



January 22, 2020

Honorable City Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs (PTAC). 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.

Jade Chao  
President, Palo Alto Council of PTAs

cc: Superintendent, PAUSD Board of Education, PTA Presidents

