



February 20, 2019

Honorable Santa Clara County Supervisors,

As you consider the Stanford GUP Final EIR and Development Agreement, Fletcher Middle School PTA in Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) respectfully asks you to consider the following requests regarding transportation.

Fletcher Middle School serves 667 students - 38% of these students bike to school for the 2018-19 school year. We estimate that about half of Fletcher students use foot-powered transportation for their daily commute to school.

We are glad to see the proposal to improve connections to Fletcher via the Bol Park Path, Hanover Street, Page Mill included in the EIR. 113 of Stanford-affiliated students who currently attend Fletcher live in the Stanford area which can be considered “west of Page Mill.” As Stanford’s growth plans will likely increase PAUSD student enrollment, this is an appropriate time to improve these well-used facilities--especially because increasing numbers of Stanford-affiliated residents will attend Fletcher Middle School and other nearby PAUSD schools that are served by these bike connections. In addition to funding for this project, the City has requested an easement to enable these improvements. We hope that easement will be granted.

Many students have commented on the “scary” darkness of both the upper and lower paths when they commute in the evening from after-school activities. Lighting and other safety and capacity improvements will make the routes more inviting. Hanover and Page Mill connector improvements will encourage more parents to allow their students to use these auto-impacted connectors. Thank you for including these off-site improvements in your project plans to create a safer and more comfortable bicycle-pedestrian route from Stanford to school, as well as the Stanford Research Park and other destinations. Stanford employees will also benefit as some use these paths to commute to campus.

Fletcher Middle School PTA supports requests made by the Palo Alto Council of PTAs Traffic Safety Committee with some additional points that are specific to our school site.

- **Make contributions to Transit and Transportation Infrastructure:** Make contributions to necessary capital improvements at City intersections and to support grade separations. Make fair share payments to the City in-line with the City’s Transportation Impact Fee requirements, including fair share contributions to Caltrain grade separation. Specifically, in support of the Charleston–Arastradero Plan to improve bike facilities and road operations along this route, we ask you to please analyze Project impacts on this

school commute corridor in order to identify an appropriate fair share contribution toward grade separation.

The Fletcher PTA supports the Charleston-Arastradero (C-A) Plan which will provide safer bike and pedestrian facilities on Charleston-Arastradero. EIR Mitigation #58 would require a new, dedicated right turn lane at the intersection of Alma/Charleston. This proposed mitigation is inconsistent with the Charleston-Arastradero Plan (currently under construction) and the City's Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan. Further, it is not consistent with the city's plan to grade separate the rail crossing at this intersection. The FEIR would require \$1.8 million for mitigation measure #58. Instead, consistent with city plans, we ask you to apply this contribution to planned grade separation of this intersection in addition to any other fair share contribution that may be required once requested analysis is complete.

- **Upgrade Analysis and Commute Trip Methodology:** Peak spreading and reverse commutes impact school commute safety. Please require Stanford to make needed adjustments in order to fully capture traffic impacts that occur throughout the day, including morning and afternoon school commute times and reverse commutes.
- **Provide funding assistance to the City for crossing guards** at intersections that may warrant crossing guards in the future due to Stanford GUP-related traffic impacts on PAUSD school routes.
- **Continuation of Cooperation with the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Partnership** and extend that cooperation to support future Stanford-affiliated PAUSD students.
- **Fund identified and not yet identified safe routes engineering improvements:** Fletcher PTA supports the City's request that Stanford create an annual budget based on the agreed work program for future improvements that benefit Stanford faculty, employees, staff, and graduate students with children. Please ensure that the University remains responsive when new demands for school travel are generated by new development, giving heightened attention to safety and congestion impacts on school commute routes.
- **Support Partner Organizations:** Provide technical and financial support to partner organizations (e.g. local Shuttles and TMAs). Coordinate with the City of Palo Alto to support the City's Shuttle Program and enhance connections with the Marguerite Shuttle.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

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

Audrey Gold

Fletcher PTA President on behalf of the Ellen Fletcher Middle School PTA

cc:

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