

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Marc Berman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 278 (Beall)/FASTER Proposal; Input and Funding Request from the City of Palo Alto

Dear Senator Hill and Assemblymember Berman:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, we want to thank you for your support and leadership in investing in California's transit-oriented infrastructure and development. Over the past few years, we have seen several pieces of legislation signed and implemented to provide funding for transportation projects in the Bay Area and beyond. Nevertheless, the need for transportation infrastructure improvements, new developments, and overall transit expansion has outpaced the current allotment of funds.

We would like to express our support in concept for Senator Beall's SB 278, particularly with a broader range of funding mechanisms, and urge you to work with Senator Beall to set aside money for grade separation projects in the City of Palo Alto. Specifically, in the final ballot language, we would like to see a direct allocation to our City to help fund construction and planning efforts for four large grade separation projects that will improve safety and enhance ridership. Any such money would be in addition to what we intend to be a diverse funding stream from various sources, including funding from our own budget.

As you are each aware, Palo Alto has the second busiest station on the Caltrain line in our city. Therefore, it is imperative that as Caltrain continues its efforts to electrify and increase the number of trains per hour, we work to eliminate the conflict between trains, vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians, all while reducing congestion, and supporting public transit to job centers such as San Francisco.

We understand that like our Council and staff, you and the entire legislature are heavily invested in assisting others during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the legislative session resumes, we anticipate a fast pace, and therefore, we write you now to urge your advocacy through SB 278 for direct allocations to our pre-construction grade separation efforts.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Adrian Fine, Mayor of Palo Alto

Cc: Senator Jim Beall
Palo Alto City Council
Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager