



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

April 29, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price,
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart,
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

As you begin your critical work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I strongly urge you to include \$6,500,000 for the City of Menlo Park to construct a pedestrian/bicycle rail crossing near Middle Avenue. This Community Project Funding request is associated with the Department of Transportation account for Highway Infrastructure Projects.

The City will use the requested funding to build a tunnel under the Caltrain commuter rail tracks near Middle Avenue for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as a mid-block crossing featuring raised crosswalks, signage, and flashing beacons. The project will provide an important connection for Menlo Park residents on both sides of the Caltrain tracks including city parks, schools, the Menlo Park Public Library, and the mixed-use Middle Plaza development that will include affordable housing, office and retail space, and a plaza.

The Middle Avenue crossing project has important benefits for public safety as Caltrain plans to significantly increase the frequency and speed of trains along the corridor. As the only planned grade separation in Menlo Park, the crossing will provide continuous travel across the tracks along key routes to nearby schools and promote economic vitality by supporting businesses and residents in the downtown area and the new developments adjacent to the railroad tracks along El Camino Real.

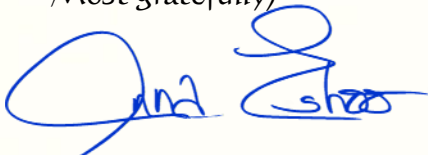
As an indication of community support, I've enclosed letters of support from the following community leaders:

- Ms. Theresa Romell, Section Director, Funding Policy and Programs, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Mr. Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief, Planning, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain)
- Ms. Jammie, Behrendt, Assistant Superintendent, Menlo Park City School District
- Ms. Adina Levin, Executive Director, Friends of Caltrain
- The Honorable Jen Wolosin, Founder and Chair, Parents for Safe Routes
- Ms. Fran Dehn, President and CEO, Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce
- Ms. Shiloh Ballard, President & Executive Director, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Mr. John Donahoe, Director, Planning and Entitlement, Stanford University
- Ms. Sandy Wong, former Executive Director, City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County

Furthermore, the Middle Avenue crossing project is included in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Transportation Improvement Plan.

If enacted, this request would promote traffic safety, improve pedestrian mobility, and promote economic growth, and it's why I wholeheartedly support this Community Project Funding request and ask that you do so as well.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures