



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

March 18, 2019

Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 3.1 Mountain View Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Point

Dear Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council:

The Mountain Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) has several comments we would like the City Council to consider for the Mountain View Transit Center and Grade Separation and Access Project (MVTCGSAP).

1. **MVCSP has long been an advocate of a pedestrian mall on Castro Street, at least between Villa Street and the train tracks.** Ideally, a pedestrian would be able to walk to the end of Castro Street and access either northbound or southbound trains or the pedestrian tunnel to the north side of Central Expressway. The current MVTCGSAP requires pedestrians on the west side of Castro Street to cross Castro Street or at the busy L intersection at Castro and Evelyn. On the east side of Castro and south side of Evelyn, they also need to cross a very busy street with increased traffic levels. The proposed configuration is less than desirable from an urban design and traffic safety standpoint. Fortunately, this could be partially addressed by a design concept promoted by Council member Alison Hicks, among others.
2. **MVCSP supports Councilmember Hicks idea of extending the relatively short section of Evelyn Avenue west of Castro Street straight across Castro to the north side of the plaza/concourse, and then connecting on the east side of the plaza to the main section of Evelyn as it currently exists.** The concept was presented by Council member Hicks at the February 20, 2019 open house for this project. The "Hicks Alternative" has a significant number of urban design, traffic safety, and access benefits. While the alternative would need adjustments to the Centennial Plaza, Depot building, and bike parking locations, the costs are far outweighed by the benefits of

the “Hicks Alternative.” This would enable the tunnel entry to be on both the north side (for train platform passengers) and south side (for Castro Street pedestrians) of Evelyn, eliminating the significant auto/pedestrian conflicts of the current configuration. This would also create a much more desirable environment for the Centennial Plaza with much better access for the Mountain View community. MVCSP recognizes that the “Hicks Alternative” has timing and project phasing implications, but it is better to address these access and urban design issues before the project moves forward. It’s better to take the time necessary to get this project design right and not rush the planning process for funding expediency.

3. **The footprint for an AGT (Automated Guideway Transit) interface should be incorporated into the MVTCGSAP diagram.** Such a diagram was included in the AGT Transit Study Council report on February 27, 2018. This elevated AGT platform would require an elevator and should be integrated into the current access plans. Not doing so has the potential of missing the opportunity for a seamless integrated transfer location.
4. **MVCSP would like to see elevators and ramps combined at key locations, such as the AGT interface.** While the goal of not having elevators is laudable, our aging population and disability demographics indicate that a significant number of people cannot always navigate long switchback ramps. We feel a need for both elevators and ramps at key locations throughout the project site.
5. **MVCSP supports Option 2 for the access to 100 Moffett Boulevard.** As the staff report succinctly summarizes, this option has a direct ramp extending to Stierlin Road and is more convenient to pedestrians.
6. **MVCSP supports Option 2 for the access to the corner where the Adobe Building is located.** Option 1, as the staff report points out, is very physically constrained and is not a viable option. Retaining some parking for the historic Adobe building is necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Chambers

On behalf of the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning.

cc:

Dan Rich, City Manager

Michael Fuller, Public Works Director

Dawn Cameron, Assistant Public Works Director

Jim Lightbody, Principal at Lightbody Consulting

Lisa Natusch, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a group of local volunteers dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.