



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of December 1, 2022

Correspondence as of November 4, 2022

Subject

- 1 Bay Trail Gap Study Invitation
- 2 Notice of Preparation - 660 University Avenue Palo Alto
- 3 Noise Complaint: At San Antonio Station Mountain View
- 4 RE: Unacceptable Train Conditions

Good morning all,

My name is Joel Shaffer, and I am the MTC project manager for the Bay Trail Gap Closure Implementation Plan. I hope that you or someone from your team is able to participate on the Working Group, as your local knowledge and feedback will be invaluable to the successful completion of the project.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I am also happy to meet individually (via Zoom or in-person at your office!) for introductions and to provide additional information about the project.

I'm looking forward to working with you.

Best,

Joel

Joel Shaffer, P.E.

Associate Engineer/Planner – Active Transportation
Licensed in CA | (he/him)

From: Jeff Knowles <jeffreyknowles@altaplanning.com>

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:30 PM

To: nlandau@actransit.org; Dennis.newman@amtrak.com; hmaddox@bart.gov; communityprograms@badm.org; Gavin Lohry <glohry@bayareametro.gov>; Ben Kaufman <benk@railstotrails.org>; Bonnie Lewkowicz <Bonnie@borp.org>; Sedrick.Mitchell@parks.ca.gov; Ruiz, Sergio@DOT <sergio.ruiz@dot.ca.gov>; batac@caltrain.com; construction@caltrain.com; waltonstaff@sfgov.com; board@caltrain.com; Cuasay, Virgilio@SCC <virgilio.cuasay@scc.ca.gov>; Johnson, Erica@SCC <erica.johnson@scc.ca.gov>; sfbaynwrc@fws.gov; Sean Dougan <sdougan@ebparks.org>; bridgecomments@goldengate.org; Kirsten_Holder@nps.gov; tgarber@parksconservancy.org; cmooney@parksconservancy.org; MPalumbo@goldengate.org; glanusse@gvrd.org; info@grp.org; Shawn Casey-White <shawn@vinetrail.org>; Bruce Beyaert <baytrailtrac@gmail.com>; whøj@haywardrec.org; nwhelan@marintransit.org; rbetts@marintransit.org; Joshua Hugg <jhugg@openspace.org>; Johnston, Patrick <patrick_johnston@nps.gov>; jpolston@portoakland.com; bmacdonnell@portoakland.com; tchu@portoakland.com; jzatopek@portoakland.com; Rachael Lopes <rfaye@openspacetrust.org>; BxLg@pge.com; kchuop@portoakland.com; kzortman@redwoodcityport.com; wendy.proctor@sfport.com; david.beaupre@sfport.com; presidio@presidiotrust.gov; carndt@audubon.org; ryanmack@ridgetrail.org; maureengaffney@ridgetrail.org; wegenerc@samtrans.com; Gilster, Patrick <gilsterp@samtrans.com>; andrea.gaffney@bcdca.gov; rafael.montes@bcdca.gov; Munowitch, Monica <monica.munowitch@sfmta.com>; ebetts@sonomamarintrain.org; sadams@unioncity.org; creilly@wcctac.org; jnemeth@wcctac.org; connolly@watertransit.org; Robert Prinz <robert@bikeeastbay.org>; anthony@bikesiliconvalley.org; Sandhya Laddha <sandhya@bikesiliconvalley.org>; janelle@sfbike.org; jodie@walksf.org; Warren Wells <warren@marinbike.org>; Eris Weaver <eris@bikesonoma.org>; kvernor@napabike.org; athomson@transformca.org; partners@sfparksalliance.org

Cc: Joel Shaffer <jshaffer@bayareametro.gov>; Nicola Szibbo <nszibbo@bayareametro.gov>

Subject: Bay Trail Gap Study Invitation

External Email

Greetings Bay Trail Partners,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is working to identify and evaluate missing segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail as part of the **Bay Trail Gap Closure Implementation Plan**. While partners have made steady progress completing over 350 miles of the Bay Trail, significant gaps remain. Through this planning effort, MTC will also evaluate gaps in trails that provide direct access to the Bay Trail.

The **Bay Trail Gap Closure Implementation Plan** will help MTC and its partners:

- expand trail access to Equity Priority Communities
- develop connections to parks and open space
- provide access to transit facilities and other active transportation infrastructure
- preserve the shoreline environment
- help adapt to climate change
- create a memorable and comfortable user experience

We are inviting you to participate in the project's Working Group. Your technical expertise, knowledge, and local connections will be invaluable as we identify and evaluate priorities for addressing all missing segments of the Bay Trail and connector trails. In addition, your feedback will help ensure that regional priorities are consistent with local planning and project development work and capitalize on opportunities to explore solutions to specific infrastructural needs. We plan to meet virtually three times to review and provide feedback on:

1. Existing Conditions
2. Prioritization Process
3. Prioritization Results and Conceptual Designs for priority gaps

During the first Working Group meeting, we expect to provide additional details on the Plan, answer any questions you may have, and then offer additional insights into the work that has taken place to date. We will also request your input on potential prioritization strategies and criteria.

To help us coordinate the logistics, we ask that you fill out the **DOODLE POLL** with your availability - **OR** - forward it to the appropriate staff at your organization so that they can attend.

We ask that you complete the poll **by October 14.**

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, comments, inspiration, or if you'd like more specific information on the Plan.

MTC Staff Contact:

Joel Shaffer, P.E.

Associate Engineer/Planner – Active Transportation
jshaffer@bayareametro.gov

We are very much looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,
Jeff Knowles (Consultant Project Manager)

JEFF KNOWLES, AICP

Pronouns: he/him

Principal / Oakland Office Manager | **Alta Planning + Design, Inc.**

d: 510.788.6878 | **o:** 510.540.5008

Oakland, CA | altago.com

From: [Foley, Emily Foley, Emily](#)
To:
Subject:
Date:
Attachments: [image009.png](#) [image010.png](#) [image012.png](#) [image013.png](#) [image014.png](#) [image016.png](#) [image017.png](#)

[660 University Notice of Preparation.pdf](#)

Notice of Preparation - 660 University Avenue Palo Alto Friday, November 4, 2022 10:16:06 AM

You don't often get email from emily.foley@cityofpaloalto.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Hello,

This e-mail is to inform you that the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an EIR for the 660 University Mixed-Use Planned Community project is now available [here](#) on our Planning Department website. The Notice of Preparation is also attached to this email. The comment period for the NOP begins today, Friday, November 4th and will end on December 5, 2022. This e-mail is being provided to you because you are a neighboring jurisdiction, your agency has expressed an interest in the proposed project or because your agency may have an interest in the proposed project, or because you have been requested to be contacted regarding any project within the City of Palo Alto's jurisdiction. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or to send comments.

Regards,

Emily



Emily Foley, AICP
Planner

Planning and Development Services Department
(650) 617-3125 | emily.foley@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

The City of Palo Alto is doing its part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have successfully transitioned most of our employees to a remote work environment. We remain available to you via email, phone, and virtual meetings during our normal business hours.



[NEW Parcel Report](#) | [Palo Alto Municipal Code](#) | [Online Permitting System](#) | [Planning Forms & Handouts](#) | [Planning Applications Mapped](#)



Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000, et sec.) that the following project may have a significant effect on the environment.

File Number	APN(s)	Date
21PLN-00341	Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 120-03-042, 120-03-043, and 120-03-044	November 4, 2022
Project Name		Project Type
660 University Avenue Mixed-Use Project		Mixed-Use
Owner		Applicant
Shachi Bahl, DMD 511 Byron Street Palo Alto, CA 94301		Smith Development 682 Villa Street, Suite G Mountain View, California 94041
Project Location		
<p>The project site includes the entire area bounded in a yellow line on the attached project location figure. The project site encompasses approximately 0.5 acres (22,526 square feet) across three parcels, identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 120-03-042, 120-03-043, and 120-03-044 at the addresses of 511 Byron Street, 660 University Avenue, and 680 University Avenue/500 Middlefield Road, respectively. The site is at the southeast corner of the intersection of University Avenue and Middlefield Road and is also bounded by Byron Street to the south and a dental office, single family residence, and a retirement home to the west.</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the CEQA Guidelines, the site is not located on a hazardous waste list compiled under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>		
Project Description		
<p>The proposed project would involve demolition of the existing two on-site office buildings (5,260 square feet at 511 Byron Street and 3,955 square feet at 680 University Avenue/500 Middlefield Road) and merging of the three parcels that comprise the project site in order to construct a four-story mixed-use building with two levels of below grade parking. Proposed uses include office space, 65 residential units, and parking. The project would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment to modify the description of Multiple Family Residential designation to include a provision for maintaining existing office space, and rezone to designate the site from Low Density Multiple-Family Residence (RM-20) to Planned Community (PC).</p>		

Residential units would be split into five types: Unit A, Unit B, Unit C, Unit D, and Unit E. Units A to C would be studio units from 387 square feet to 477 square feet; Unit D would be one-bedroom units from 452 square feet to 551 square feet square feet; and Unit E would be two-bedroom units of 755 square feet. Pursuant to the City's inclusionary housing requirements, the project would provide 20 percent affordable housing units (13 units). Of the 13 units, four would be at the very low-income affordability level, four would be at the low-income affordability level, and five would be at the moderate-income affordability level.

Pedestrian access to the project would be provided via two entrances on University Avenue, one leading to the office lobby and one leading to the residential lobby. Vehicular access would be provided via an entrance on Middlefield Road, which would grant access to the two-level below grade parking lots. The project would include a total of 94 stalls, with 32 stalls on Level P1, 56 stalls on Level P2, and 6 ADA stalls. The project would also include eight short-term bicycle parking spaces and 32 long-term spaces. Short-term bicycle parking spaces would be provided via four bicycle racks fronting University Avenue.

Purpose of Notice

The City of Palo Alto will be the lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed project. This Notice of Preparation is sent pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to announce the initiation of the EIR process and to solicit comments from responsible and trustee agencies and interested parties concerning the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR. The Draft EIR will address the potential physical and environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with the CEQA.

Comment Period:

Begins: 11/04/2022

Ends: 12/05/2022

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please focus your comments on the project's potential environmental impacts and recommendations for methods of avoiding, reducing, or otherwise mitigating those impacts. If you are a governmental agency with discretionary authority over initial or subsequent aspects of this project, describe that authority and provide comments regarding potential environmental effects that are germane to your agency's area of responsibility. We also respectfully request the name of a contact person for your agency.

Written comments should be addressed to:

Emily Foley, AICP
 City of Palo Alto
 250 Hamilton Avenue
 Palo Alto, CA 94301

Or emailed to emily.foley@cityofpaloalto.org.

Additional information on this project may be reviewed online at <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/News-Articles/Planning-and-Development-Services/660-University-Avenue>. If you need assistance, please visit the City's Development Center during the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California or please contact Emily Foley.

Responsible Agencies that received a copy of this document:

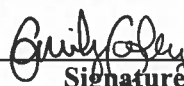
No responsible agencies have been identified for this project.

Potential Environmental Effects:

It is anticipated that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental effects relating to Noise, Traffic, and Biology. These issues will be analyzed in detail in the Draft EIR.

Prepared by:

On Behalf of the City of Palo Alto
Print Name


Signature

11/3/22
Date

Project Location



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From: [Nabong, Sarah](#)
To: aditya.punjani@gmail.com
Cc: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: RE: Noise Complaint: At San Antonio Station Mountain View.
Date: Friday, November 4, 2022 1:34:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Aditya Punjani,

Your email to the Caltrain Board of Directors has been forwarded to me for response. They will receive a copy of this email.

First, I apologize for the delay in my response and thank you for reaching out to Caltrain with your observations. As a public service, the last thing we want to be is a nuisance to the communities we serve.

We do have an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad, which allows them use of our tracks. Other than ensuring horns are at the FRA regulated decibel level and that engineers are obeying the mandated sounding pattern, we are limited in what we can do as rail agencies. Horn decibels are calibrated and tested every 92 days and are within federal regulations. After investigation it appears we had scheduled maintenance work from 2000-0500 on September 17, 2022, this construction is short-term. There may be additional whistle noise if there are employees working on the right of way or if additional trains are passing through the area. Any excess or unusual whistle-blowing would be due to trespassers on the right of way.

Nevertheless, we at Caltrain understand noise pollution is a frustrating problem, and we are doing what we can to reduce horn usage while still adhering to Federal regulations.

Once more, we apologize for the trouble, and we thank you for taking the time to reach out to us.

Kind regards,

Sarah Nabong, Customer Service Representative 2

1250 San Carlos Ave San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: 650.508.7925

Websites: [Caltrain](#) | [SamTrans](#) | [TA](#)



Noise Complaint: At San Antonio Station Mountain View.

There was excessive train honking noise at 1.38 AM on 09/17 Saturday. This is against the rules of the city of Mountain View as specified here. <https://www.caltrain.com/media/757/download>.

Please investigate this violation in the middle of the night which woke everyone up near the station.

From: [Nabong, Sarah](#)
To: brandon.welsh@recovhub.com
Cc: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: RE: Unacceptable Train Conditions
Date: Friday, November 4, 2022 1:54:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Brandon Welsh,

Your message to the Caltrain Board of Directors was referred to me for response. The Board members will receive a copy of our correspondence.

We apologize for the conditions you experienced while onboard Caltrain and appreciate you bringing this to our attention. Your feedback was forwarded on date of receipt (9/20) to the proper parties for their attention to address. I was informed that the consist was captured and serviced, restroom was inspected for abnormalities, and is now working as intended.

Again, thank you for notifying us.

Regards,

Sarah Nabong, Customer Service Representative 2

1250 San Carlos Ave San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: 650.508.7925

Websites: [Caltrain](#) | [SamTrans](#) | [TA](#)



I got on the 8:18 PM (weekday) train in Redwood City and every train car smelt like human fesses (poop). I walked from each train car, both downstairs and upstairs to find a spot that didn't have an overwhelming smell of shit and piss, but I was unable to find a clean area. My findings included bathroom doors that were just wide open in every car. I brought this to the attention of other passengers who all had the same opinion of how badly this train smells. Please do something about this, or I will need to find other means of transportation. This is unacceptable for public and or private means of transportation, as no passenger should have to be subjected to this unsanitary conditions.