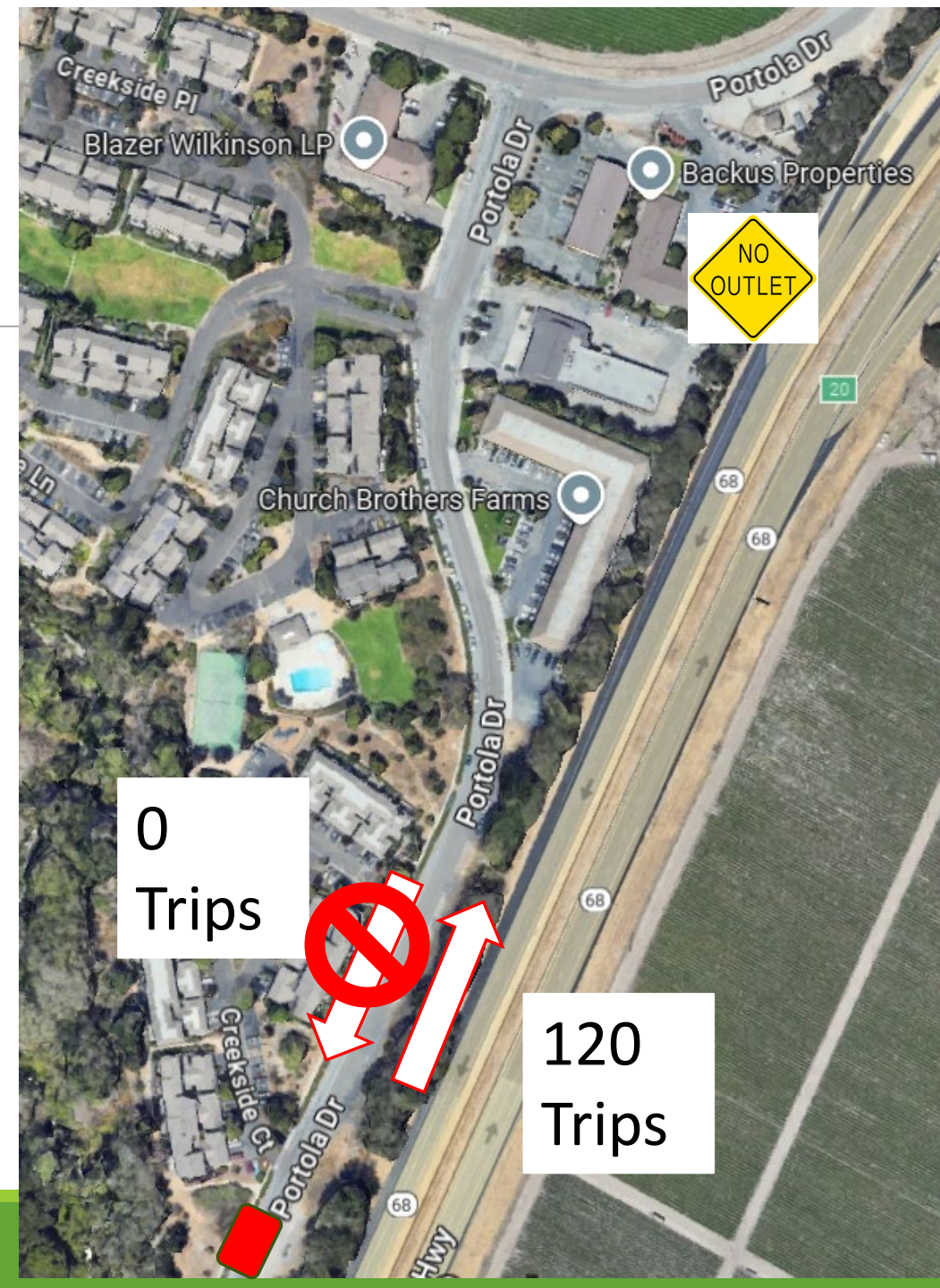
Phase II Partial Road Closure Portola Drive/Creekside Ct.



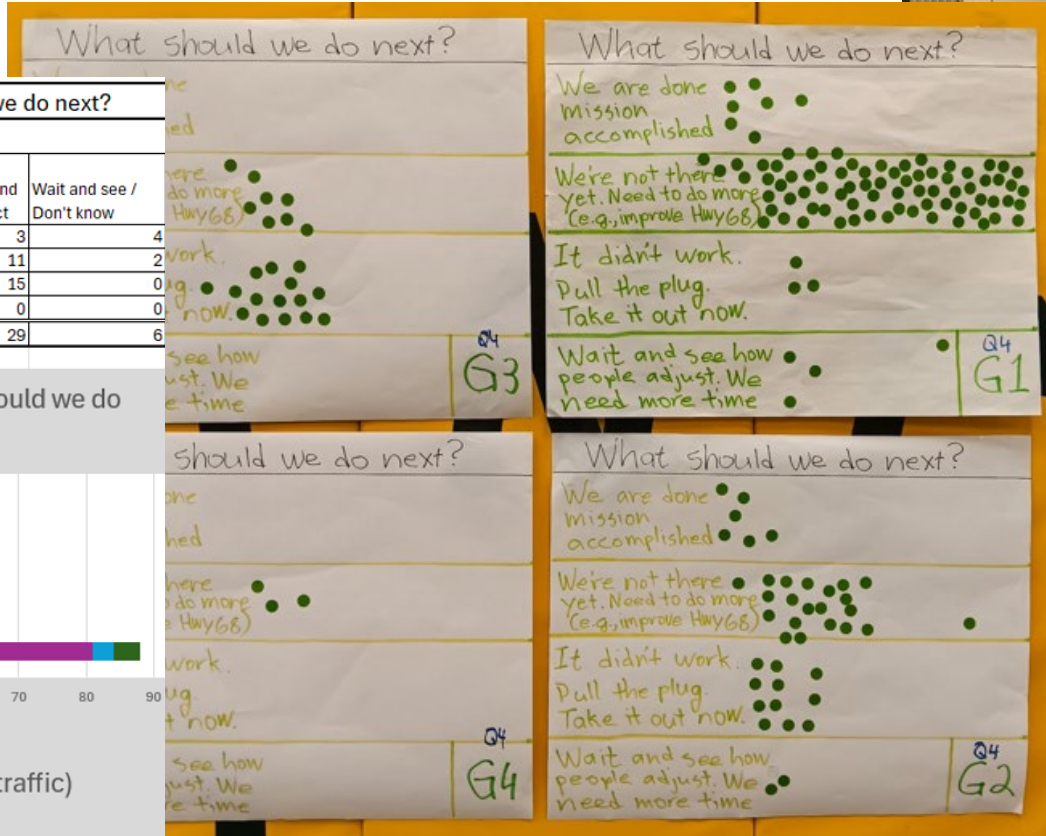
BEFORE



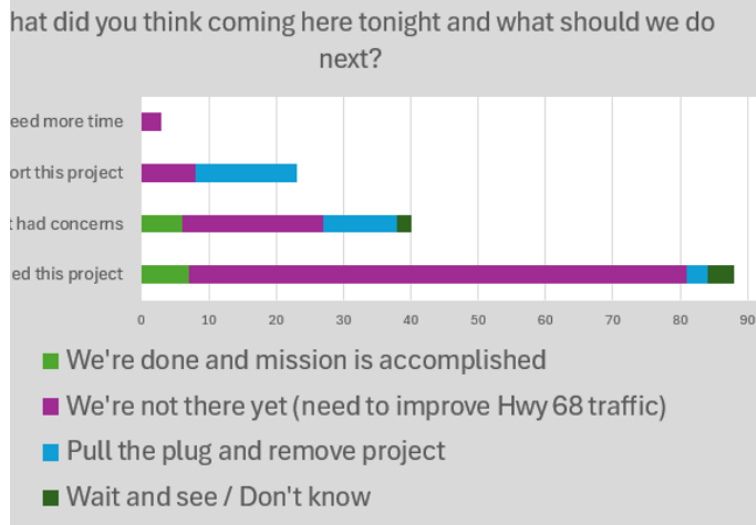
AFTER



October 8 Workshop



	Answer Options			
	We're done and mission is accomplished	We're not there yet (need to improve Hwy 68 traffic)	Pull the plug and remove project	Wait and see / Don't know
Did this project meet your expectations?	7	74	3	4
Did you have any concerns about this project?	6	21	11	2
How much time did you spend on this project?	0	8	15	0
How much time did you spend on this project?	0	3	0	0
	13	106	29	6



October 8 Workshop

- 89% of all respondents think we successfully eliminated cut-through traffic
- Over 1/3 of respondents feel the pilot project is a hardship and caused distress
- Almost 1/2 of respondents drive towards Monterey each morning and this was a main complaint received (commute got worse)
- 46% respondents love/like the pilot project
- 37% of all respondents hate the pilot project
- 69% say we're heading in the right direction but not there yet (e.g., improve Highway 68)



What's Next

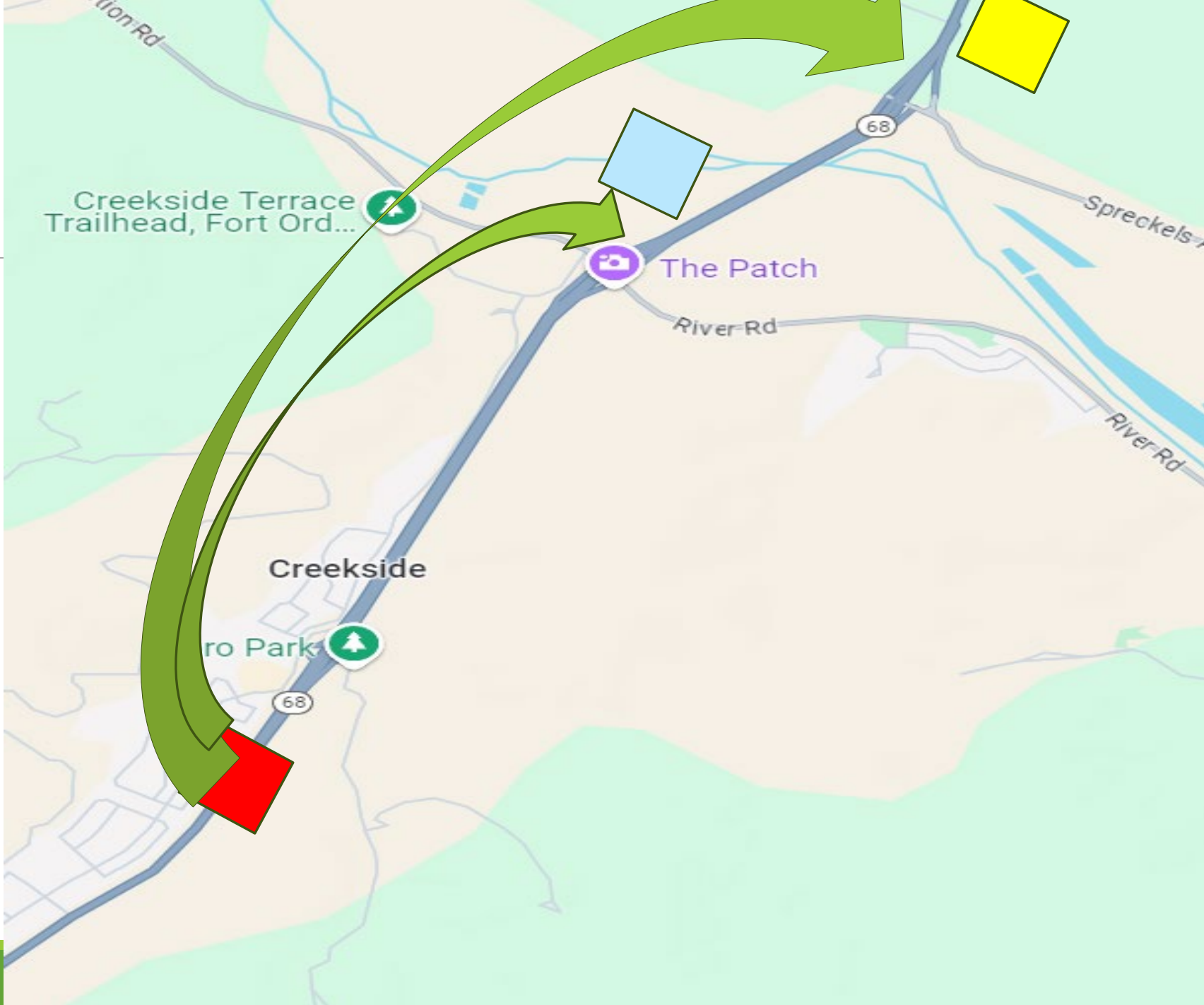
Alternatives Under Consideration

1. Do Nothing: remove everything and go back to the way it was
2. Keep Pilot: keep partial road closures where they are and upgrade them
3. Relocate Closures: select locations that better serve the community
4. Bus Gates: Use gates to active (close road) when Highway 68 is congested
5. Relocate merge: move merge upstream so that traffic flows smoothly along Toro Park and no one needs to cut through anymore

Picture of Partial Road Closure of Grant Ave. at Casanova Ave.



Merge Relocation: Potential Sites



QUESTIONS



Comments received: Support

- ...I really appreciate how this pilot project has restored the peace in our community!!!
- ...I am in total agreement about the closing of Portola to westbound traffic... I've seen people making a 2nd lane by driving partly on the dirt and then I saw cars forming a separate 3rd lane to turn left to head east on 68. Yes...they were on the wrong side of the double yellow stripes and blocking the lane to oncoming traffic.
- The single Torero Dr. inlet / Portola Dr. outlet has been the best solution for Serra Village at this point in time, forcing commuters to stay on Highway 68...The project has most definitely improved the quality of life in our community... my wife shared [that] it's truly quieter (can actually sleep in now), it's safer (fewer cars + speeders), it's easier to back out of our driveway, and gathering curbside for an impromptu chat with a neighbor no longer involves keeping a constant, wary eye on cars, or yelling as often to tell speeding drivers to slow down.
- Regardless of these behaviors (I have photos) we fully support this , and hope that this and the Torero limitations become permanent.
- I do appreciate that TAMC has installed these measures to stop cut through traffic on Portola Drive. This has made traffic less congested on Portola Drive for drivers going to Toro Park School!

Comments received: Opposed

- We're apparently now in the aggression phase of this transition...
- The outcome of the changes for me: I have to get up earlier... so I can merge onto 68 before things get really backed up. Less sleep, more stress.
- ...ongoing petition opposed to closing Torero Dr. As of this morning there are 204 signatures... Closing Torero Drive has created a hardship for many residents who live on the west side of Toro Park... The wasted time, fuel, vehicle wear and tear, and pollution is unacceptable. The closure has not significantly improved traffic flow on highway 68 and driver's are still looking for a way around the traffic. Any solution to the Portola traffic problem should keep Torero open in both directions as it has been for the last +45 years... immediately open Torero and continue to explore a solution that does not marginalize a large portion of the Toro Park community.
- Aggressive drivers are everywhere... Toro elementary is a Kindergarten to 3rd grade school, meaning that not many of these students walk to school. Portola is congested with traffic only for a few hours from my observation. Usually Monday - Friday from 6:30am to 8:30am that's 2 hours a day... I read that " some residents could not even exit their driveways" that's an exaggeration.
- It was stop and go traffic all the way to the place where the two lanes merge into one lane. It took about 22 minutes.
- The west end of Toro Park needs an exit that isn't a mile away.

How Traffic Decays Quality of Life

- ❖ Feel land-locked
- ❖ 45-minutes to drop off students (stress)
- ❖ Side street traffic (roads weren't built for this)
- ❖ Need to reschedule because can't get out of driveway for 20 minutes
- ❖ Aggressive drivers and hostility and exhaust make for uneasy walks in the mornings
- ❖ Commercial trucks that don't have business in neighborhood
- ❖ Emergency response times
- ❖ Home values down from congestion
- ❖ Don't need a clock to know when school starts
- ❖ ***We need to take back our neighborhood!***