

**From:** [Cari Templeton](#)  
**To:** [Nguyen, Vinhloc](#); [Tanner, Rachael](#)  
**Subject:** DRAFT: Chair's Report to Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:41:20 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.**

---

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please see the attached DRAFT letter to Council, which we will review and discuss at Agenda Item #5 this evening. I encourage you all to bring suggestions on what we may want to add or adjust before sending to Council.

Thanks,  
Cari

[DRAFT] CHAIR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL - PALO ALTO PLANNING &  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

January 13, 2021

Honorable Mayor DuBois, Vice Mayor Burt, and City Council Members,

The Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission members and I would like to share a recap of our 2020 business and a look ahead to 2021. Over the course of 2020, we hosted nine Study Sessions on topics including North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan (NVCAP), Residential Parking Program options, transportation analysis methodology, and more. We also heard action items in which we recommended Council update the Municipal Code to make it easier to install Electric Vehicles (EV) stalls in existing parking lots, update Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinances, accept a Below Market Rate (BMR) Housing analysis, implement traffic calming in Crescent Park, and more. Our highest visibility projects included recommendations on the Castilleja project to renovate the private school and the 788 San Antonio Road project to build 102 new condominiums, including 16 BMR homes.

We accomplished all of this during the COVID-19 global pandemic which required unprecedented shelter-in-place protocols, including moving our commission meetings online. Over the course of the year, the Chair and Vice Chair worked closely with Staff to improve the presentation flow and public communication to adapt to our online environment, and we had higher participation from the public than ever before.

As we move forward into 2021, our City will be faced with challenges uniquely associated with COVID recovery. We expect extraordinary housing needs to lead this conversation, especially affordable housing. We will also experience a new focus on transportation needs, including improvements to pedestrian and bike safety, as well as evaluating and improving retail-supporting programs like "Uplift Local." Extended sheltering-in-place will drive Palo Altans towards infrastructure improvements, especially to make it

easier to get high speed Internet for all students and those working from home, and to encourage green home upgrades such as electric vehicle charger installations, which may be easier to do while working from home. We anticipate that the Planning and Transportation Commission will be at the forefront of many of these discussions, and are happy to help Council address these challenges.

To close, we would like to thank each of our Commissioners for their perseverance and their commitment during these complicated and challenging times. We are grateful for the work that Staff has done to adjust and adapt to the pandemic and simultaneously continue forward with progress on numerous projects. And finally, we express our sincere gratitude to the members of the public who have shared their thoughts via email, in-person meetings, and online meetings. You and all our residents inspire us to do this work.

Sincerely,

Carolyn "Cari" Templeton  
Chair, Palo Alto Planning & Transportation Commission