



CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

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February 10, 2016

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of East Palo Alto (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed U.S. Highway 101 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project (proposed project) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Mitigated Negative Declaration is a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment once mitigation measures are implemented. It does not indicate that the project will or will not be approved, only the project's effect on the environment.

CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO U.S. HIGHWAY 101 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN OVERCROSSING CEQA INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Location	Crossing over U.S. Highway 101 between West and East Bayshore Roads, aligned with Clarke Avenue and connecting to West Bayshore Road at Newell Road.
Project Description	The project will consist of constructing a Class I Pedestrian/Bicycle Overcrossing Structure over U.S. Highway 101 to provide a direct connection between the south side and north side of U.S. Highway 101 in East Palo Alto.
Applicant/Owner	City of East Palo Alto, San Mateo County

The City of East Palo Alto Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the Mitigated Negative Declaration as set forth below:

Date: Monday, March 14, 2016

Time: 7:00pm

Location: 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, California

Project Description:

The project will consist of constructing a Class I Pedestrian/Bicycle Overcrossing Structure over U.S. Highway 101 to provide a direct connection between the south side and north side of U.S. Highway 101 in East Palo Alto. In addition to the overcrossing, sidewalk and bicycle signage and striping improvements along West Bayshore Road and a new pedestrian crossing of Newell Avenue will be added. The project would cross U.S. Highway 101, approximately 2,100 feet south of the University

Avenue overcrossing of U.S. Highway 101, and approximately 4,500 feet north of the Oregon Expressway/Embarcadero Road overcrossing. U.S. Highway 101 in this location is a ten-lane, 160-ft wide highway (recently widened from eight lanes). The latitude and longitude of the project is 37.457506 , - 122.13472. The frontage road on the southwest side, West Bayshore, is two lanes, while the frontage road on the northeast side, East Bayshore, is four lanes with a median to the north of the Project site, transitioning to two lanes south of the Project site.

The southern ramp of the alignment will begin on the northern side of West Bayshore Road and will hug the existing sound wall before crossing the highway. The northern ramp of the alignment will have a reverse “S” curve that will border a City-owned parcel and terminate on Clarke Avenue (adjacent to the entrance of Home Depot). The project proposal also includes the relocation of the existing pylon sign that is approximately 65 feet tall, and adding a new traffic signal with bike/pedestrian crossing lights and a high-visibility crosswalk at West Bayshore and Newell Road. On the northeast side, the overcrossing ramp would bridge East Bayshore Road and connect to Clarke Avenue at an existing sidewalk near a Home Depot delivery entrance. A new high-visibility crosswalk is included at the driveway, and a new high-visibility crosswalk with median refuge island is included crossing Clarke Avenue at this point. Clarke Avenue from East Bayshore to Tinsley Street would be signed and marked as a Class III bike route, with bikes sharing the lanes with motor vehicles. New bike lanes would be added from Tinsley Street east to O’Connor Street to complement the existing sidewalks. Potentially, as an alternative to bike lanes, a Class I path may be constructed from the overcrossing to O’Connor Street.

The Project Area includes construction staging areas on vacant parcels on the north and south sides of the highway adjacent to the overcrossing alignment. Construction of the proposed overcrossing will involve demolition, site grading, trenching, paving, and boring. Construction will occur over the course of approximately eighteen to twenty-four months beginning spring 2016. Pile driving will be required for the proposed project.

A separate project in the Project Area is described in the Gloria Way Well Feasibility and Water Security Study, which was commissioned by the City of East Palo Alto to assess the adequacy of current and future water supplies and make recommendations for necessary improvements. The report identifies the City-owned “Pad D” site at East Bayshore Road and Clarke Avenue as a priority location for a well the City intends to develop for additional emergency water supply. The overcrossing will cross above and have columns on the City-owned well site. The two projects are coordinated to ensure that the overcrossing does not conflict with the well project.

Findings: Pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and based on information contained in the attached Initial Study Checklist, the City of East Palo Alto has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

The site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 (the “Cortese list”) of the Government Code including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subdivision (f) of that section.

Public Review: Printed copies of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study, including documents cited or referenced therein, are on file and are available for public review at: City of East Palo Alto Planning and Housing Division, 1960 Tate Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. The proposed Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study can be obtained in an electronic format at: <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>.

The comment period begins February 11, 2016 until March 12, 2016. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration along with any comments is tentatively scheduled to be considered at a regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting at 7:00pm on March 14, 2016 at City of East Palo Alto City Hall at 2415 University Avenue; East Palo Alto, CA 94303. The Mitigated Negative Declaration will become final if adopted by the City of East Palo Alto Planning Commission at a duly noticed hearing, which as noted above, has been tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2016.

Any person wishing to comment on the adequacy of these documents must submit comments in writing to the attention of Yeni Magaña, Planning and Housing Division at 1960 Tate Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 or by Telephone 650-853-3148 or by Email: ymagana@cityofepa.org.