

**CALTRAIN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TO: Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee

FROM: Lori Low  
Government Affairs & Community Relations Officer

SUBJECT: **SUNNYVALE LAWRENCE STATION AREA PLAN LETTER**

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The attached letter has been submitted by Caltrain BAC Vice Chair Cliff Bargar for the Committee's consideration and approval.

## DRAFT

March 21, 2019

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
Caltrain Citizens Advisory Committee  
1250 San Carlos Ave.  
San Carlos, CA 94070

### **Re: Sunnyvale Lawrence Station Area Plan Sense of Place Plan**

Dear Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and Caltrain Citizens Advisory Committee,

As the City of Sunnyvale is currently soliciting feedback on a “Sense of Place Plan” for the Lawrence Station Area, the Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), a committee of Caltrain riders representing the interests of passengers who access the train by bicycle, encourages Sunnyvale to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian access and local transit and shuttle connections on roads leading to and from Lawrence Station. The majority of the roads in the Lawrence Station Area lack adequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities, making access to Caltrain more difficult for passengers who choose to walk, bike, scoot/skate, or use other modes of active transportation. In particular there is a strong need for widened and protected bike lanes (ideally separated from cars by soft-hit posts, bollards, and/or curbs) on the busier streets in the vicinity of the station.

Improving the infrastructure for biking and walking is increasingly urgent as the Lawrence Station Area Plans in both Sunnyvale and Santa Clara allow for increased density of offices, homes, and retail in the vicinity of the train station, which will likely increase ridership. The current Caltrain Modernization project will also allow Caltrain to carry more passengers than ever before. Increasing density around transit is a crucial step for our region but cannot succeed if our built environment doesn't facilitate access to transit by residents, workers, and other visitors without using cars. This requires walkable neighborhoods with calmer streets, wider and more direct sidewalks, and safer bike lanes. The importance of safe bicycling infrastructure in particular is highlighted by two tragic cyclist fatalities nearby in Sunnyvale and Santa Clara in 2018.

By working together with the City of Santa Clara and Santa Clara County to improve bicycle and pedestrian conditions in the Lawrence Station Area, the City of Sunnyvale can help realize the goals of building transit-oriented development, including increasing ridership, lowering vehicle miles traveled, and enhancing neighborhood walkability.

Sincerely,  
The Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee

Cc: City of Sunnyvale Staff George Schroeder ([gschroeder@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:gschroeder@sunnyvale.ca.gov)), City of Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee ([BPAC@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:BPAC@sunnyvale.ca.gov))