



# CITY OF PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL ACTION MINUTES

Special Meeting  
January 22, 2019

The City Council of the City of Palo Alto met on this date in the Council Chambers at 5:01 P.M.

Present: Cormack, DuBois, Filseth, Fine; Kniss arrived at 5:35 P.M., Kou, Tanaka

Absent:

7. Discussion and Project Update on Connecting Palo Alto and Consideration of the Following Actions: A) Separate From Study all Alternatives for the Palo Alto Avenue Crossing (Closure and Hybrid) and Include Palo Alto Avenue in a Separate Comprehensive Planning Effort; B) Separate From Study the Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing of the Caltrain Corridor in the Vicinity of Loma Verde Avenue and Assess Feasibility in a Future Study; C) Address the Rail Committee's Recommendation Regarding a Tunnel by Modifying the Alternative to be South of Oregon Expressway Only and Further Explore the Scope and Budget for an Alternative With Freight Trains on the Surface and Passenger Trains Underground for the Meadow and Charleston Crossings; and D) Adopt a Modified List of Grade Separation Alternatives (CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 17, 2018).

Council Member Kniss advised she will not participate in this Agenda Item because she has a real property interest within 500 feet of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Caltrain) right of way. She left the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

Mayor Filseth advised he will not participate in this Agenda Item because he lives within 500 feet of the Caltrain right of way. He left the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

Council took a break from 7:38 P.M. to 7:50 P.M.

Council took a break from 10:28 P.M. to 10:35 P.M.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Fine moved, seconded by Council Member DuBois to:

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- A. Direct Staff to separate from study all alternatives for the Palo Alto Avenue crossing (closure and hybrid) and include Palo Alto Avenue in a separate comprehensive planning effort;
- B. Direct Staff to separate from study the bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Caltrain corridor in the vicinity of Loma Verde Avenue and incorporate this into the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan process;
- C. Direct Staff to present the tunnel alternative at the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and March Community meeting, and outline assumptions and alternatives for a citywide tunnel and further explore (the Scope and Budget) for an alternative with freight trains on the surface and passenger trains underground (for the Meadow and Charleston crossings);
- D. Adopt a modified list of grade separation alternatives:
  - 1. South Palo Alto | Rail Tunnel;
  - 2. Churchill Avenue | Full or Partial Closure and add Improvements (CAX);
  - 3. Meadow Drive and Charleston Road | Hybrid (MCL);
  - 4. Meadow Drive and Charleston Road | Rail Trench (MCT);
  - 5. Meadow Drive and Charleston Road | Viaduct (MCV);
  - 6. Citywide Tunnel (WBP);
- E. Direct Staff to return to Council with a strategy for Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Stanford University, especially around funding; and
- F. Direct Staff to study multi-modal mitigations for existing grade separations, taking into consideration both current conditions and future impacts.

**INCORPORATED INTO THE MOTION WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to add to the Motion, "direct Staff to restore 'maintain or improve local access' evaluation criteria." (New Part G).

**INCORPORATED INTO THE MOTION WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to add to the Motion, "direct Staff to return to Council soon to review evaluation criteria and timeline." (New Part H).

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**INCORPORATED INTO THE MOTION WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to add to the Motion Part A, "with a priority on transportation."

**INCORPORATED INTO THE MOTION WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to add to the Motion Part H, "with a funding and polling strategy."

**MOTION AS AMENDED RESTATED:** Vice Mayor Fine moved, seconded by Council Member DuBois to:

- A. Direct Staff to separate from study all alternatives for the Palo Alto Avenue crossing (closure and hybrid) and include Palo Alto Avenue in a separate comprehensive planning effort with a priority on transportation;
- B. Direct Staff to separate from study the bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Caltrain corridor in the vicinity of Loma Verde Avenue and incorporate this into the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan process;
- C. Direct Staff to present the tunnel alternative at the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and March Community meeting, and outline assumptions and alternatives for a citywide tunnel and further explore (the Scope and Budget) for an alternative with freight trains on the surface and passenger trains underground (for the Meadow and Charleston crossings);
- D. Adopt a modified list of grade separation alternatives:
  - 1. South Palo Alto | Rail Tunnel;
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  - 5. Meadow Drive and Charleston Road | Viaduct (MCV);
  - 6. Citywide Tunnel (WBP);
- E. Direct Staff to return to Council with a strategy for Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Stanford University, especially around funding;

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- F. Direct Staff to study multi-modal mitigations for existing grade separations, taking into consideration both current conditions and future impacts;
- G. Direct Staff to restore “maintain or improve local access” evaluation criteria; and
- H. Direct Staff to return to Council soon to review evaluation criteria and timeline with a funding and polling strategy.

**MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED:** 5-0 Filseth, Kniss absent

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 P.M.