

City of Menlo Park
City Council Rail Subcommittee
Mission Statement

The City Council Rail Subcommittee will advocate for ways to reduce the negative impacts and enhance the benefits of Rail in Menlo Park. The Subcommittee will ensure all voices are heard and that thoughtful ideas are generated and alternatives vetted. It will collaborate with other local and regional jurisdictions in support of regional consensus of matters of common interest related to Rail. Additionally, the subcommittee will support City Council planning efforts and decision making on Rail-related issues with information, research and other expertise.

City of Menlo Park Statement of Principles for Rail

The City of Menlo Park City Council Rail Subcommittee works to protect and enhance the character of Menlo Park and the community's economic vitality while supporting the conditions needed to maximize the local benefits and the long-term potential of rail.

- The character of Menlo Park includes:
 - Our connected, walkable, bikeable, safe and accessible neighborhoods, parks, commercial areas and civic center
 - Our vision and specific plan for the downtown and El Camino Real including improved east-west mobility for all modes of travel

- The community's economic vitality includes:
 - The continued success of our small and large businesses
 - The maintenance of our property values
 - Rail agencies responsibly mitigating impacts of rail, including but not limited to, HSR, Caltrain, and freight

- The conditions needed to maximize the long-term potential of the City's rail corridor include:
 - Improvements to east/west connectivity; rail unifies rather than divides
 - Improvements to local transit
 - The negative physical and social impacts of rail are minimized and the positive impacts are enhanced by using context sensitive design solutions
 - Consider all reasonable alternatives including those discussed previously by Menlo Park

Implied "decision criteria" from these principles might include:

- Does the alternative protect or enhance connectivity to additional modes of travel/ accessibility to city locations?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance walk-ability?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance bike-ability?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance the economic vitality of businesses?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance property values?
- Does the alternative align with/support the El Camino Real/ Downtown Specific Plan?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance local transit opportunities?
- Does the alternative enhance the level of transit service?

City of Menlo Park Council Position Summary

The following bullet points clarify the Council's position on high speed rail on the Caltrain corridor through Menlo Park.

- The City opposes any exemption or elimination of any part of the CEQA review for the High Speed Rail Project environmental review process;
- The high speed rail within Menlo Park should be in a two-track envelope system, and stay within the existing Caltrain right-of-way (with very minor exceptions such as for Caltrain electrification equipment, and in very limited locations);
- No Environmental Impact Report should go forward which increases the rail corridor to greater than two tracks in Menlo Park;
- The City approves of the currently approved blended system but opposes passing tracks located in Menlo Park;
- The City is interested in quiet zones for the rail corridor in Menlo Park;
- The City intends to pursue a grade separation project with a focus on the Ravenswood Avenue crossing that can be constructed independent of the blended system, High Speed Rail and any passing track scenario; and
- Our strategy is to work cooperatively with the blended system planning efforts while preventing an at-grade or elevated 3 or 4 track system through Menlo Park.