



July 29, 2016

City of Menlo Park
Community Development Department
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Attention: Deanna Chow

Subject: General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements and M-2 Area Zoning Update

Dear Ms. Chow:

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) staff have reviewed the General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements update and associated Draft EIR. We have the following comments.

Transportation Analysis – Relationship to Santa Clara County Congestion Management Program

As the Congestion Management Agency for Santa Clara County, VTA recommended in our comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) that the City should include an analysis of the effects of the General Plan Update on key roadway segments in the Santa Clara County CMP near the San Mateo County border, such as US 101 and I-280. It appears from VTA's review of the Draft EIR that the analysis only included freeway segments within San Mateo County, under the Routes of Regional Significance analysis. This analysis noted that six "...Routes of Regional Significance would continue to operate at or below their level-of-service threshold under 2040 Plus Project conditions, and project traffic would be anticipated to exceed the allowable 1 percent threshold for triggering significant impacts"; one of these six routes was US 101 from Whipple Avenue to the Santa Clara County Line.

Given that the City's EIR analysis found that the project would cause a significant impact to the segment of US 101 just north of the Santa Clara County line, VTA reiterates our request for the City to analyze key roadway segments in the Santa Clara County CMP, such as US 101 in Palo Alto.

VTA supports the City's General Plan Policy CIRC-2.15: "Regional Transportation Improvements. Work with neighboring jurisdictions and appropriate agencies to coordinate transportation planning efforts and to identify and secure adequate funding for regional transportation improvements to improve transportation options and reduce congestion in Menlo Park and adjacent communities." If the City's analysis of CMP roadway segments in Santa Clara County finds that the project would cause a significant impact according to the Santa Clara County CMP level of service standard, VTA recommends that the City implement a framework for new development to contribute to regional transportation improvements, such as Express

City of Menlo Park
July 29, 2016
Page 2

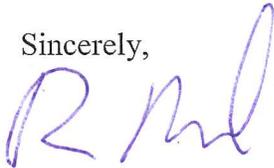
Lanes (High-Occupancy Toll/HOT Lanes) on US 101 in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Caltrain improvements, and other regional transportation initiatives.

General Plan Update – Regional Transportation Improvement Policies

In VTA's comments on the NOP, we noted that "The General Plan update needs to take into consideration that express lanes are planned to be constructed and implemented in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Express lane projects are included in the RTP (RTPID #240741 and #240742) and the General Plan update should not preclude these projects." It is our understanding that the draft updated General Plan does not contain any policies or text acknowledging the Express Lanes projects. VTA reiterates our request for the City to add such language to the draft updated General Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please call me at (408) 321-5784.

Sincerely,



Roy Molseed
Senior Environmental Planner

cc: Patricia Maurice, Caltrans
Brian Ashurst, Caltrans

MP1501