

Memorandum

From: Staff

To: Expanded Community Advisory Panel (XCAP)

Date: November 13, 2019

Subject: Agenda Item #6: Action: Review the 2017 City Council-Adopted Rail Evaluation Criteria and Determine Recommendations for how to Quantify and Qualify the Criteria

The City Council adopted evaluation criteria in September 2017. The criteria are shown below. The 2017 staff report is online at: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/61108>. The criteria have been used in the evaluation matrices related to each of the alternatives still under consideration as shown in the Fact Sheets (link: <https://connectingpaloalto.com/fact-sheets/>). XCAP agenda item #6 was placed on the agenda at the request of the Chairperson for the XCAP to review the City Council-adopted criteria and brainstorm any suggestions for quantifying and qualifying measurable outcomes for the criteria to share with the City Council.

Adopted City Council Evaluation Criteria:

Tier 1 Criteria: Most Important

Technical

- East-West connectivity: facilitate movement across the corridor for all modes of transportation
- Traffic congestion: reduce delay and congestion for automobile traffic at rail crossings
- Ped/Bike circulation: provide clear and safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists seeking to cross the rail corridor, separate from automobile traffic
- Rail operations: support continued rail operations and Caltrain service improvements
- Cost: finance with feasible funding sources

Financial

Tier 2 Criteria: Also Important

Property

- Environmental impacts: reduce rail noise and vibration along the corridor
- Environmental impacts: minimize visual changes along the rail corridor
- Local access: maintain or improve access to neighborhoods, parks, schools and other destinations along the corridor while reducing regional traffic on neighborhood streets
- Cost: minimize right-of-way acquisition by eminent domain
- Construction: minimize disruption and the duration of construction

Construction

