



# CITY OF PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL FINAL ACTION MINUTES

Special Meeting  
April 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, Kou, Tanaka

Absent:

## Action Items

14. Connecting Palo Alto Work Plan for Selection of Preferred Solutions to Rail Grade Separation Needs: Approval of Structure and Membership of an Expanded Community Working Group, Work Plan, and Revisions to Alternatives for Further Study; and Direction to Staff to Return to Council With Associated AECOM Contract Amendment.

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 9:35 P.M.

Council Member Kniss advised she will not participate in this Agenda Item because she has a real property interest within 500 feet of Caltrain right of way. She left the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

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

- A. Approve the Rail Grade Separation Work Plan as a follow up to the March 18th Committee of the Whole recommendation including a timeline and process by which the City Council would select a preferred solution to begin environmental review;
- B. Approve Alternatives to be studied by the Community Working Group; and
- C. Direct Staff to return to Council with an amendment to contract C18171057 with AECOM to reflect scope changes and extension to October 2019 for Council selection of a preferred solution.

**INCORPORATED INTO THE MOTION WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKOR AND SECONDER** to add to the Motion:

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- A. Add more check-ins with Council. Redefine the Working Group (WG) meetings to cover more ground;
- B. Alternatives:
  - i. Allow the WG to brainstorm some alternatives such as Embarcadero, Palo Alto Avenue, Meadow and Charleston;
  - ii. Remove city-wide tunnel;
  - iii. Minimize viaducts/elevated trains located behind people's homes; and
  - iv. Consider the trench alternative minimizes construction impacts

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

- A. Approve the Rail Grade Separation Work Plan as a follow up to the March 18th Committee of the Whole recommendation including a timeline and process by which the City Council would select a preferred solution to begin environmental review;
- B. Add more check-ins with Council. Redefine the Working Group (WG) meetings to cover more ground;
- C. Approve Alternatives to be studied by the Community Working Group including:
  - i. Allow the WG to brainstorm some alternatives such as Embarcadero, Palo Alto Avenue, Meadow and Charleston;
  - ii. Remove city-wide tunnel;
  - iii. Minimize viaducts/elevated trains located behind people's homes; and
  - iv. Consider the trench alternative minimizes construction impacts
- D. Direct Staff to return to Council with an amendment to contract C18171057 with AECOM to reflect scope changes and extension to October 2019 for Council selection of a preferred solution.

**INCORPORATED INTO THE AMENDMENT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to delete Part C. iii. from the Motion.

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**INCORPORATED INTO THE AMENDMENT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to remove from the Motion Part C. i. "Palo Alto Avenue."

**INCORPORATED INTO THE AMENDMENT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to remove from the Motion Part C. "...by the Community Working Group..."

**AMENDMENT:** Council Member Tanaka moved, seconded by Council Member Kou to remove Part C. ii. from the Motion.

**INCORPORATED INTO THE AMENDMENT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to minimize viaducts/elevated trains located behind people's homes.

## **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN BY THE MAKER**

**INCORPORATED INTO THE AMENDMENT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to remove from the Motion Part C. ii and add to the Motion "Direct Staff to return to Council with an update on the city-wide tunnel."

**INCORPORATED INTO THE AMENDMENT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAKER AND SECONDER** to amend the Motion Part C. ii. to change the word "consider" to "ensure."

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

- A. Approve the Rail Grade Separation Work Plan as a follow up to the March 18th Committee of the Whole recommendation including a timeline and process by which the City Council would select a preferred solution to begin environmental review;
- B. Add more check-ins with Council. Redefine the Community Working Group (WG) meetings to cover more ground;
- C. Approve Additional Alternatives to be studied including:
  - i. Allow WG to brainstorm some alternatives such as Embarcadero, Meadow and Charleston;
  - ii. Ensure the trench alternative minimizes construction impacts;

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- D. Direct Staff to return to Council with an amendment to contract C18171057 with AECOM to reflect scope changes and extension to October 2019 for Council selection of a preferred solution; and
- E. Direct Staff to return to Council with an update on the citywide tunnel.

**MOTION PASSED:** 5-0 Filseth, Kniss recused

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 P.M.