

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Regional Network Management Committee**

July 11, 2025

Agenda Item 2c

**Master Funding Agreement Supplement: Palo Alto Transit Center Quarry Road
Connection Project - City of Palo Alto (\$1,000,000)**

Subject:

Request for Committee approval to negotiate and enter into a Master Funding Agreement Supplement with the City of Palo Alto in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to plan, environmentally clear, design, and construct the Palo Alto Transit Center Quarry Road Connection Project.

Background:

The Quarry Road Connection Project will extend Quarry Road to create a direct connection between the Palo Alto Transit Center and El Camino Real (State Route 82) for use exclusively by public buses and shuttles. This project enables the transformation of a currently congested transit center by enhancing public transit efficiency, reducing traffic congestion, and improving safety and convenience for cyclists and pedestrians. The project will create this direct transit connection via an underutilized 0.33-acre portion of the adjacent El Camino Park (see Attachment A), allowing public buses and shuttles to bypass the University Avenue Circle and reduce travel times by an estimated five to eight minutes per trip. In addition to the transit connection, the project includes pedestrian and bicycle upgrades at the Quarry Road/El Camino Real intersection and through El Camino Park to improve safety, access, and connectivity to the broader pedestrian and bicycle network.

The Palo Alto Transit Center is the mobility hub of Palo Alto and has the second highest Caltrain ridership on the corridor. SamTrans, Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA), and AC Transit (operating Dumbarton Express) all run buses to the Palo Alto Transit Center to complement Caltrain service and connect Palo Alto to San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and the East Bay, respectively. Additionally, Stanford's Marguerite shuttle service and other private shuttles provide last-mile connections from the transit center to campus facilities for employees and visitors.

Stanford University hired a consultant to develop conceptual plans and a cost estimate, which was completed in 2019. The plans and cost estimate informed the decision to place the ballot measure to un-dedicate the parkland for the project. In November 2024, voters in Palo Alto approved the un-dedication of an underutilized portion of El Camino Real Park to facilitate these improvements. The Palo Alto City Council voted unanimously to support the project, and the transit agencies serving the Palo Alto Transit Center have all expressed support for the project. The Quarry Road Connection Project aligns with the Dumbarton Forward goals to improve express bus service and multimodal access in the Dumbarton Bridge corridor. Through this agreement, MTC will provide \$1 million in Regional Measure 2 (RM2) funds programmed for Dumbarton Forward projects under the Regional Express Bus Service and Operational Improvements for San Mateo, Dumbarton, and Bay Bridge Corridors (Project #29). As one of the eligible sponsors for RM2 Project 29, MTC will be the RM2 sponsor while the City of Palo Alto will serve as the overall project sponsor/implementing agency, in partnership with Stanford University. MTC will provide the \$1 million in RM2 funds, with Palo Alto and Stanford University each contributing \$0.5 million to match. The total implementation cost of the project is currently estimated at \$5.2 million. The project is currently in the early planning stage, and the funds contributed by these three parties will allow the city to complete final design and will partially cover construction. While a full funding plan has not been finalized, Palo Alto has agreed on their intent to commit a total of approximately \$1.2 million in funds, and Stanford has agreed on their intent to provide up to a maximum of \$4 million after grant funding is pursued.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

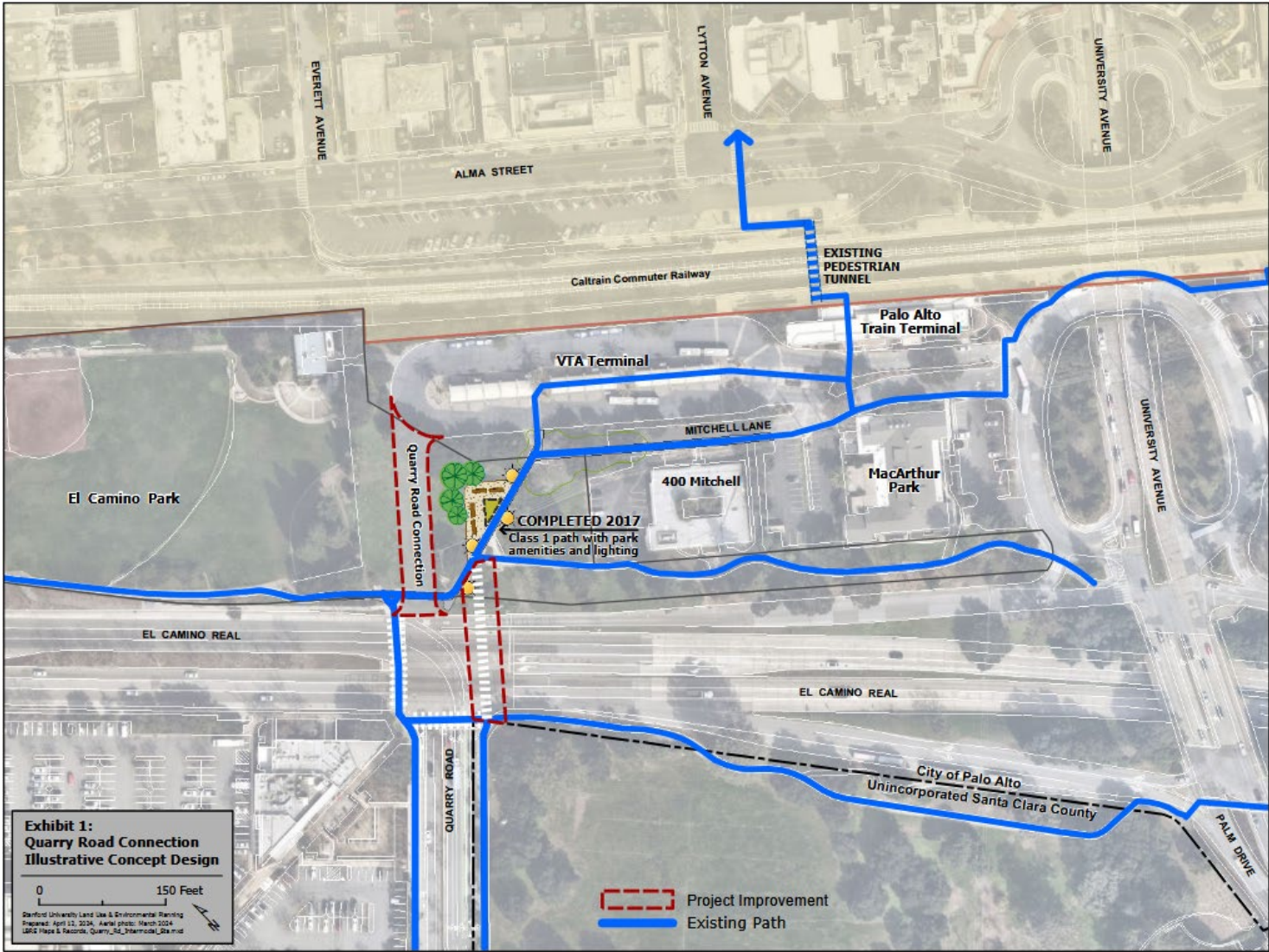
Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into a Master Funding Agreement Supplement with the City of Palo Alto to deliver the Project in an amount of \$1,000,000.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Quarry Road Connection Illustrative Concept Design
- Attachment B: Request for Committee Approval – Summary of Proposed Master Funding Agreement Supplement

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew B. Fremier", is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew B. Fremier



Quarry Road Connection Illustrative Concept Design

Request for Committee Approval

Summary of Proposed Master Funding Agreement Supplement

Work Item No.: 2662

Agency: City of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA

Work Project Title: Quarry Road Connection Project

Purpose of Project: To create a direct connection between the Palo Alto Transit Center and El Camino Real to improve transit efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Brief Scope of Work: The scope includes planning, environmental review, design and construction of the transit connection, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements at the Quarry Road/El Camino Real intersection and within El Camino Park to enhance safety and multimodal access.

Funding Not to Exceed: \$1,000,000

Funding Source: Regional Measure 2

Fiscal Impact: Funding is included in the FY 2025-2026 MTC Capital Budget.

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) Supplement with the City of Palo Alto for scope described above and in the Regional Network Management Committee Summary Sheet dated July 11, 2025 and that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$1,000,000 for such MFA Supplement.

Regional Network
Management Committee:

Alicia John-Baptiste, Chair

Approved: July 11, 2025