



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

Action Item 1

Rail Committee

Work Plan & Guiding Principles

Rail Committee Work Plan – Existing Elements

Items within the Scope of Rail Committee

Technical

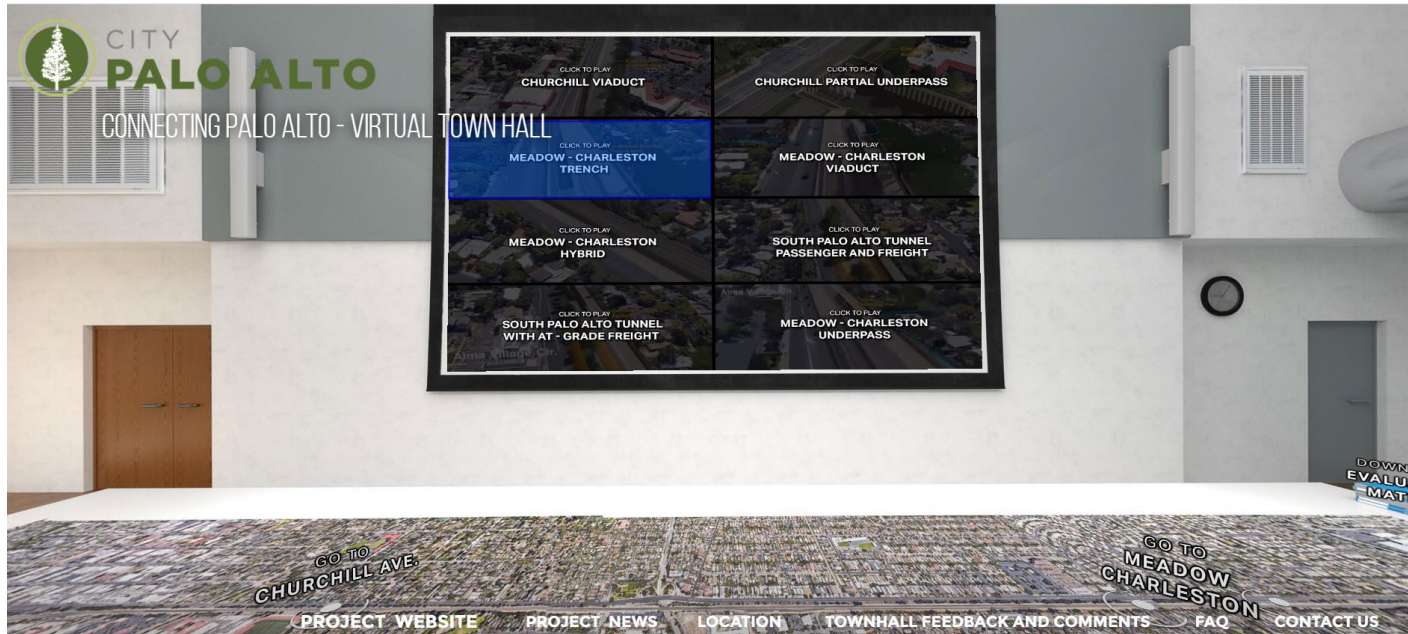
- Caltrain Four-Track (Passing Tracks)
- Caltrain Technical Design Standards (Design Speed, Vertical Curve, Vertical Grade, Bridge Deck Thickness)
- Caltrain Construction Technologies Review
- SanFrancisquito Creek Bridge
- Geotechnical Studies
- Presentations from Outside Agencies (Public & Private)



Rail Committee Work Plan – Existing Elements

Community Engagement & Outreach

- Local Policy Makers Group (LPMG) & Caltrain
- Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD)
- Stanford University
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PABAC)
- City School Traffic Safety Committee (CSTSC)
- Palo Alto community rail/design experts



Rail Committee Work Plan

Recommendations for additional Items to be delegated to Rail Committee

Policy Items

- Review grade separation selection criteria for any revisions

Bicycle and Pedestrian Items

- Advance the planning and selection of new east-west bike/ped rail crossings

Funding Items

- Seek/Obtain funding for Palo Alto rail crossing projects
- Seek/Obtain funding for new east-west bike/ped rail crossings

Rail Committee Guiding Principles

Preamble

The City of Palo Alto supports transportation and urban design solutions for the Caltrain corridor that are compatible with community values and that complement the goals and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Caltrain corridor has long been a physical constraint to east-west movement in Palo Alto, and the current grade crossings create traffic congestion and pose safety and noise challenges that will get worse as the frequency of train service increases. As a result, the City actively participates in planning for the rail corridor, and supports changes that improve and do not exacerbate impacts to the Palo Alto community.

Rail Committee Guiding Principles

Purpose of the Committee

Purpose of the Committee The City Council's Rail Committee was re-established in 2015 to analyze and advance grade separated crossings for all modes of travel (bicycles, motor vehicles, transit, and pedestrians). While the Committee in the past has focused on High Speed Rail, Caltrain grade separations and electrification will be the essential focus of the Committee for 2017-2018.

Rail Committee Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

1. *Palo Alto seeks to improve east-west connectivity, traffic circulation, pedestrian and bicycle movements, safety, and the noise environment along the Caltrain corridor.*
2. *Palo Alto strongly supports Caltrain and the improved commuter rail service that will come as a result of modernization (including electrification).*
3. *Palo Alto will continue to work with Caltrain to ensure that all potential impacts of modernization are addressed and adopted mitigation measures are implemented.*
4. *Palo Alto supports Caltrain as the lead agency for all system improvements in the Caltrain corridor.*
5. *Palo Alto has long had concerns about the potential impacts of High Speed Rail and believes that the project should be terminated. If the project proceeds, CHSRA should provide funding for affected cities to analyze potential impacts*

Rail Committee Guiding Principles

6. *Palo Alto has long had concerns about the potential impacts of High Speed Rail and believes that the project should be terminated. If the project proceeds, CHSRA should provide funding for affected cities to analyze potential impacts*
7. *Palo Alto believes that CAHSRA should fund grade separations and should not commence service until they are complete*
8. *Palo Alto will advocate strenuously for its fair share of County Measure B funding for grade separations and actively seek additional funding from Caltrain, CAHSRA, Santa Clara County, and other external funding sources.*
9. *Palo Alto supports the use of the Context Sensitive Solutions process for High Speed Rail and grade separations and will structure a CSS process to engage the community in selection of a preferred grade separation alternative for the corridor*

Rail Committee Guiding Principles

10. *Palo Alto seeks modernization of freight operations in the corridor and will seek flexibility from the UPRR to pursue desired improvements in the Caltrain corridor.*
11. *Palo Alto will work cooperatively with neighboring communities with respect to HSR and Caltrain issues of mutual concern, including grade separations.*



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