



21 March 2018

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 two projects included in the Infrastructure Plan Budget: the **Neighborhood Traffic Safety and Bicycle Boulevard (Phase 2)** and the **Charleston/Arastradero Corridor Plan**. With 100% plans complete and approvals in place, they are ready to move toward construction.

These infrastructure projects serve over a dozen public and private K-12 school routes in Palo Alto and work together to create a school commute network for PAUSD students of all ages and abilities who bike, walk, ride transit, and drive on these streets every day. 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. Corridor school site PTAs and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs (PTAC) have supported the Charleston/Arastradero project since 2005 as it moved through reviews and approvals by City Council. 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 (Phase 2) project. We hope that, as the Finance Committee 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 fund these projects and 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.



Audrey Gold  
President, Palo Alto Council of PTAs

cc: Karen Hendricks, PAUSD Interim Superintendent & the PAUSD Board of Education