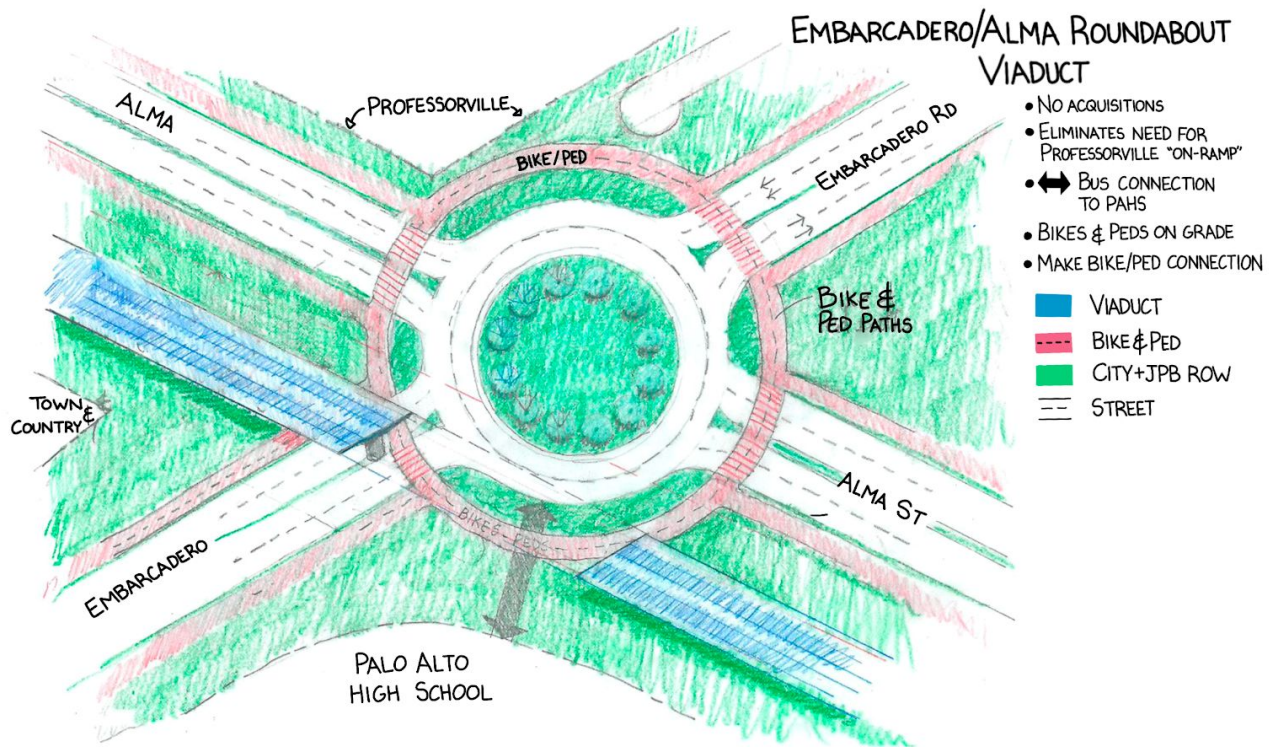


Viaduct at Embarcadero with Roundabout

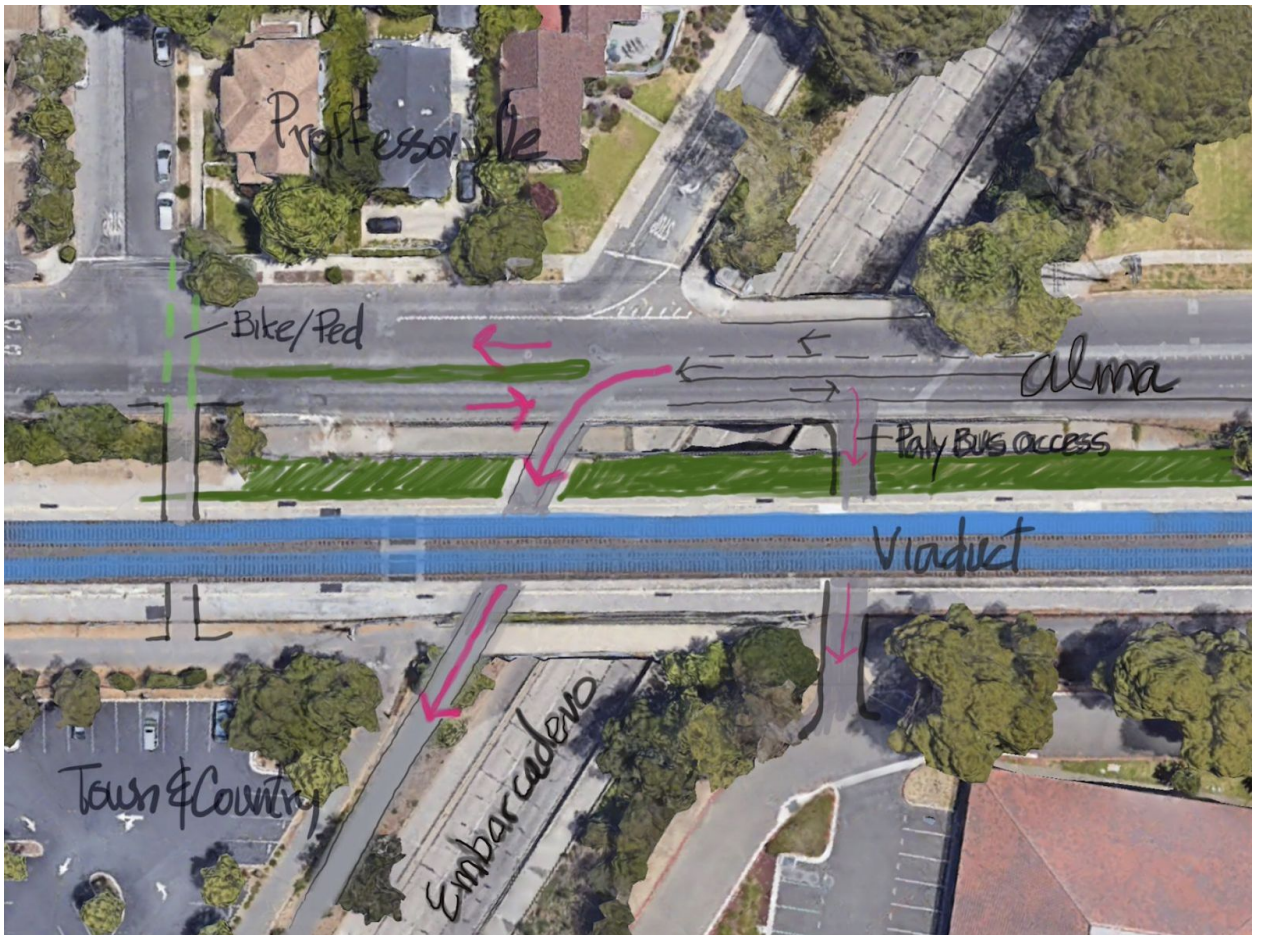
A few residents from three adjacent neighborhoods came together, some strongly opposing the closing of Churchill, to explore ways the connection between Alma and Embarcadero could be imagined that would allow connection while designing for pedestrian and bicycle needs first. Expanding and maintaining the character and walkable grid of Palo Alto streets is important, especially where it is part of the historic Professorville district.

The mitigations suggested by our staff and AECOM would transfer traffic from the closure of Churchill Avenue to the Professorville neighborhood. This “exporting” of the problem, or, as some would call it, “mitigations that cannot be mitigated,” was not acceptable to us. We considered solutions that would eliminate the Professorville traffic intrusion. Our conclusion is that the viaduct is a reasonable option, even if incrementally more expensive than the suggested mitigations. This choice allows for various ground plane configurations that would be compatible with the character of Palo Alto’s Streets.

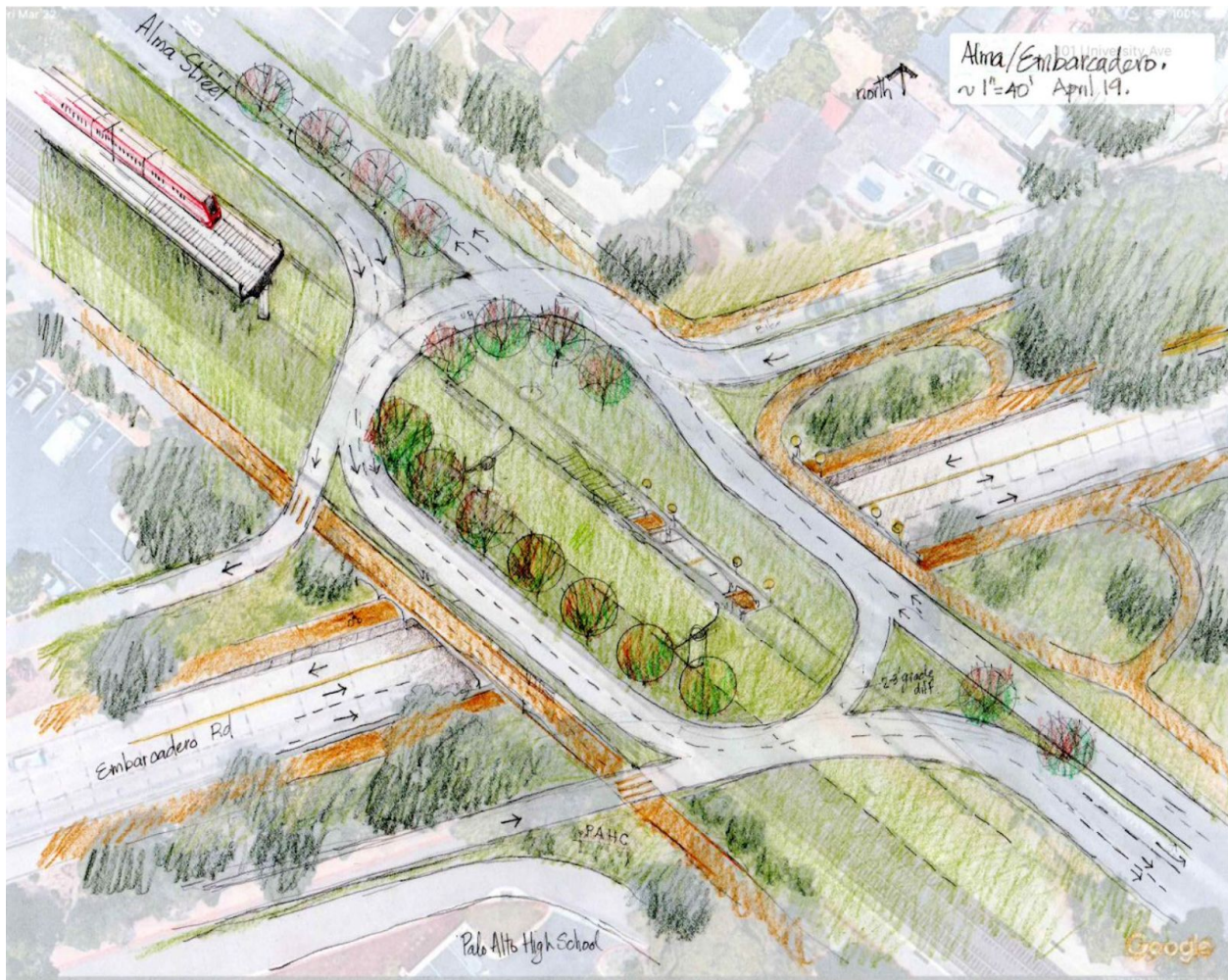


What guided us to recommend the Viaduct as a serious option?

- A Viaduct over Embarcadero Road allows for various configurations of roadways, landscaping, bicycle and pedestrian paths.
- The Viaduct removes the need for Professorville “on-ramp.”
- The Viaduct removes the need for the proposed auto-centric intersection at the foot of the Embarcadero Road/Alma Street intersection.
- The Viaduct removes the proposed long, trench-like pedestrian/bike lane that occupies Kellogg Avenue.
- The Viaduct will start to rise along the East side of the Southgate neighborhood and will reach “top of rail” height of approximately 8 feet at Churchill Avenue. This height will allow a naturally lit, safe, pedestrian/bike underpass at Churchill Avenue, similar to the one at Homer Avenue.
- Rising at 1.4%, the Viaduct would permit new access to the Palo Alto High School property for buses and service vehicles close to Embarcadero Road.
- The Viaduct would cross over the Embarcadero Road/Alma Street intersection at a 20 foot height, allowing for several configurations of the ground plane. This allows bikes/pedestrians to traverse the ground on grade.



- The Viaduct will allow future reconstruction of the Embarcadero and Alma bridges.
- The Viaduct would require property acquisition to create a new roadway of the Southside of the Town & Country property, accommodating the West bound traffic diverted from the closing on Churchill Avenue.
- The Viaduct allows for a modified “Dutch Roundabout.”
- North of Embarcadero, the Viaduct would enhance pedestrian/bike connectivity and walkability between Professorville and Town & Country.
- North of the Viaduct allows possible emergency vehicle access to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.



Even though the Viaduct will be more expensive than “closure with mitigations,” we believe it is the most beneficial for both the city and the adjacent neighborhoods.

