

July 1, 2025

Sue Noack, Chair
MTC Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Funding Support Request for the Quarry Road Connection Project (Palo Alto)

To Chair Noack and Commission Members,

On behalf of Stanford University, I am requesting funding support for the Quarry Road Connection Project - a strategic investment in sustainable, efficient, and equitable transit for our region.

The Palo Alto Transit Center (PATC) 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 Dumbarton Express all run buses to the PATC to complement Caltrain service and connect Palo Alto to San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and the East Bay, respectively. Additionally, Stanford's publicly-accessible Marguerite shuttle service and other private shuttles provide last-mile connections from the PATC to campus facilities for employees and visitors.

In total, roughly 600 buses serve the transit center daily. Transfers from Marguerite shuttles account for approximately 40 percent of Caltrain daily boardings at the transit center.

The station is also a significant source for bicycle trips on Caltrain, with Palo Alto being the second highest bicycle ridership stop along the Caltrain corridor. Bicycle equipped passengers at the PATC are estimated to be between 750-800 per day, pre-COVID.

The Quarry Road Connection Project will enable significant transit and safety improvements via a new linkage between the Palo Alto Transit Center and El Camino Real along Quarry Road. The new transit roadway will allow buses and shuttles to exit on to El Camino Real faster, reducing bus transit times by an estimated 5-8 minutes per trip. It will also help reduce congestion within University Circle and along University Avenue. In addition, the project will enhance bicycle and pedestrian paths at the intersection of Quarry Road and El Camino which will improve safety and access to downtown Palo Alto, nearby public playing fields, Stanford University, Stanford Hospital, and Stanford Shopping Center.

Key project benefits include:

- **Faster Transit:** Shortens bus and shuttle trips by 5–8 minutes each—translating to improved service reliability and reduced wait times for riders, in addition to cost savings for transit operators.
- **Decongestion:** Diverts roughly 59% of bus traffic away from University Avenue, easing gridlock and lowering emissions.
- **Improved Safety:** Adds dedicated pedestrian and bicycle paths with safer crossings at El Camino Real, enhancing access and promoting active modes of transit.
- **Sustainability:** Supports Caltrain electrification and increasing transit demand, aligning with regional climate goals.

In November 2024, Measure D was passed overwhelmingly with approximately 74 percent support from Palo Alto voters. This measure approved undedicating a small portion of El Camino Park needed for the project's implementation, demonstrating strong community and agency backing. The project is supported by various goals and policies outlined in the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan, emphasizing the improvement of transportation infrastructure and multimodal connectivity. The Quarry Road Connection Project has strong broad-based support from the transit agencies that use the PATC, bicycle and pedestrian organizations, Stanford Health Care, Stanford Shopping Center and the City of Palo Alto.

Thank you for considering this impactful investment in this transformative project that will not only benefit Palo Alto commuters, but the region as a whole.

With regards,



Robert Reidy
Vice President