



CITY OF  
**PALO  
ALTO**

# Rail Committee Meeting

## Connecting Palo Alto

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### Rail Grade Separation Project

# Discussion Outline

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- Introduction
- Overview of additional Studies
- Public Comments
- Discussion on additional Studies
- Committee Review & Direction

# Purpose

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- Discuss the Council referral and provide staff direction on prioritizing, sequencing, and adjusting the scope of work for additional studies for Grade Separation Alternatives in consideration for the crossings at Churchill Avenue, Meadow Drive and Charleston Road
  
- Following the Rail Committee direction, staff recommends:
  1. To initiate contract amendment and determine the final scope with Consultant(s) to perform recommended additional work for all three crossings
  2. Bring the consultant contract(s) for City Council Approval

# Additional Studies

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- Additional Studies directed by Council Consideration

## Additional Studies/Scope

- Design Refinement of Underpass Alternatives
- Preliminary Geotechnical Investigations
- Additional Outreach
- Second Opinion for Cost Estimates of Trench Alternative

## Other Elements

- Review of the guiding principles and criteria
- Pursue with Caltrain the reduction in areas in Palo Alto being considered for four tracks
- Facilitate and engagement with Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and Stanford on all grade crossings
- Engage with Caltrain through the Local Policy Makers Group (LPMG) and staff to design alternatives and construction methods preferable to Palo Alto.

# Additional Studies: Other Referrals

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Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to review the following Elements

- Consideration of the merits of Seale vs Kellogg
- Consideration of bike improvements on the north side of Embarcadero
- Evaluation of South Palo Alto bike/ped crossing in the vicinity in Adobe Creek consistent with the 2013 Rail Plan

# Design Refinement of Underpass Alternatives

## Scope of Work

- Enhance Alternatives
  - Update Exhibits & Renderings
  - Update Cost Estimates
  - Update Miscellaneous Items
  - Documentation
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- **Further study defines the Partial Underpass/Underpass alternatives in more detail and could provide additional information on the alternatives**

# Preliminary Geotechnical Investigations

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## Scope of Work

- Data Collection and Review – Groundwater and Geotechnical
  - Field Investigation – Two CPT Borings & Laboratory Studies
  - Construction methodology Evaluation
  - Memorandum Report – Draft and Final
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- **Geotech investigations are typically completed during the next phase; however, Preliminary Geotechnical investigations could confirm assumptions and unit costs, and could help determine if the box jacking method has some merit.**

# Additional Outreach

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## Scope of Work

- Conduct Meetings with Additional Stakeholders
  - Prepare Meeting Notes
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- **Help gather feedback and refine some details, and thus make it easier to narrow the alternatives under consideration.**



# Second Opinion Cost Estimate/Peer Review

## Scope of Work

- Design Assumptions for Trench Alternative
  - Independent Consultant with expertise Trench Design and Construction.
  - Review Unit Costs and Overall Costs
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- **Obtain the cost for a second cost opinion of the Trench Alternative, in particular from a company with experience of trenches, underground or subterranean methods in parallel to the geotechnical studies**

# Track Review and Caltrain Coordination

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## Scope of Work

- Gather Data from Caltrain
  - Evaluate Alternatives
  - Meet with Caltrain
  - Prepare Memorandum Report
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- **Determining if 4 tracks would not be precluded, as indicated in the Caltrain Business Plan, could potentially eliminate one or more alternatives.**



## Rail Committee Action

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The goal is to seek direction from the Rail Committee on proceeding with additional studies that can help in further the selection of Preferred Alternatives.

Recognizing this goal, staff is seeking Committee to:

- Direction on prioritizing, sequencing, and adjusting the scope of work for additional studies for Grade Separation Alternatives in consideration for the crossings at Churchill Avenue, Meadow Drive and Charleston Road



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