



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Office of the Mayor and City Council • 500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View, California 94039-7540
650-903-6305 • FAX 650-903-6039

March 21, 2022

Alfredo Pedroza
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066
Via email: info@bayareametro.gov

AGENDA ITEM 14C, BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW REGIONAL GRANT STRATEGY

Dear Chair Pedroza:

On behalf of the City of Mountain View, I request that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) include the Caltrain grade separation projects at Rengstorff Avenue and Castro Street in MTC's list of Bay Area priority projects for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program for incorporation into the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant strategy.

Rengstorff Avenue Grade Separation Project

The Rengstorff Avenue at-grade crossing is in the vicinity of Mountain View's highest concentration area of low-income households. It is next to the City's largest community park, Aquatics Center, Community Center, Senior Center, and Teen Center, all of which generate a high demand for crossing the tracks and cause safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists. Our sense of urgency related to eliminating this at-grade crossing has grown with the accidental death of an elderly woman walking across the tracks at Rengstorff Avenue on February 14, 2022.

Mountain View developed a grade separation preferred design concept for Rengstorff Avenue 20 years ago and has been working since then to bring this project into fruition. Preliminary engineering and both National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance have been funded by the City and will be completed in the next few months. The project is being designed to accommodate a four-track segment of Caltrain, which will be beneficial for the future

high-speed rail service. In addition, the Rengstorff Avenue grade separation project has been on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Section 190 list for the last four years and is listed as No. 8 Statewide in the upcoming preliminary list.

Over \$50 million in City funds and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Measure B Sales Tax Program funds have been committed and planned for the final design and right-of-way phase of the project, which is scheduled to begin this year. An additional \$47 million has been committed toward the \$197 million estimated construction cost, and we request up to \$150 million in BIL grant funding for construction.

Castro Street Grade Separation Project

The Castro Street at-grade crossing is adjacent to the Mountain View Transit Center, which includes both one of the highest Caltrain ridership stations and a VTA Light Rail Station. It is also located at the north end of the City's downtown. Due to its prime location at a major transit center and the downtown, there are over 300 pedestrian and bicycle crossings of the tracks in the peak hour, with this number expected to increase substantially with the City's planned growth, affecting both expanded Caltrain service and the future high-speed rail service.

The Castro Street grade separation preferred design concept was selected by the City Council in 2017. It is based on an exceptionally cost-effective and active transportation design. The project will close Castro Street at the tracks and construct an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian undercrossing of the tracks and adjacent Central Expressway. This undercrossing will provide direct access to the light rail and Caltrain boarding platforms and to the downtown while eliminating all at-grade vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian crossings of the tracks.

The project is currently in its final design and will not require any new right-of-way. Over \$14 million in City funds and VTA Measure B funds have been committed for the final design phase. An additional \$20 million has been committed toward the \$100 million estimated construction cost, with a request for up to \$80 million in BIL grant funding for construction.

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The City of Mountain View is fully committed to seeing these projects delivered as quickly as possible and is providing significant local funding. We appreciate your support for including these two grade separation projects in your list of regional priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lucas Ramirez".

Lucas Ramirez

Mayor

LR/CG/6/MGR

001-03-21-22L

cc: The Honorable Anna Eshoo, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Josh Becker, California State Senate

City Council

CM, ACM/COO, PWD, ATCM – Gilmore