

**AGENDA ITEM #9**  
**March 18, 2021**

**CALTRAIN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TO: Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee

FROM: Lori Low  
Government Affairs & Community Relations Officer

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

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

## DRAFT

March 18, 2021

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 evaluating the proposed “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. In particular the Caltrain BAC asks that Sunnyvale preserve the road diet proposed for Kifer Road in the version of the Lawrence Station Area Plan approved by the City Council in 2016.

Since the earlier approval of the Lawrence Station Area Plan the Sunnyvale City Council has approved a Vision Zero Plan, a Climate Action Playbook (both 2019), and an Active Transportation Plan (2020). Collectively these plans envision a Sunnyvale with fewer VMT, fewer traffic collisions, injuries, and deaths, fewer carbon emissions, and a higher share of trips made by sustainable modes (including by bike and by rail). Similarly, in 2019, Caltrain’s JPB approved an aspirational 2040 business plan envisioning a tripling of daily ridership from pre-pandemic levels.

For the City of Sunnyvale and Caltrain to be able to work in tandem to meet these laudable goals rail passengers need to be able to reach the train station on foot, by bike, and by other non-automotive modes. The current configuration of Kifer Road, like others in the Lawrence Station Area, is currently inhospitable for all but the most confident cyclists.

The Sense of Place Plan proposed includes some great ideas for new paths and calmer roads in the Lawrence Station Area. However, Caltrain riders, and the many residents and workers along Kifer, need safer transportation options sooner than new rights of way can be acquired (and beyond then, deserve safer passage along Kifer itself).

Additionally the Valley Transportation Authority is currently studying the creation of a “Central Bikeway” with one terminus at Lawrence Station. While the BAC has not taken a position on a preferred alignment it is notable that one possibility is Kifer Road.

As such, the road diet that was put forth in the approved Lawrence Station Area Plan should be incorporated into this Sense of Place Plan, and Sunnyvale should work to transform Kifer Road

from a road with excess automotive capacity, dangerous levels of speeding cars, and insufficient opportunities for safely crossing the street into one that welcomes all road users and enables passengers to safely reach Lawrence Station without the use of an automobile.

Sincerely,  
The Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee

Cc: Sunnyvale City Council ([council@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:council@sunnyvale.ca.gov)), Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Klein ([kleincouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:kleincouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov)), Sunnyvale Planning Commission ([PlanningCommission@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:PlanningCommission@sunnyvale.ca.gov)), City of Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee ([BPAC@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:BPAC@sunnyvale.ca.gov)), City of Sunnyvale Staff George Schroeder ([gschroeder@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:gschroeder@sunnyvale.ca.gov))