



**1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087**

May 2, 2022

Active Transportation Program Scoring Committee
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express support for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) application to the Active Transportation Program for the design and construction of Homestead Road Safe Routes to School Project from Grant Road to Hollenbeck Avenue/Stelling Road.

This project will improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along Homestead Road and will make riding a bicycle or walking on Homestead Road feel safer, more comfortable, and more appealing.

Spurred on by concerns brought up by parents and school administration, the County of Santa Clara funded and completed a Safe Routes to School Corridor Study in 2018/19. After completing the study, the County asked VTA to take the lead on implementation. VTA's application seeks funding for the design and construction of improvements identified in the study and addresses the concerns and input from parents, school administration, neighbors, and other community members. Improvements include separated bike lanes, sidewalk gap closure, a trail extension widened and new sidewalks, high-visibility crosswalks, curb ramps, and pedestrian and bicycle detection upgrades. This project will make it easier and safer for students to travel to and from the schools along the corridor.

This segment of Homestead Road serves three schools and is overloaded during commute and school pick-up and drop-off times, with high volumes of drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians and many, many conflicts. A very high percentage of middle and high school students bike to school, many traveling on Homestead Road. Large numbers of students walk to the elementary and middle schools. Adult commuter bicyclists ride on Homestead Road to access Foothill Expressway and Don Burnett Bridge, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-280. Traffic is very congested with parents driving children to the three nearby schools, commuters taking Homestead Road to the SR-85 on ramps, and Foothill Expressway, and teens driving to the high school. There is a history of collisions in this area, with 21 bicyclists and pedestrians hit between 2015 and 2019, 15 of the victims were 17 years old or younger.

As a stakeholder who participated in the Homestead Corridor Safe Routes to School Study, I strongly support VTA applying to the Active Transportation Program Competitive Grant.

Sincerely,

Los Altos City Council