

Art by Hannah Chung, class of 1999

Palo Alto High School PTSA

50 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94301

650.329.3710

February 28, 2013

Valley Transportation Authority
Attn: Celeste Fiore
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134

Dear Ms. Fiore:

I am writing on behalf of Palo Alto High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) in support of the City of Palo Alto One Bay Area grant application for El Camino Real Corridor Improvements (Stanford Avenue to Embarcadero Road). The roads in question frame the southern and western borders of the high school campus.

39% of 1,949 Palo Alto High School (Paly) students bicycle to school. The Palo Alto High School PTSA actively works with the City of Palo Alto, PAUSD, and the community to encourage students to choose foot-powered modes of transportation. Safe and convenient bicycle/pedestrian routes to our school site are a very high priority for the PTSA. School commutes become increasingly challenging as the district builds to accommodate increased enrollment at the site, increasing daily school commute trips.

Many of Paly's students walk and bike to school through the intersections that will be improved by this plan for school commuting. The Embarcadero Road intersection is also used by many students midday to cross over to restaurants at Town & Country Shopping Center at lunchtime.

The PTSA supports the city's plan to shorten the ECR intersections' pedestrian crossing distances with bulbouts and to eliminate fast-moving free right turns by sharpening turn radii and removing antiquated pork chop islands, replacing them with dedicated right turn lanes.

The project includes illuminated multi-use paths along the Paly frontage of El Camino Real to mirror improvements already planned and funded along the East side of El Camino Real by Stanford University as part of the Stanford-Palo Alto Trail program. The two projects together "close the gap" in safe convenient foot-powered bicycle and pedestrian commute

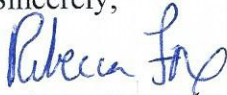
choices for Paly students. The improvements also support regional visitors from the Downtown and season Embarcadero Rd Caltrain Stations.

The addition of a dedicated right turn lane at Churchill Avenue will help to reduce severe morning peak hour congestion caused by convergence of commuter traffic and school commute traffic while providing room for a continuous bike lane and improved crosswalk through the intersection. These changes will create a more predictable and safer flow of traffic for foot-powered commuters.

We ask you to please fund the El Camino Real Corridor Improvements (Stanford Avenue to Embarcadero Road). Palo Alto High School PTSA strongly supports this application and the safer school commute conditions the project will provide.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Fox", is written over the printed name.

Rebecca Fox

President

Palo Alto High School PTSA