#### **City/School Transportation Safety Committee**



Gunn Pedaling for Paws, 2023

#### Welcome

- Presentation Recorded
- Add Name and Association in Chat Box
- Muted
- Follow Along and Click the Links



#### Agenda

#### CITY/SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE Thursday, May 18th, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 AM Zoom Registration Link:

https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oc-6hqisoHNCQRPAtiQE80JTIoCZRqYnN# /registration

- A. Welcome/Introductions/Recognitions/Oral Communications (City/PTA) 10 minutes
- B. Administrative (PTA) 10 minutes
  - 1. PTAC Leadership Transition
  - 2. TSR Recruitment [LINK]
- C. Engineering/Planning (City/PAUSD) 30 minutes
  - 1. City Engineering: Quiet Zone Study Presentation
  - 2. PAUSD Engineering
    - a. Hoover Walk & Roll Maps
    - b. JLS Construction Circulation Changes
    - c. Bike Rack Purchasing and Placement
- D. Encouragement (City/PTA on behalf of California Bicycle Coalition) 35 minutes
  - 1. Walk and Roll Week School Equity Considerations
  - 2. AB 75 Stop-As-Yield Proposed Legislation Presentation [LINK]
- E. Engagement (City) 5 Minutes
  - 1. Collision Report

Next CSTSC Meeting: Thursday, August 17th, 2023, 10:00 AM -11:30 AM

Agenda Item Requests: Please email saferoutes@cityofpaloalto.org by 5:00 PM, Monday, July 31st , 2023.



## **Oral Communications/Non-Agendized Items**

Route	Where to?	What's to see?	Maps
Yellow (9.2 miles)	Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto	See El Palo Alto (the city's namesake redwood tree). Find easy routes to Downtown, Menlo Park, and Town and Country Village.	Printable PDF Rides with GPS Google Maps
Red (8.3 miles)	Los Altos, Bol Park, many parks	Meet Perry, the model for the donkey in the movie Shrek. Ride the off-road Bol Park trail and a "secret" bikeway to Los Altos and the Sweet Shop.	Printable PDF Rides with GPS Google Maps
Blue (10.4 miles)	Palo Alto Baylands	A round about trip to see Palo Alto's Baylands. Ride by the Main Library and ride the new bike bridge over 101!	Printable PDF Rides with GPS Google Maps
Grand Tour (19.8 miles)	All the above!	Everything! Ride a little bit of each route in a clockwise loop and a little more!	Printable PDF Rides with GPS Google Maps

Note: Google map links may not be accurate in mobile devices



# Recognition: Shine a Light for...

# Arnout Boelens, CSTSC PTAC Liaison







# Administrative: Leadership and TSR Signups Why You Should Care

- Safe Routes to School is the largest active transportation program in Palo Alto and as a national leader, supports the safety of more than ½ of Palo Alto walking/biking students.
- Fewer cars on the road means less congestion, less CO2 emissions, and safer access points around schools.
- Numbers are down. Parent leadership supports ongoing investments in active transportation.



### Administrative: Leadership and TSR Signups

#### **Learning Opportunities/Next Steps**

- Review TSR Chair Description\* <a href="LINK">[LINK]</a> and TSR Training <a href="LINK">[LINK]</a>
- Considering a Co-Leadership role to support working parents.
- Brainstorm next steps if parent leadership is unavailable. Bimonthly CSTSC/youth meetings etc.
- Connect with Keri Wagner [LINK] to learn more





# **Engineering/Planning**



### **Quiet Zone Study**

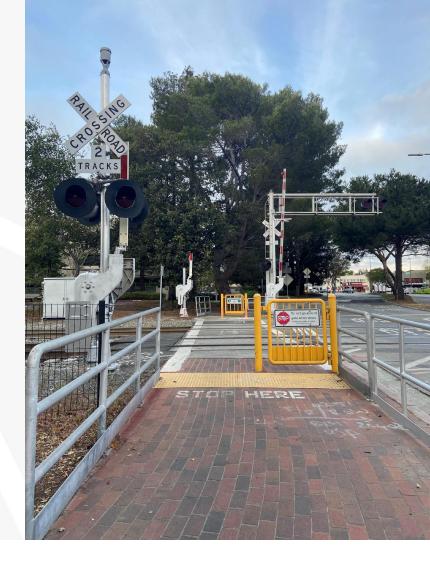
#### Why You Should Care

 Opportunity to review and comment on concept plans and any bike or pedestrian facility changes



City of Menlo Park / City of Palo Alto

# Quiet Zone Study



**Quiet Zone Basics** 

- Overview 2. Menlo Park / Palo Alto Quiet Zone Study Overview
  - **Quiet Zone Process**
  - 4. Walkthrough of Work To-Date

## Why do trains sound their horns?

- Railroads are regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Train horns are required by the FRA
- Decibel level requirements for horns
- Advance notice (20 seconds)



## What is a Quiet Zone?

- A Quiet Zone exists where a train horn does <u>not</u> need to sound
- The crossings need to be upgraded to be safer without horns than they are in current state with horns.



- Achieved via:
  - Supplemental Safety Measures (SSM) at every crossing; or
  - Proposed design's Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) qualifying for Quiet Zone

Most crossings, as they exist today, would not meet the safety thresholds to implement a Quiet Zone.

# Quiet Zone Study The Process

#### PHASE I Study (CURRENT)

- Agency Coordination
- Conceptual Design / Safety Analysis
- Public Outreach
- Final Report

#### PHASE II Implementation (FUTURE)

- Permitting (CPUC, Caltrain)
- Final Design
- Funding
- Construction
- FRA Certification

## **Agency Coordination**

Stakeholder organizations met at each crossing and discussed proposed improvements

#### Agencies involved:

- City of Menlo Park
- CPUC
- City of Palo Alto
- FRA

Kimley-Horn

• UPRR

Caltrain

Caltrans



#### The Menlo Park / Palo Alto Quiet Zone Study Area

#### Palo Alto Study Area

Palo Alto Ave

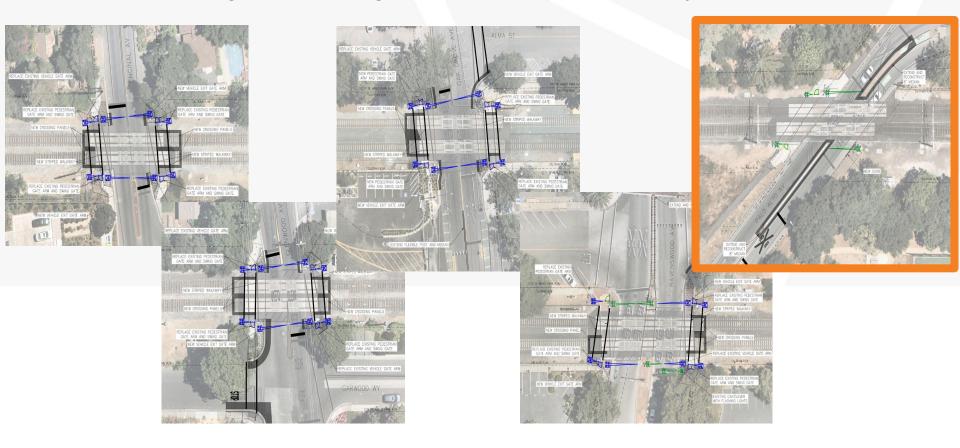
#### Additional Crossings Studied

- Encinal Ave
- Glenwood Ave
- Oak Grove Ave
- Ravenswood Ave



# Conceptual Design

• Each crossing was redesigned to meet specific safety criteria



# Safety Improvements

- Four-quadrant gates
- Raised medians
- Sidewalk realignment
- Refreshed roadway striping and updated signage

# Safety Improvements

Four-quadrant gates

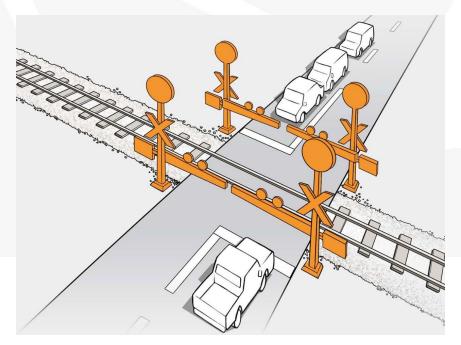


Image:
https://hsr.ca.gov/about/safety/quad-gates/

# Safety Improvements

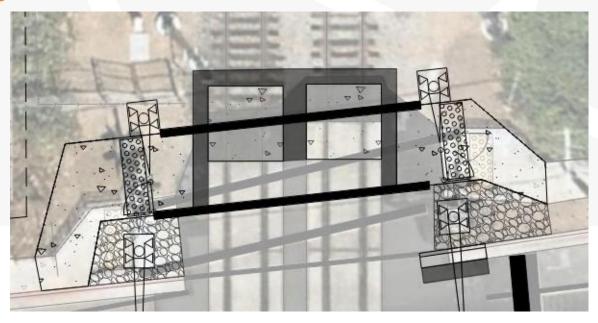
#### Raised medians



Sidewalk realignment

#### **DESIGN FOCUS AREAS**

# Safety Improvements



Refreshed roadway striping and updated signage

**DESIGN FOCUS AREAS** 

Safety

**Improvements** 

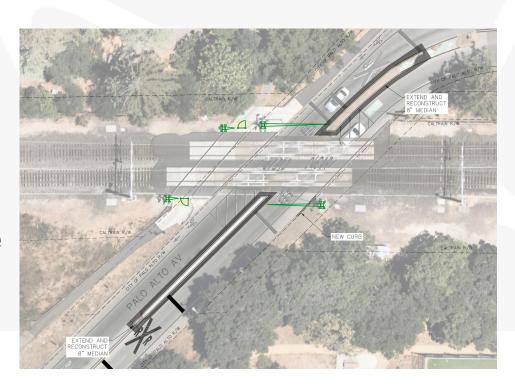






# Conceptual Design – Palo Alto Ave / Alma St

- Elongated medians near the railroad tracks to meet FRA standards
- Refreshed striping and signage to meet federal standards



## **Public Outreach**

Feedback from this meeting will help inform future decisions



# Final Report

- Brings together all steps taken in this process
- Report Provides recommendations for the cities

# **FUTURE** Implementation

- Permitting (CPUC, Caltrain)
- Final Design
- Funding
- Construction

# Kimley»Horn

Expect More. Experience Better.

Questions?

## KEY PERSONNEL

#### **CITY OF PALO ALTO**

RIPON BHATIA PHILIP KAMHI

#### **KIMLEY-HORN**

PETER MEYERHOFER, P.E. (PROJECT MANAGER)

BRENT OGDEN, P.E., P.T.O.E. (GRADE CROSSING EXPERT)

TAYLOR BROWN, EIT

MEAGAN CHAN, EIT

## Hoover/Palo Verde Walk & Roll Maps

#### Why You Should Care

- Familiarize yourself with Walk & Roll Maps and share your knowledge with others
- Test out routes this summer with friends before school starts

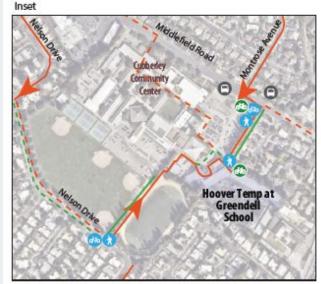


#### **Hoover Elementary School**

Temporarily at Greendell School

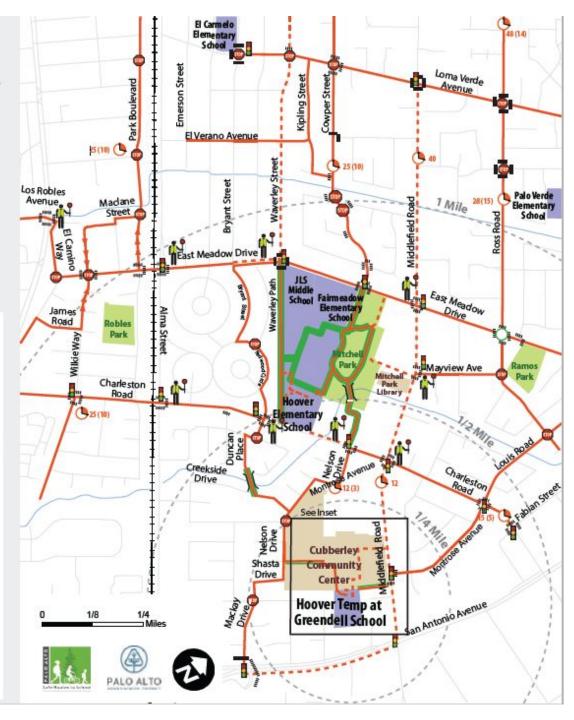
#### WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL SUGGESTED ROUTES





For more Safe Routes to School information, please visit: www.cityofpaloalto.org/saferoutes

The Palo Alto Safe Routes to School Partnership encourages parents and students to use this map to explore options for commuting between home and school. Parents are responsible for choosing the most appropriate option based on their knowledge of conditions on the different routes and the experience level of their student.



#### **JLS Construction Circulation Changes**

#### Why You Should Care

Construction timeline and contacts



### **Bike Rack Purchasing and Placement**

#### Why You Should Care

- Better bike parking makes a big difference
- More bike parking makes more room for more bicycle users



# **Encouragement Spring Walk and Roll Equity Support**

- Family Profiles of Walkers, Bikes, Bussers, Carpoolers in e-News
- Ensure enough giveaways are provided to all VTP students
- Offer meetup points for driver participation





# **Encouragement CalBike AB 73 and Invest/Divest**

Presenter: Arnout Boelens on behalf of Jared Sanchez

#### Why You Should Care

- Bicyclist stop-as-yield laws decriminalize a riding behavior, possibly encouraging more ridership.
- More bicyclists traveling together increases road sharing.
- Current proposed legislation only applies to >18 y.o.
- Current proposed legislation re-referred to Appropriations.

Source: Federal Highway Administration (2023) [LINK]





City School Transportation Safety Committe Meeting Thursday, May 18, 2023

#### AB 73: Bicycle Safety Stop



Every day, thousands of bike riders across California slow as they approach stop signs. They look both ways. If there is traffic, they stop; if not, they roll safely through the intersection.





Right now, this is illegal under California law, but it shouldn't be. That's why CalBike and our allies continue to advocate for a change in the law allowing people on bikes to treat stop signs as yields in California. It's high on our agenda for 2023

#### AB 73: Bicycle Safety Stop



#### **Sign the Petition:**

#### **California needs the Bicycle Safety Stop**

To: Governor Gavin Newsom and California Legislators,

It's time for California to follow many other states and the guidance of the National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration and let people on bikes treat stop signs as yields. It's a
commonsense measure that makes bike riding easier, helps all road users know what to expect,
and is proven to reduce conflicts. Pass the Bicycle Safety Stop in 2023 and make people on bikes
safer!

Legalize the Bicycle Safety Stop 1564 Signatures

100%

Goal: 1500

Data from Delaware shows that collisions involving bikes at intersections went down by 23% after the state adopted the bicycle safety stop.

https://www.calbike.org/bicycle-safety-stop-law/

#### CalBike's Invest/Divest Campaign



To shift California's transportation spending away from traffic-inducing, climate-killing, and community-destroying motor vehicle road expansions...

#### ...and towards...

...Complete Streets initiatives and projects that make it easier and safer for more people to get around by biking, walking, or using public transportation.





https://www.calbike.org/invest-divest/



Thank you!

Jared Sanchez jared@calbike.org



# **Engagement - Monthly Collision Report**Important Details

- Addresses recent collisions involving minors
- Helps assess potential trends.
- Reminder: Many crash-related incidents go unreported. A police report should be filed for any collisions involving minors.

#### **Learning Opportunities**

Crash statistic resources: <u>TIMS</u> and <u>SWITRS</u>.



#### **City School Transportation Safety Committee**

Next CSTSC
Meeting:
Thursday,
August, 17 2023,
10:00 AM -11:30
AM

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER



