### CITY OF PALO ALTO PROJECT FOR GRADE SEPARATION: CHURCHILL AVENUE, MEADOW DRIVE, AND CHARLESTON ROAD

Key Facts and Goals

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The City of Palo Alto and Caltrain, in close coordination with other key community partners, are advancing the grade separation projects at Churchill Avenue, Meadow Drive, and Charleston Road (project) into preliminary engineering (PE) and environmental documentation (ENV). The project is funded by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Measure B and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) grants. The City of Palo Alto, Caltrain, and VTA have entered into a Cooperative Agreement to advance the project through PE and ENV.

## **PROJECT GOALS**





Minimize environmental impacts

Improve Mobility



Minimize potential private property impacts

## PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

# SCHEDULE

**PROJECT PARTNERS** 

**Q 2025:** Project Initiation and Concept Refinement

2026-2027: Complete Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation



Community Meetings

Technical

Workshops



Rail Committee and City Council Updates

CITY OF

PALO ALTO

**Open Houses** 

#### U.S. Department of Transportation **Federal Railroad Administration** CITY OF Calina PALO ALTO Valley Transportation Authority Project Sponsor **Project Director** Funding Sponsors **PROJECT STUDY AREA** Caltrain Corridor Middlefield Rd **Project Crossing** Rd ø Caltrain Station Page Mill Schools Hoover Park O Parks Fairmeadow 1 Elementary Rd e Lathrop Stanford Middle School Herbert Hoover ð 'arcadero Ro **Churchill Ave Crossing** Elementary les, Chall 0 Seale Ave Meadow Dr urchill **Charleston Rd** Castilleja School Crossing Crossing ਲੋ PALO ALTO Jerry Bowden Park Alma St Alma St Alma St STATION CALIFORNIA AVE Peers Park STATION Palo Alto Highschool **Robles** Park Page Mill I El Camino Real Living Wisdom School Of Palo Alto R

Get Involved and Stay Updated!

Www.caltrain.com/CMCGS



## **PROJECT PROCESS**

## **CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVES**

In June 2024, the City of Palo Alto City Council selected the following conceptual alternatives to advance into PE and ENV.

A **Grade Separation** is an infrastructure solution that separates the paths of roads, railways, and other transportation modes at different heights (grades).

Meadow Drive	Charleston Road	Churchill Avenue
UNDERPASS ALTERNATIVE		PARTIAL UNDERPASS ALTERNATIVE Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
Will retain the railroad tracks at the current grade and lower Meadow Drive and Charleston Road under the tracks and under Alma Street for through traffic.		Will grade separate Churchill Avenue from the current Caltrain tracks via an underpass. Traffic on eastbound Churchill Avenue will descend and pass under the railroad and terminate at a lowered T-intersection at Alma Street then ascend and return to grade along Alma Street.
HYBRID ALTERNATIVE		STREET CLOSURE ALTERNATIVE Backup
Will combine different grade separation techniques to raise the railroad tracks above Meadow Drive and Charleston Road. The new electrified railroad will begin rising near El Verano Avenue, remain raised above Meadow Drive and Charleston Road, and return to the existing elevation north of Ferne Avenue.		Will retain the railroad tracks at their existing location and grade. Churchill Avenue will become a T-intersection with Alma Street. A pedestrian/bike only undercrossing will be constructed.

## **PROJECT PROCESS PLAN**



CITY OF

PALO ALTO

Caltra