

TA

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as of 9-20-2024



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: City of Burlingame – Broadway Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I am writing to express our support for the City of Burlingame's grant application for the Broadway Grade Separation Project (Project). This project aligns with the goals and requirements of the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program: it addresses safety issues faced by vehicles, passenger and freight trains, and people walking and biking; dramatically improves vehicular and rail circulation; improves access to the nearby Broadway commercial district; and improves air quality.

With over 10,000 at-grade railroad crossings throughout the State of California, the Broadway at-grade railroad crossing in Burlingame is the top priority on the California Public Utilities Commission's Grade Separation Priority List. In January of 2024, a passenger train struck an occupied vehicle stopped on the train tracks, reminding us of just how dangerous the crossing remains. This is in addition to previous collisions, including fatal crashes. Unsafe situations arise on a daily basis. A grade separation is the best opportunity to solve the problem by completely and permanently separating the railroad from all vehicular and active transportation traffic.

In addition to addressing the dangers associated with this crossing, the Project will improve traffic flow and the overall quality of life in and around the Project area. Broadway is the only gateway to Burlingame from U.S. 101, connecting the freeway to two vital business districts, numerous small and large businesses, and 11 San Francisco International Airport-serving hotels. Over 100 Caltrain commuter trains pass through the Broadway at-grade railroad crossing daily. When trains cross Broadway, all other transportation comes to a halt, resulting in congestion, trip delays, air quality impacts, and impacts on local and regional businesses.

The TA has partnered closely with the City of Burlingame on this Project for a number of years and to-date has provided over ninety-two percent of project costs. The TA recognizes the importance of this project to our entire region and is committed to building the project.

Honorable Pete Buttigieg

September 18, 2024

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With the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, this new critical infrastructure will improve public safety, reduce traffic, facilitate active transportation modes, and invigorate the economic vitality of Burlingame and the region while allowing train service to increase and meet statewide and regional mobility needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. If you have any questions, please contact Government and Community Affairs Director Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com.

Sincerely,



April Chan, Executive Director
San Mateo County Transportation Authority

Cc: San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors



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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the Rengstorff Grade Separation Project in Mountain View, Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write in support the City of Mountain View's grant application for the Rengstorff Grade Separation Project (Project).

With over 10,000 at-grade railroad crossings throughout the State of California, the Rengstorff Avenue at-grade railroad crossing in Burlingame ranks among the top 30 locations for mitigation on the California Public Utilities Commission's Grade Separation Priority List. Final engineering design is now well underway, environmental clearance has been secured, and the Project is ready for construction.

Four fatal pedestrian collisions have occurred at the crossing since 2018, with a recent history of three pedestrian fatalities in February and July 2022, and July 2023. Unsafe situations arise at the crossing daily, and grade separation presents the best opportunity to solve the problem by completely and permanently separating the railroad from all vehicular and other traffic.

In addition to addressing the dangers associated with this crossing and enhancing Caltrain and future California High Speed Rail's ability to deliver fast, safe and reliable transportation on the San Francisco Bay Peninsula, the Project will improve traffic flow and the overall quality of life in and around the Project area.

Rengstorff Ave. connects Mountain View's thriving tech campuses, vital business districts and diverse thriving neighborhoods to U.S. 101. Over 100 Caltrain commuter trains pass through the Rengstorff at-grade railroad crossing daily. Additionally, Union Pacific Railroad's freight trains run through the crossing. When trains cross Rengstorff, all other transportation comes to a halt, resulting in congestion, trip delays, air quality impacts, and impacts on local and regional businesses.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

September 18, 2024

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The improvements proposed as part of this grant application are consistent with the TA's mission and vision. With the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, this new critical infrastructure will improve public safety, reduce traffic, facilitate active transportation modes, and invigorate the economic vitality of Mountain View and the region while allowing train service to increase and meet statewide and regional mobility needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. If you have any questions, please contact Government and Community Affairs Director Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com.

Sincerely,



April Chan, Executive Director
San Mateo County Transportation Authority

Cc: San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors