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July 7, 2025

Victoria Fleming, Chair
MTC Program and Allocations Committee
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Support for Funding – Quarry Road Transit Connection Project, City of Palo Alto

To Chair Fleming and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I am writing to express support for funding for the Quarry Road Transit Connection Project.

This project represents a critical and timely investment in Palo Alto's multimodal transportation infrastructure. It is designed to create a dedicated transit connection between El Camino Real and the Palo Alto Transit Center (PATC) via a new roadway through a currently passive portion of El Camino Park. The project responds to the region's urgent need for efficient, sustainable transportation solutions that reduce vehicle congestion and enhance access for transit users, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

This location is a mobility hub for Palo Alto and the Bay Area that serves the highest-performing bus transit services in both Santa Clara County (VTA 522/22) and San Mateo County (SamTrans ECR). The current bus route configuration causes out-of-direction travel and congestion that has a significant impact on service efficiency for these important lines in both counties.

The Quarry Road extension is projected to reduce bus transit times by 5–8 minutes per trip, alleviating congestion at the University Avenue/El Camino Real interchange and University Circle. The proposed direct route would streamline regional and local bus and shuttle service, improving reliability and reducing emissions in the heart of one of the Bay Area's most significant mobility hubs and Caltrain's second highest ridership station, including the second highest station for passengers with bicycles.

The proposed Quarry Road Transit Connection Project would advance numerous Comprehensive Plan policies and programs, as follows:

- **Policy T-1.11** Encourage continued enhancement of the Caltrain stations as important transportation nodes for the city.
- **Program T1.11.1** Collaborate with Stanford University, VTA, Caltrain and other agencies to pursue improvements to the Palo Alto Transit Center area aimed at enhancing the

pedestrian experience and improving circulation and access for all modes, including direct access to El Camino Real for transit vehicles.

- **Program T3.10.3** Provide safe, convenient pedestrian, bicycle and transit connections between the Stanford Shopping Center/Medical Center areas and housing along the Sand Hill Road/Quarry Road corridors to Palo Alto Transit Center, Downtown Palo Alto and other primary destinations.
- **Program T3.10.4** Pursue extension of Quarry Road for transit, pedestrians and bicyclists to access the Palo Alto Transit Center from El Camino Real. Also study the feasibility of another pedestrian and bicycle underpass of Caltrain at Everett Street.
- **Policy T-8.2** Coordinate with local and regional agencies and Caltrans to maintain and improve transportation infrastructure in Palo Alto, including the Multi-Modal Transit Center.

Importantly, this project has garnered strong local support, as shown by the successful November 2024 vote by Palo Alto residents (74% approval) to undedicate a small portion of parkland—approximately 0.33 acres—necessary for implementation. This rare civic endorsement reflects the community’s recognition of the project’s transportation benefits that align with the policies noted above and with the City’s broader mobility and Sustainability and Climate Action Plan goals.

In addition to the core transit connection, the project includes substantial pedestrian and bicycle safety enhancements, including new high-visibility crossings, pedestrian and bicycle refuge islands, green bike lane markings, and curb extensions. These features will improve connectivity between Downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, Stanford Medical Center, Stanford Shopping Center, El Camino Park, and surrounding neighborhoods while strengthening the regional active transportation network and promoting sustainable, car-free travel for thousands of users daily.

Furthermore, the project has been developed in close coordination with key stakeholders, including Stanford University, Caltrain, VTA, SamTrans, AC Transit, and Dumbarton Express. This level of collaboration ensures that the project serves both local and regional transportation objectives. The improvements are consistent with the City of Palo Alto’s Comprehensive Plan and broader MTC policies promoting integrated, multimodal transportation systems.

For all these reasons, I urge the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to fund the Quarry Road Transit Connection Project. This capital project will yield outsized benefits in transit efficiency, safety, and multimodal access, while helping to meet the mobility needs of Palo Altans, the growing Caltrain ridership, and the broader Bay Area region.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to building a more connected, sustainable, and accessible Bay Area.

Sincerely,



Ria Hutabarat Lo
Chief Transportation Official