

Project Timeline



2010-2024

Community Engagement & Concept Development

Starting in 2010 with the Palo Alto Rail Corridor Study, the City of Palo Alto developed rail crossing concepts based on technical analysis, stakeholder coordination, and community engagement.

City Council Direction

In 2024, Palo Alto City Council advanced 5 alternatives for design refinement at Churchill Ave, Meadow Dr, and Charleston Rd.

2025

Community & Committee Meetings

In Fall and Winter 2025, the project team shared refined crossing concepts and gathered feedback inform project development.

City Council Direction

In December 2025, City Council reviewed crossing alternatives, trade-offs, and selected concepts to advance to the 15% design phase.



2026

15% Design

Informed by community feedback and technical studies, the project team advanced 15% designs in preparation for environmental analysis.

Key Areas of Preliminary Analysis



Project Footprint



Environmental Approach



Utility Analysis



Independent Cost Estimate



Constructibility Assessment

Next Steps

Fall 2026

City Council Meeting

15% designs for crossings will be shared with the Palo Alto City Council prior to proceeding with 35% design and environmental documentation.

Winter 2027

Complete 35% Design and Environmental Documentation

This phase of work will confirm track and roadway geometry, structure types, risks, and construction sequencing for environmental review.



Concepts Advanced Into 15% Design

Churchill Avenue



Partial vehicle underpass with bicycle and pedestrian crossing at Seale Ave

Meadow Drive



Hybrid with rail bridge

Charleston Road



Underpass with direct access ramp from Alma to Charleston Rd

How Were Concepts Selected?

In December 2025, the Palo Alto City Council received Rail Committee recommendations, community input, and technical analysis to inform selection of crossing concepts into 15% design.

Key Community Priorities:



Traffic Impacts



Active Transportation



Project Footprint



Student Safety



Visual Impacts



Construction Impacts



Costs and Funding



Access to Schools

