

Expanded Community Advisory Panel (XCAP)

THIS PACKET INCLUDES:

A compilation of emails (public comments, etc) submitted to the XCAP email box, XCAP@CityofPaloAlto.org, between **January 13 and January 20, 2021 at 12:00 pm approximately.**



Note: This PDF contains bookmarks separating each email in this compilation. If you'd like to see the bookmarks but your internet browser doesn't show them, download this PDF from your browser, then re-open it in a PDF reader (such as Adobe Reader, Foxit, etc) and make sure your bookmarks panel is open.

From: [Nadia Naik](#)
To: [Expanded Community Advisory Panel](#)
Subject: IMPORTANT: Possible additional meeting Jan 27th
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:59:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hi XCAPers,

Just a heads up that if we are unable to finalize everything at this week's meeting, **we may need an additional meeting on Jan 27th - so please keep your calendars clear just in case.**

Tomorrow, I'll be sending out a memo highlighting substantive changes that we will discuss at the meeting - so please be sure to read that in advance of the meeting so we can try to work as efficiently as possible.

I'm really hoping we can finish this week - but we must prepare in case we can't.

Thanks,
Nadia

From: [Nadia Naik](#)
To: [Wilson, Sarah](#); [Expanded Community Advisory Panel](#)
Subject: Fwd: PTA Council Letter Re: XCAP Grade Separation Project
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 10:27:38 AM
Attachments: [PTA Council Letter Re Grade Separations Jan 2021.pdf](#)
[SRTS letter Jan 12,2020 Re 2012 Plan.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Just making sure you all received this

Nadia

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christina Schmidt PTAC** <president@paloaltopta.org>
Date: Mon, Jan 18, 2021 at 2:24 PM
Subject: PTA Council Letter Re: XCAP Grade Separation Project
To: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>, <Ed.Shikada@cityofpaloalto.org>, <XCAP@cityofpaloalto.org>
Cc: Don Austin <daustin@pausd.org>, <board@pausd.org>, Nadia Naik <nadianaik@gmail.com>

Dear City Council and City Manager Shikada,

Attached please find the Palo Alto Council of PTAs letter regarding the XCAP grade separation project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,
~ *Christina*

Christina Schmidt, President

Palo Alto Council of PTAs

Every Child, One Voice

email: president@paloaltopta.org

Web: <https://ptac.paloaltopta.org/>

email: council@paloaltopta.org



January 18, 2021

Palo Alto City Council
City Manager Ed Shikada
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear City Council and City Manager Shikada,

We are writing on behalf of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs (PTAC) to request formal collaboration with Staff on the grade separation projects. PTAC works with the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) Board of Education, the PAUSD District Staff, various Community Partners, and the PTAs at all 17 schools. Our goal is to support all students and families in PAUSD.

As one of the key partners of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, PTAC has not had a chance to fully participate in any designs or decisions that may impact, *positively or negatively*, thousands of school families. The SRTS program focuses on the needs of the bicyclists and pedestrians in our community, especially school-aged children. And the focus extends not only to school commutes but also the thousands of trips made daily to/from after school activities and social activities. We believe that we can bring greater understanding regarding the needs of the school community if we participate in the formal process on this issue.

As we wrote in our letter last January, we strongly support the completion of the 2012 Bike-Ped Plan including the Neighborhood Traffic Safety and Bicycle Boulevard Projects that, once completed, will provide a network for people of all ages and abilities who walk, bike, drive and ride transit, including our youngest, most vulnerable commuters on their way to school. These projects include multi-modal improvements such as moderating vehicle speeds on school routes, improving visibility at intersections, and creating better safe routes to school connections for Palo Alto families. We believe working with Staff we can help ensure that the designs of the grade separation projects and any mitigations can also help achieve these goals.

In the past, the PTAC Traffic Safety Committee worked closely with city staff on community outreach and project review through the development of the Neighborhood Traffic Safety & Bicycle Boulevard projects and we can play a similar role with grade separation projects.

We thank the City Council for its continued support of school families and hope that, as the City Council weighs infrastructure project options, you will consider how each project supports

PAUSD families living and traveling to and from school in Palo Alto. PTA Council is grateful for the opportunity to be a voice for the community in all matters involving traffic safety and we would welcome the opportunity to work closely with City staff in the future to ensure the best outcome for our school families and our community at large.

Sincerely yours,

Christina Schmidt, President

Jim Pflasterer & Peter Phillips, Co-Chairs,
Traffic Safety Committee (PTAC Safe Routes to School)

<https://saferoutes.paloaltopta.org/>

cc:

Nadia Naik, Expanded Community Advisory Panel (XCAP)
Donald B. Austin, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, PAUSD
PAUSD Board of Education Trustees
Palo Alto Council of PTAs Presidents

Attachment:

PTAC Letter of Support for the 2012 Bike-Ped Plan



January 22, 2020

Honorable City Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs (PTAC) Traffic Safety Committee. PTAC works with the district staff, the Board of Education, community partners and the PTAs at the 17 schools to support the students and families of the Palo Alto Unified School District and to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth. This letter is written in strong support of completion of 2012 Bike-Ped Plan including the Neighborhood Traffic Safety and Bicycle Boulevard Projects.

The 2019 Palo Alto Safe Routes to School student travel tally data indicates that we have roughly 70% of middle school, 60% of high school and 40% of elementary school kids walking or biking to school - these represent roughly 2% growth YoY since 2016. The bike rack count data for high schools, captured since 1985, shows the highest numbers ever recorded, please see the chart on page 2.

The envisioned bike-ped plan and bike boulevard network overlaps city-wide K-12 Palo Alto school commute routes. When complete, it will provide a network for people of all ages and abilities who walk, bike, drive and ride transit, including our youngest, most vulnerable commuters on their way to school. These projects include multi-modal improvements such as:

- moderating vehicle speeds on school routes
- improving visibility at intersections, and
- creating better safe routes to school connections for Palo Alto families.

These projects support safe, healthy, active, and sustainable non-SOV modes of travel which are critically important in the face of increasing auto traffic. The PTAC Traffic Safety Committee worked closely with city staff on community outreach and project review through development of the Neighborhood Traffic Safety & Bicycle Boulevard projects. We hope that, as the City Council weighs infrastructure project options, you will consider how each project supports PAUSD families living and traveling to and from school in Palo Alto.

As the city's Safe Routes to School PTA partners, we thank you for your previous support of these projects and we ask you to continue to implement the long-awaited city-wide network to support the growth and success of the city's most successful transportation demand management program. Thank you for considering our comments.

PTAC Traffic Safety Committee
Co-Chairs: Jim Pflasterer & Peter Phillips

cc: Palo Alto Council of PTAs, PAUSD Board of Education & Superintendent, PAUSD PTA Presidents

