



Palo Alto Council of PTAs

25 Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306
www.paloaltopta.org

January 22, 2017

Nuria Fernandez
General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134-1906

RE: Comments on VTA's Draft Regional Transit Plan

Dear VTA Board Members & Ms. Fernandez,

The Palo Alto Council of PTAs is writing in support of Gunn High School PTSA's request to VTA to *work cooperatively with Gunn High School PTSA representatives and the City of Palo Alto as VTA has done in the past to understand local needs and problems the Next Network draft plan might present.*

We understand that Gunn PTSA is concerned that the proposed 288A & B route and limited schedule may not serve Gunn students before-school and after-school academic support and extracurricular activities schedule needs. Gunn PTSA is conducting a student survey to learn more about what works for students. We are concerned that the wrong schedule and/or route may further erode ridership and lead VTA to completely cut the bus.

The VTA88 is an important element of Gunn's school commute transportation mode mix. In fact, the City of Palo Alto is investing heavily in approach streets to the school (including Charleston-Arastradero, used by the VTA88) to create a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly complete street environment and to encourage use of transit. It is unfortunate that these cuts are proposed in the same summer that the hardscape improvements are slated to be constructed.

PTA volunteers worked in cooperation with VTA and City of Palo Alto staff to save the 88 line in 2009. We value this bus service, and we ask VTA to work with us again.

VTA enjoys strong sales tax revenues generated in Palo Alto. Palo Alto already has relieved VTA of coverage responsibility by providing the City of Palo Alto Shuttle to complement VTA routes without impacting VTA ridership. Loss of the VTA88 would pose a significant problem for south Palo Alto transit dependent residents and Gunn High School students who rely on this bus every day.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Gold". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Gold, President
Palo Alto Council of PTAs
cc: board.secretary@vta.org