

**Meeting Agenda**  
Council Subcommittee – High Speed Rail

**Date:** September 10, 2012

**Time:** 5:30 to 6:30 PM

**Location:** City Council Conference Room

**Notes:**

	<b>Agenda Topic</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>
1.	Agenda review – make adjustment as needed	Chip	Group understands and agrees on agenda
2.	Discussion of potential items to include in the Mission Statement/Statement of Principles of proposed new Rail Committee	All	Information
3.	Debrief of PCC Meeting Sept 7th	Rich	Information
4.	Next PCC Meeting– Oct 5 <sup>th</sup> Menlo Park;Agenda Topics	All	Be Prepared for PCC meeting.

Future Meeting Topics:

## **Rail Subcommittee Mission Statement Bullet Points for Discussion**

The following bullet points for discussion depict converting the mission statement for the High Speed Rail Subcommittee to the mission statement for the Rail Subcommittee. The City of Menlo Park Statement of Principles for High Speed Rail and the High Speed Rail Subcommittee mission statement are included after the bullet points.

- The City opposes any elimination of any part of CEQA for the High Speed Rail Project environmental process.
- No aerial or elevated structures will be utilized on the Caltrain alignment between San Jose and San Francisco unless such an elevated structure is specifically requested by a local agency, for an area within their jurisdiction
- The high speed rail from San Jose to San Francisco should be either an “at-grade” system, or in an open or closed trench, and stay within the existing Caltrain right-of-way (with very minor exceptions, and in very limited locations)
- No Environmental Impact Report should go forward which proposes a phased project of larger dimensions.
- City is interested in positive train control as an early investment project to increase regional mobility and local train service. We are in favor of positive train control as long as it restores train service, which was reduced previously at the Menlo Park Caltrain Station
- The City is not interested in the blended system with passing tracks in Menlo Park
- The conditions needed to maximize the long-term potential of high speed rail include:
  - Improvements to east / west connectivity; HSR unifies rather than divides
  - Improvements to local transit
  - The physical and social impacts of HSR are minimized by using context sensitive design solutions
  - Consider all reasonable alternatives including those discussed previously by Menlo Park emphasizing below grade options

## **City of Menlo Park Statement of Principles for High Speed Rail**

The City of Menlo Park High Speed Rail Subcommittee works to protect and enhance the character of Menlo Park and the community's economic vitality while supporting the conditions needed to maximize the local benefits and the long-term potential of high speed rail (HSR).

- The character of Menlo Park includes:
  - Our connected, walkable, bikeable, safe and accessible neighborhoods, parks, commercial areas and civic center
  - Our vision and specific plan for the downtown and El Camino Real including improved east-west mobility for all modes of travel
  
- The community's economic vitality includes:
  - The continued success of our small and large businesses
  - The maintenance of our property values
  - HSR responsibly mitigating impacts
  
- The conditions needed to maximize the long-term potential of high speed rail include:
  - Improvements to east / west connectivity; HSR unifies rather than divides
  - Improvements to local transit
  - The physical and social impacts of HSR are minimized by using context sensitive design solutions
  - Consider all reasonable alternatives including those discussed previously by Menlo Park emphasizing below grade options

Implied "decision criteria" from these principles might include:

- Does the alternative protect or enhance connectivity/ accessibility?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance walk-ability?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance bike-ability?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance the economic vitality of businesses?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance property values?
- Does the alternative align with / support the El Camino Real / Downtown Specific Plan?
- Does the alternative protect or enhance local transit opportunities?

## **Menlo Park City Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee** **Mission Statement**

The Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee will advocate ways to reduce the negative impacts and enhance the benefits of High Speed Rail in Menlo Park. The Subcommittee will ensure all voices are heard and that thoughtful ideas are generated and alternatives vetted. It will collaborate with other local and regional jurisdictions in support of regional consensus of matters of common interest related to High Speed Rail. Additionally, the subcommittee will support Council planning efforts and decision making on High Speed Rail with information, research and other expertise.