

# Expanded Community Advisory Panel (XCAP) October 16, 2019

## Special Meeting Summary

### Subject

Connecting Palo Alto  
Palo Alto Grade Separation Study

### Meeting date and time

October 10, 2019  
4:00pm-6:00pm

### Location

Palo Alto City Hall  
Community Meeting Room  
250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto

### Prepared by

Chantal C. Gaines, City of Palo

Meeting Called to Order at 4.02 pm

### XCAP Member Attendees

Gregory Brail  
Phil Burton  
Tony Carrasco  
Megan Kanne  
Larry Klein  
Judy Kleinberg (after roll call)  
Pat Lau  
Adina Levin (after roll call)  
Nadia Naik  
Keith Reckdahl (after roll call)  
David Shen  
Cari Templeton (after roll call)

### Excused

Barbara Best  
Inyoung Cho

### Meeting Agenda Recap: The Meeting Agenda included:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Oral Communications (15 minutes)
3. Discussion: Review of Technical Evaluations (30 minutes)
  - a. Outstanding Information for Churchill:
    - i. Queue Lengths at Churchill (“unclearable queues”)
  - b. Review Draft Fact Sheets for Five (5) of the Seven (7) Current Alternatives/Options
  - c. Summary of Technical Action Items and Snapshot of Workplan (on Agenda Page 2)
4. Action: XCAP Organization (45 minutes)
  - a. Election of Vice Chair
  - b. Review the Guiding Principles adopted at the last meeting and consider approval of an amendment clarifying language about how consensus is reached [Attachments]
  - c. Approval of XCAP Meeting Schedule
5. Discussion: XCAP Wrap Up and Community Conversations Summary (20 minutes)
6. Future Meeting Topics and November 7<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting (10 minutes)
7. Adjourn

There is video of the meeting presentations and the PowerPoint is archived on the Connecting Palo Alto website. They are not re-summarized below. Video link: <https://midpenmedia.org/palo-alto-expanded-community-advisory-panel8-10162019/>.

### Next XCAP Meeting

Next Scheduled is October 30, 2019, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Palo Alto City Hall, Community Meeting Room, 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, CA

## **Agenda Item #2: Oral Communications:**

4 Members of the Public Spoke to the XCAP

### **Discussion and Actions**

#### **Agenda Item #3: Discussion: Review of Technical Evaluations (30 minutes)**

- a. Outstanding Information for Churchill:
  - i. Queue Lengths at Churchill (“unclearable queues”)
- b. Review Draft Fact Sheets for Five (5) of the Seven (7) Current Alternatives/Options
- c. Summary of Technical Action Items and Snapshot of Workplan (on Agenda Page 2)

#### Item 3a-Unclearable Queues at Churchill

Presentation: Information Presented by Trisha Dudala, Engineer at Hexagon Transportation. She provided an overview of the PowerPoint Presentation available online here:

<https://connectingpalto.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Item-3a-Queue-Lengths-at-Churchill.pdf>.

This presentation goal is to understand the imperative to do these grade separation projects at all. It is comparing the “do nothing” alternative to the other alternatives that are being studied.

#### Discussion of Unclearable Queues:

1. How much is the stop light time on Alma at Churchill?
  - a. The cars only have to stop when Churchill gets a green light (east-west) and there is split phasing. Any other time, the traffic on Alma can continue to flow. It is about 1 minute for each cycle which equates to about 24 minutes in an hour. People spend more time stopped for cars than they do for trains.
2. How many times does Churchill get preempted and how long?
  - a. 8-10 trains can get pre-emption. Each time, it is approximately 45 seconds for the train. But if opposite direction trains do not come at the exact same moment, then it could be 45-60 seconds. Churchill takes longer to clear.
3. AM peak hour is between 8 and 9 am. PM peak hour is between 5 and 6 pm.
4. Is 260 bikes low in the morning time?
  - a. If the bikes came in clusters, the number could be a little off. They will verify it.
  - b. Ron Ellis, PAUSD Director of Maintenance and Transportation, confirmed that the number of bikes noted seems low. He also noted the amount of fleet/buses/mail cars/etc. that come in and out of the yard would be heavily impacted by losing access to the Churchill crossing. He will follow up with the District XCAP Representative who has been in contact with AECOM and City staff about such traffic issue impacts for PAUSD.
5. The 2030 hours, does that include the increase in Caltrain service?
  - a. No. So the queues would be worse with more trains. Further analysis can be done to try to model it with the additional number of trains.
6. Do all of the counts include the left turn lane on Alma to Churchill?
  - a. Yes.

#### Item 3b-Draft Fact Sheets:

Millette Litzinger of AECOM gave an overview of the draft fact sheets which currently includes 5 of the 7 alternatives still be evaluated. The other fact sheets are forthcoming. Today AECOM just wanted to show these to you and let you review them over the next few days and get your feedback to staff by Monday, October 21 so that updates can be made in order to get the final fact sheets included in the XCAP agenda packet for October 30.

Context: The point of these is to distil the information about all of the alternatives in an easier to digest way. This is a medium for us to share facts about the alternatives with members of the community who have not been involved in this topic at all. The fact sheets are intended to provide baseline information to help inform the community. Ed Shikada thanked AECOM for their hard work on these to date and thanked the XCAP in advance for their review and feedback.

Discussion of Fact Sheets:

- Include construction duration in the neighborhood impact section.
- Include pumping costs and duration.
- Add a box for additional info with links to more materials.
- The fact sheets are incredibly valuable and are very well presented. Very high quality.
- Give your comments to staff (Chantal) by the end of Monday, October 21 and she will compile them to share them with AECOM to make changes.
- The comments on the colors of the matrix draft fact sheet should be connected to a larger conversation for the XCAP related to reviewing the Council criteria. The fact sheet draft here just includes the existing information with nothing new.
- It will be nice to have this type of information for the Palo Alto Avenue crossing too.

8 members of the public spoke on Churchill Unclearable Queues and the Draft Fact Sheets.

Item 3c: Summary of Technical Action Items and Snapshot of Workplan (on Agenda Page 2)

Etty Mercurio of AECOM gave a high-level overview of how the November 7 Community Meeting will be conducted. On November 7, there will be a presentation of materials, Q&A period, and exhibits of all the alternatives still under consideration. The presentation will cover materials that have not been covered thus far in the broader community: the South Palo Alto Tunnel with and without Freight, the Closure related to the traffic mitigations, and the Churchill Viaduct. AECOM and City Staff will be available to answer any questions on any of the alternatives.

Context: staff is working on the first XCAP update to the City Council, likely on October 28 and will also be sharing initial thoughts about the community engagement going forward.

Follow Ups:

- Can the XCAP start looking at Stanford Game Day Station and the impact of losing that with the viaduct?

**Agenda Item #4: Action: XCAP Organization**

- a. Election of Vice Chair
- b. Review the Guiding Principles adopted at the last meeting and consider approval of an amendment clarifying language about how consensus is reached
- c. Approval of XCAP Meeting Schedule

Item 4a: Election of Vice Chair

Nomination Discussion:

- David Shen confirmed that he will not accept the nomination for Vice Chair.

- Larry Klein said he would accept the nomination if nominated again. He sees the Vice Chair's role as a supportive role to the Chair with a responsibility to respect each other's differences of approach and work together towards the Council goal for the XCAP.

**Nominations:**

- Nadia Naik nominates Larry Klein as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Tony Carrasco. - explanation: Larry will be excellent and the motion makers know this will be a strong team for getting the XCAP's work done.

**Vote:**

Yes: Brail, Burton, Carrasco, Kanne, Klein, Kleinberg, Lau, Levin, Naik, Reckdahl, Shen, Templeton

No: N/A

Abstentions: N/A

Absent: Best, Cho

**Item 4b: Review the Guiding Principles and Consider Amendments**

- Document available today shows the document approved by the group at the October 10 XCAP Meeting.
- The goal of the discussion today is to discuss the voting procedures and how we handle dissensions going forward.

**Follow Ups:**

- Suggestion to bring this item back at the next meeting so people have more time to review the suggested edits about consensus. Nadia and Larry will bring a document for review related to consensus for the group to consider adding to the guiding principles.
- Language should also be added about how the XCAP will treat the public.
- Small, typo, line edits do not need to be voted on. They are just clarifying (e.g., changing 'free willing' to 'free wheeling.')

**Item 4c: Approval of XCAP Meeting Schedule**

- Staff will do offline polling of XCAP to come up with options for the ongoing meeting schedule. Based on the conversation today, other times will be considered in the Doodle poll.

**Agenda Item #5: Discussion: XCAP Wrap Up and Community Conversations Summary**

**Community Conversations:**

- Levin: Intent of Caltrain story is to think about things Corridor-wide with their study. The study is not intended to hold anything up. Philip Kamhi, Chief Transportation Official, confirmed that the study is expected to take a few years.
- Kanne: If we can think about Embarcadero intersection data in terms of unclearable queues instead of just level of service (which is harder for the public to digest), that would help in future discussions.
- Carrasco: Are we planning for 2 tracks or 4 tracks? We should include this in our future meeting planning.

1 public speaker spoke to the XCAP on this item.

**Agenda Item #6: Future Meeting Topics and November 7<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting**

- Topics that came up for future meetings:
  - Inviting Caltrain to discuss many different aspects of their work
  - Safety (statistics as well as thinking about individual safety)
  - State level advocacy
  - PAUSD and bike safety
  - Emergency Services (police, fire, emergency services-memo forthcoming)
  - Larry to bring policy about phoning into meetings
  - Any new alternatives

4 members of the public spoke to the XCAP on this item.

Adjourned at 6.35 p.m.