

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

July 9, 2025

Agenda Item 2d-25-0980

MTC Resolution No. 4721. Allocation of \$250,000 in Regional Measure 2 (RM2) Capital Funds for the Palo Alto Transit Center Quarry Road Connection Project

Subject:

Recommended allocation of \$250,000 in RM2 capital funds to MTC for the environmental and preliminary engineering phases of the Palo Alto Transit Center Quarry Road Connection Project (RM2 Project 29.9), from RM2 Project 29 - Regional Express Bus Service for San Mateo, Dumbarton, and Bay Bridge Corridors.

Background:

Voters approved RM2 in 2004 to raise the toll price on state owned bridges by \$1 and fund the Regional Traffic Relief Plan, which includes 40 named capital projects.

RM2 Project 29: Regional Express Bus Service for San Mateo, Dumbarton, and Bay Bridge Corridors set aside funding for bus infrastructure and rolling stock on these bridge corridors. In 2014, \$14.8 million in unused funds from the RM2 Dumbarton Rail project were redirected to RM2 Project 29 for Dumbarton Express Bus projects. A cost-effective bus procurement subsequently replaced the Dumbarton Express fleet, leaving approximately \$4.8 million for additional Dumbarton investments. In 2020, an additional \$225,000 in remaining savings from the Dumbarton Rail project was redirected to RM2 Project 29, for a total of approximately \$5 million to be made available for upcoming Dumbarton Forward projects.

Quarry Road Connection Project at Palo Alto Transit Center

The Quarry Road Connection project will create a direct connection between the Palo Alto Transit Center (PATC) and El Camino Real for use by public buses and shuttles. The PATC is served by SamTrans, VTA, and Dumbarton Express bus lines and the Stanford University Marguerite shuttle, totaling 600 buses a day. The PATC and University Avenue, currently the only road with access to PATC, are both congested during peak hours.

The City of Palo Alto plans to link the PATC directly to El Camino Real through an underused section of El Camino Park at the Quarry Road traffic signal. The proposed project would allow buses that use the bus terminal to exit via Quarry Road to El Camino Real rather than circle back

through University Avenue. Attachment A shows the location of the project. The project would also implement pedestrian and bicycle upgrades at the Quarry Road/El Camino Real intersection and through El Camino Park to improve safety, access, and connectivity.

The project will facilitate quicker transit exits onto El Camino Real and alleviate congestion by streamlining bus movements and reducing the need for buses to use University Circle and University Avenue. The proposed project is estimated to reduce bus transit times by five minutes or more per trip, and Dumbarton Express buses are anticipated to use the new connection. Further, the project is expected to benefit all bus routes using the transit center including connecting routes used by Dumbarton Express passengers. The operations plan, including expected impacts and benefits to each service using the PATC, will continue to be refined through preliminary engineering. The project aligns with the Dumbarton Forward goals to improve express bus service and multimodal access in the Dumbarton Bridge corridor.

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 it has received support from transit agencies and community organizations, including AC Transit.

MTC is the RM2 project sponsor and fund recipient. MTC will enter into a funding agreement with the City of Palo Alto, who will implement the project in coordination. Stanford University owns the land at PATC and El Camino Park and will partner with Palo Alto in funding and implementing the project. Palo Alto and Stanford have signed a letter of intent to collaborate on the project that sets up terms for a future agreement between the two parties. Palo Alto and Stanford have engaged a contractor to prepare the environmental documents and conduct advanced preliminary engineering work to prepare the project for final design.

The project is subject to the requirements of the Complete Streets Policy contained in MTC Resolution No. 4493. A satisfactory complete streets checklist has been submitted for this project.

Staff recommend the commission approve an allocation of \$250,000 in RM2 funds to MTC for the environmental and preliminary engineering phase of the Quarry Road Connection at Palo Alto Transit Center Project.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4721 to the Commission for approval

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Quarry Road Connection Illustrative Concept Design
- MTC Resolution No. 4721
 - Attachments A – D



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