## **Complete Streets Commission**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**



Date: 11/13/2024 Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Teleconference and City Council Chambers 751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

### **Regular Session**

### A. Call To Order

Chair Cole called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

### B. Roll Call

Present:	Altman, Bailey, Cole, Ierokomos, King
Absent:	Cebrian, Rascoff
Staff:	Senior Transportation Engineer Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer
	Kristiann Choy

### C. Reports and Announcements

The Commission received reports on City Council actions since the Oct. 9 Complete Streets Commission meeting.

#### D. Public Comment

None.

### E. Regular Business

E1. Accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for October 9, 2024 (Attachment)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Cole/ Altman), to accept the Complete Streets Commission minutes for October 9, 2024, passed 5-2 (Cebrian and Rascoff absent).

E2. Receive an update on the San Mateo County US 101 Crossing Improvement Plan – Active 101 (Presentation)

Staff Chen and San Mateo County Transportation Authority staff Charlsie Chang and Peter Skinner.

The Commission discussed the outreach process, evaluation metrics, project prioritization process, incorporation between Active 101 projects and connecting local projects, other actionable requests (e.g., street cleaning, extend survey deadline), funding sources and overall project schedule.

E3. Provide feedback and recommend that the City Council Accept the Comprehensive Shuttle Study Report (Staff Report #24-011-CSC)

Staff Choy and Nelson/Nygaard consultant Marvin Ranaldson made the presentation (Attachment).

The Commission discussed benefits of local shuttle services, service costs per rider, major differences between the three plan options, service awareness and outreach process, bus stop amenities, wheel chair and disability accommodations, services from nearby public agencies and private companies and next steps.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Cole/ Altman), to accept the Comprehensive Shuttle Study report and highlight the following information in the report to City Council:

- Data about ridership, by type of shuttle.
- Data about cost per ride, by type of shuttle.
- Flag that the three comparison cities in the Study operate their Commuter Shuttle through a TSA which is funded in part by an assessment on property owners and businesses.
- Flag that an increase in ridership would likely require the City to invest in marketing and outreach, since the public survey found a lack of awareness of the Shuttle Program.
- State that the Commission did not support the termination of the free Shuttle Service to people with
  accessibility needs, unless information was provided to demonstrate that existing services will fulfill
  these residents' needs,

passed 5-0-2 (Cebrian and Rascoff absent).

### F. Informational Items

F1. Update on major project status

The Commission received updates on ongoing grant status, Nealon Park parking construction, San Mateo County-led Alpine Road Corridor project and upcoming citywide activities/ events.

F2. Tentative Complete Streets Commission agenda

### G. Committee/Subcommittee Reports

None.

### H. Adjournment

Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Kevin Chen, Senior Transportation Engineer

ATTACHMENT E-2



## Active 101

101

US 101 San Mateo County Crossing Improvements Plan Phase 1 (Fall 2024)

> City of Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission November 13, 2024

# Have You Experienced Traffic Like This on US 101?





# What is 101 Corridor Connect?



- A collaborative program to identify and prioritize congestion management projects along US 101 in San Mateo County.
- It looks beyond just highway infrastructure and considers the mobility needs of the corridor as a whole.
- Program partners include C/CAG, Caltrans, cities, transit agencies, and San Mateo County.

# **Reducing Congestion**





# **Goals of 101 Corridor Connect**









Safe

Enhance safety for users of the transportation network.

## Connected

Connect people to the places they need to go.

## Sustainable

Improve air quality and reduce emissions.

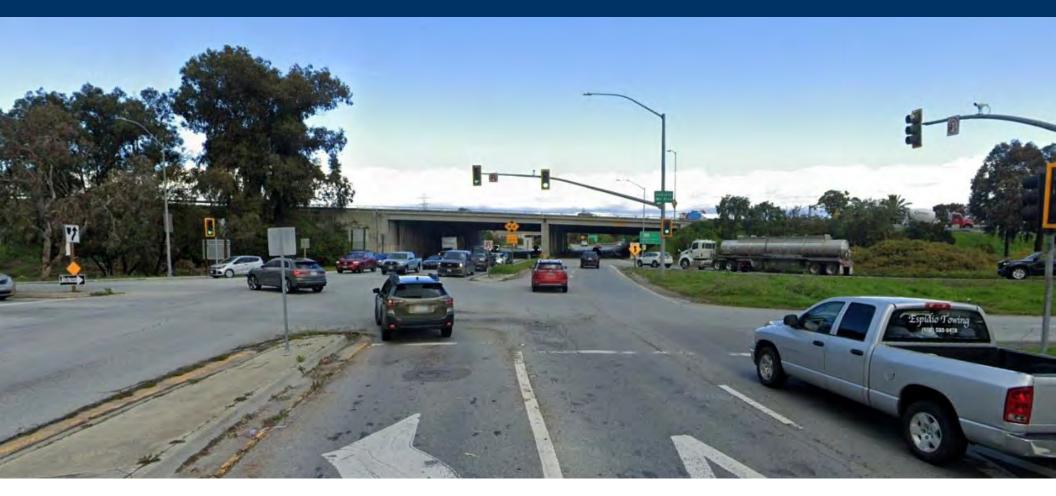


## Inclusive

Increase access for underserved communities.

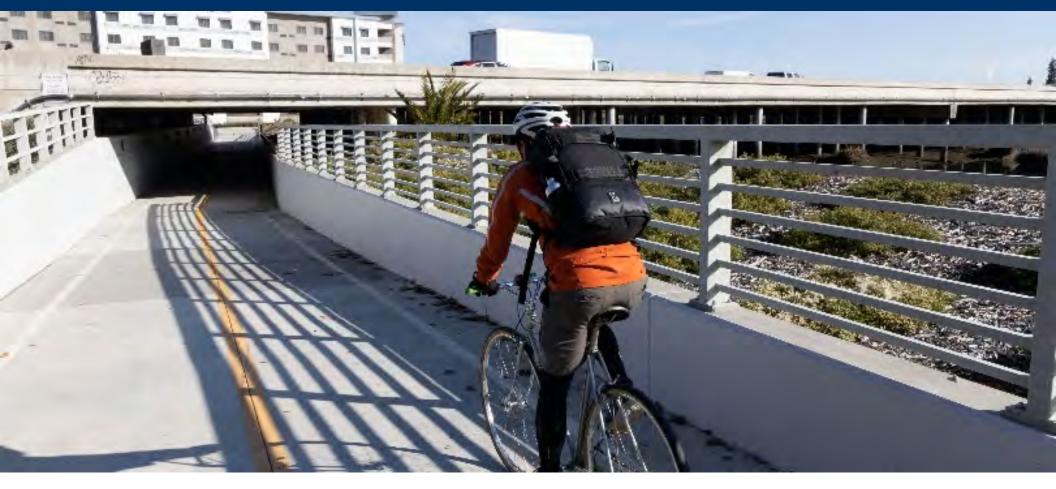
## Would You Walk or Bike Here?





# Working Toward Improved Connections





# What is Active Transportation?









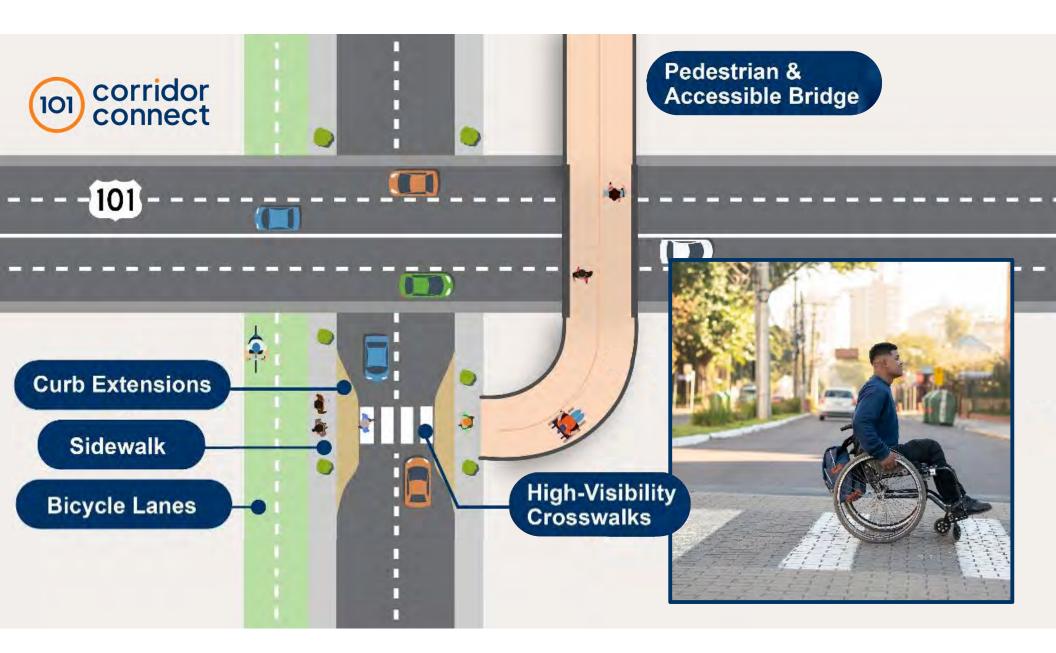
Wheelchair



Foot

Bicycle

## Scooter





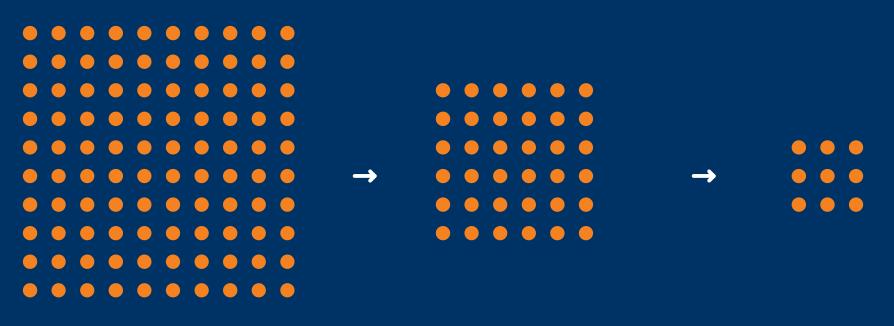
# Why Active Transportation?

# 56% of trips in San Mateo County are under 3 miles



## How Will Active 101 Do This?





**148 Projects** 

**75 Prioritized Projects:8-10 Preliminary Designs:**Active 101 Phase 1Active 101 Phase 2

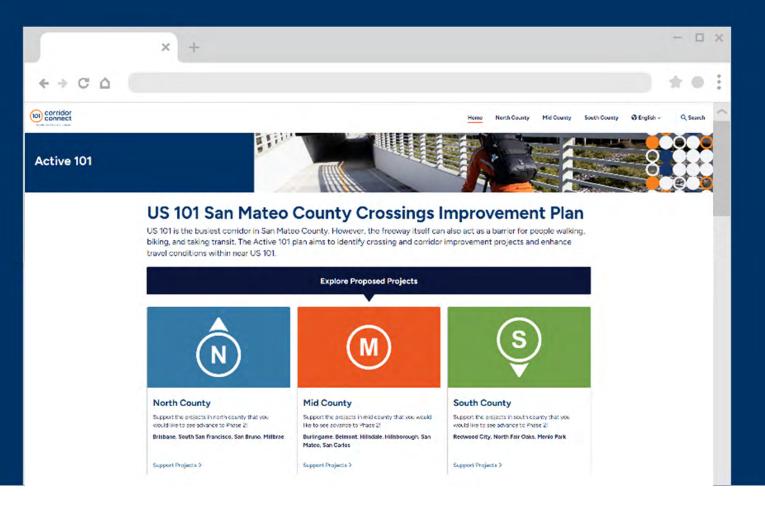
**Get Involved** 



## www.smcta.com/SMCactive101

# How to Participate





# How Will Feedback Be Used?







# Share your ideas by visiting www.smcta.com/SMCactive101

And don't miss your chance to win a **\$250 gift card!** 



## What Have You Heard?



 How does 101 act as a barrier in your community/for the members of your community?

 What would the ideal Active Transportation connections near 101 look like in your community?

• If you had a magic wand to fix anything for people walking, biking or rolling near 101 what would you fix?

# Thank You

For any questions, please contact:

Sue-Ellen Atkinson Manager, Planning and Fund Management <u>atkinsons@samtrans.com</u>

Amy C. Linehan Government and Community Affairs Officer <u>LinehanA@samtrans.com</u>



**ATTACHMENT E-3** 

# **Menlo Park Shuttle Study Complete Streets Commission**

**Service Recommendations** 

November 13, 2024



Calitat





NYGAARD @ circlepoint



## Agenda

- 1 Background
- **2 Project Overview**
- **3** What We Have Learned
- **4** Service Recommendations
- **5** Funding Considerations
- 6 Next Steps



# Background

### BACKGROUND

## **Current Shuttle Program**

## Two commuter routes

 Marsh, Willow connect Caltrain with business parks

## Two community routes

- Crosstown is a fixed route connecting residents with retail, medical, and recreation destinations
- Shoppers' Shuttle is curb-to-curb route supplementing Crosstown
- Shoppers' Shuttle must be reserved at least one day in advance



# **Shuttle Vehicles**

- Seat 20 to 28 passengers
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Front-mounted rack for two bicycles



## **Program Details**

## Administration

- Joint contract with SamTrans, Commute.org
- Vehicles and drivers provided by MV Transportation

## Funding

- Combination of grants, City Measure A funds, developer fees
- Grant agencies: SMCTA, C/CAG, MTC
- FY23-25: ~\$1,500,000 in grant funding



### BACKGROUND

## **Shuttle Study**

- Comprehensive shuttle study launched in 2023
- Funded by \$153,000 Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning grant
- Consultant-led shuttle study looked at ways to increase ridership, serve desired destinations, and improve cost efficiency





# **Project Overview**

#### **STUDY OVERVIEW**

## **Study Objectives**

- Analyze riders' travel patterns and needs that were impacted by COVID-19
- Identify innovative solutions, such as microtransit or ride-hailing partnerships, that are feasible in the complex fiscal environment
- Provide recommendations that reflect the changes that have occurred in Menlo Park and serve large and small businesses, people with disabilities, older adults, low-income residents, and commuters



### STUDY OVERVIEW

# **Study Elements**

## **Primary Tasks:**

- Existing Conditions
- Current and Future Travel Analysis
- Service Alternatives
- Community Outreach and Input Summary
- Service Recommendations

## Supporting Tasks:

- Shuttle Fee Assessment
- Funding Opportunities and Partnerships



# **Shuttle System Today**

## Shuttle System Goal:

 Complement existing transit services, while offering mobility to vulnerable populations such as older adults and individuals in low-income communities or with limited English proficiency

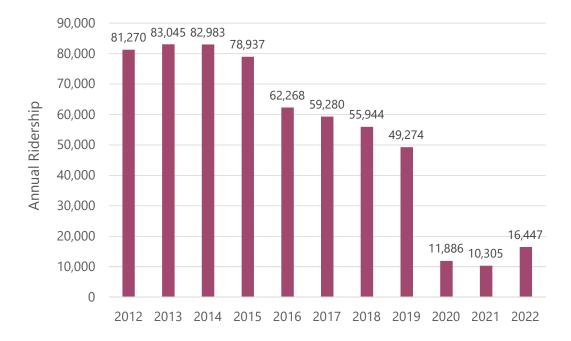
## Ridership

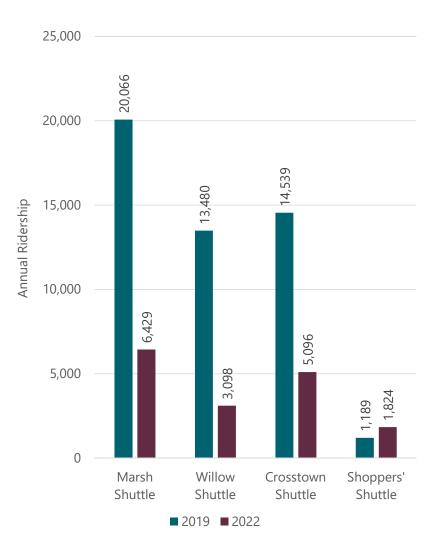
- In recent years has decreased due to
  - COVID-19 pandemic
  - Increase in work from home
  - Increased use of private company shuttles
  - Changing travel patterns



**EXISTING SERVICES** 

## **Ridership Trends**

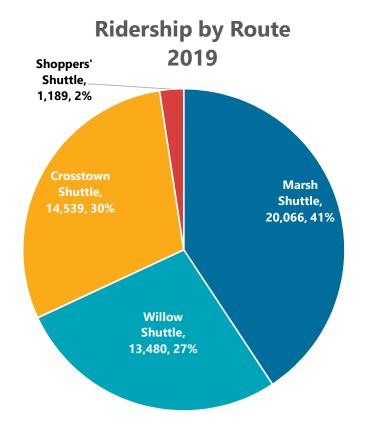


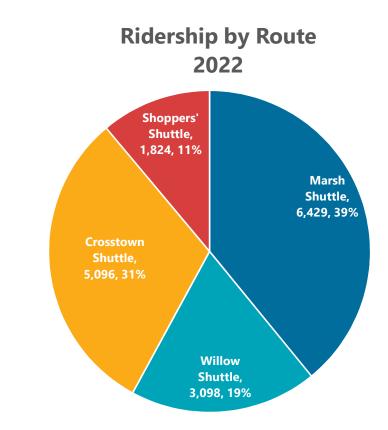


12

**EXISTING SERVICES** 

## **Ridership Trends**







# What We Have Learned

### WORKPLAN

## **Community Outreach**

- Strategic Communications Plan based on project team research, Menlo Park experience, and stakeholder input
  - Identify target audiences and preferred channels
  - Focus on equitable engagement
  - Flexible and implementable
- Outreach at key milestones throughout the project
  - Clear, consistent, and tailored information
  - Show how each phase builds upon input received from previous outreach



- 1. Existing conditions
- 2. Alternatives development
- 3. Recommendations

## **Outreach Tools**

- 1. Pop-ups
- 2. Virtual Workshops
- 3. Co-Creation Sessions
- 4. Websites
- 5. Surveys

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## **Engagement Schedule**



ENGAGEMENT

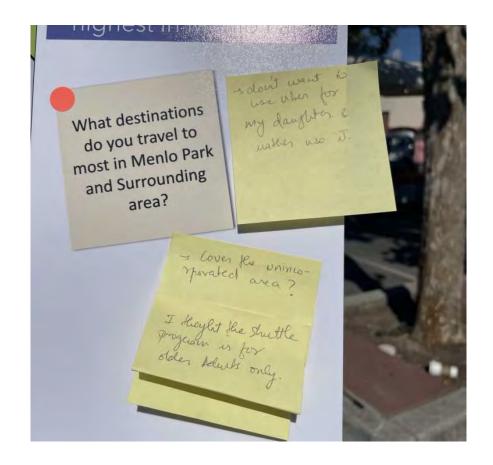
# **Summary of Phase 1**

Event	Date	
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	July 24, 2023	
Phase 1 – Existing Conditions		
Menlo Park Farmer's Market	Sept 10, 2023	
Belle Haven Elementary School	Sept 12, 2023	
Virtual Kick-off Meeting	Sept 14, 2023	
Co-Creation session	Oct 12, 2023	
Onboard surveys	Oct 12, 2023	



## **Summary of Engagement - Main Themes**

- 1. **Improving Shuttle Services:** The input emphasizes the need to enhance shuttle services by increasing frequency, accessibility, and visibility
- 2. Education and Information Dissemination: The input discusses the importance of raising awareness about the shuttle program
- **3. Visibility:** The shuttle program needs to be more visible to the public
- 4. Integration with Other Services: Suggestions were made to combine the shuttle service with Transit Pass and Bay Pass and partner with SamTrans or microtransit
- 5. Use of Technology: Users have requested an app allowing them to input their location and destination and receive directions on how to use the shuttle
- 6. **Inclusivity:** There is concern that unincorporated areas are not being considered and a desire for these areas to be included in the shuttle service



## **Co-Creation Session #1**

#### Simulated service planning exercise

- Stakeholders were tasked to design a public transportation network for Menlo Park
- The process allowed participants to develop goals and create a shuttle network that stayed within their budget
- Constraints were similar to the real world, the network design must fit within a set of financial limitations



#### ENGAGEMENT

# **Summary of Phase 2**

Event	Date	
Service Scenarios: Phase 2		
TAC Meeting	Feb 16, 2024	
Mi Tierra Linda	Jan 29, 2024	
Menlo Park Farmers Market	Jan 28, 2024	
Survey Timeline:	Jan – Mar 2024	



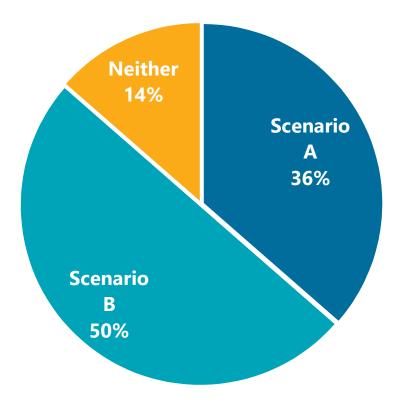
### **Service Scenarios - Recap**

Based on the feedback received during Phase 1 of the Community Feedback project, two conceptual service scenarios were developed:

SCENARIO A	SCENARIO B
• Focuses on providing access to all city residents	Focuses on maximizing ridership
<ul> <li>Commuter shuttle service from Caltrain is maintained and enhanced with a 40-minute frequency during peak hours</li> </ul>	• More direct routing for fixed route shuttle service to reduce travel time between major destinations and improve frequency throughout the day
Microtransit service as the primary service mode	<ul> <li>Citywide on-demand TNC/rideshare service for older adults and people with disabilities supplements the shuttle service in lower density areas</li> </ul>

# **Key Takeaways**

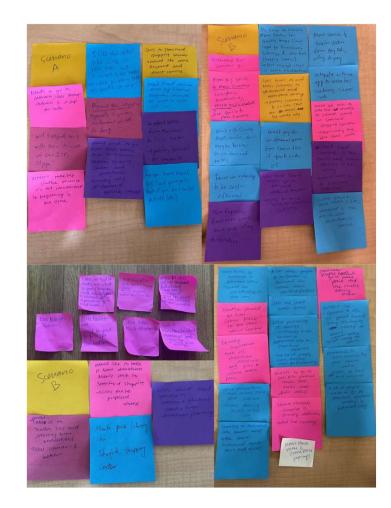
- Scenario B was Preferred Over Scenario A: More than half of respondents preferred Scenario B over Scenario A, with a few concerns. There were concerns about the span of service and reduced service to Sharon Heights and Palo Alto Transit Center
- Respondents Had Concerns About Both Scenarios: Consistent feedback was provided on the limitations of both scenarios regarding service span and access to community amenities and destinations
- Respondents Desired an Increased Span of Service: Members of the TAC and the public commented about expanding service in the evenings and weekends



ENGAGEMENT

# **Key Takeaways**

- Fares for TNC service were Less Important than Fares for Microtransit: Survey respondents were more concerned about the affordability of Microtransit fares than the cost of TNC service.
- Major Concerns for Reduced Service to West Menlo Park: The reduction of service to Sharon Heights and West Menlo Park was noted as a concern in both scenarios.
- Community Members Supported Expansion for TNC Service: Members of the TAC and the public supported expanded TNC service for the people with disabilities and older adults. Comments supported expanding that service to all residents.



#### ENGAGEMENT

### **Summary of Phase 3**

For this phase, the project team presented recommendations to the public online at the study website and at a virtual public meeting

Event	Date	
Service Recommendations: Phase 3		
TAC Meeting	Sep 20, 2024	
Co-Creation Session #2	Oct 14, 2024	
Virtual Public Meeting	Oct 15, 2024	



# **Key Takeaways**

- Community Members Supported the Recommendations: Members of the TAC and the public supported the changes to the Midday Community shuttles. There were concerns about the changes to the Commuter Shuttle especially for users accessing the Marsh Road area.
- Concerns About Service to the Marsh Road Area: There were concerns about the changes to the Commuter Shuttle especially for users accessing the Marsh Road area, due to an increase in travel time for those users.
- The Lack of Accessible On-Demand Options: Participants in the public meeting had concerns about the lack of accessible on-demand options due to the lack of wheelchair accessible TNC vehicles in the area.
- Support for Changes to Shuttle funding and Governance: Participants in the Co-Creation session supported the concept of a Transportation Management Association (TMA) to manage the shuttle program and an expansion of Shuttle funding to enable additional mobility programs and investments.





# **Service Recommendations**

### **Service Recommendations**

#### 1.

The **Preferred Service Plan** was developed to operate with existing financial resources but to better align existing service with demographic and travel changes in Menlo Park. 2.

In the medium-term, the service improvements identified in the **Future Service Plan** are recommended if additional financial resources can be identified. 3.

A <u>Reduced Service Plan</u> is also provided if funding or cost increases require a reduction in service.

### **Service Considerations**



**Focus on bidirectional service.** The existing shuttle routes have one-way service to either expand geographic coverage or to ensure long routes can effectively connect back to Caltrain. However, one-way routes also force round-trip travel for most trips to be longer than necessary. The preferred service plan focuses on service where it is highest and creates bidirectional routes that serve the same corridor in both directions and is easier for passengers to understand



**Minimize non-productive route segments.** Several route segments serve areas that generate very little or no ridership – either because of land use or because they operate non-stop on some corridors. The preferred service plan reduces the number of these segments so that valuable resources can be focused on areas that will generate ridership



**Streamline service and reduce duplication.** The shuttle routes that serve Menlo Park share some segments and stops with SamTrans and AC Transit routes. It is important that the Shuttle Service complements existing transit service and has a narrower focus than the larger transit operators in the City SERVICE NETWORK

### **Service Considerations**



**Provide new transportation options.** A new TNC/Rideshare program fills the transportation gap for Menlo Park older adults and people with disabilities by providing access to medical care and shopping in neighboring communities. This service model has been successful in other communities, improving mobility of older adults within and outside of their community



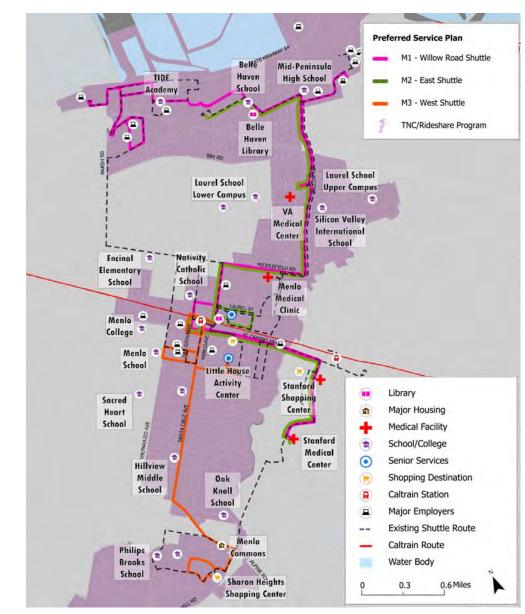
**Modify service to more effectively serve Belle Haven and the Bayfront.** One of the top desires of community members was to offer better service to Belle Haven and the Bayfront to reduce car trips and improve access to opportunities for low to moderate-income workers. Belle Haven is currently served by SamTrans Fixed Route and Microtransit service. The Preferred Service Plan improves service to Caltrain, Central Menlo Park, Stanford Medical Center, and Stanford Shopping Center



**Improved frequency and span of service.** The top desire among existing riders was to improve frequency and hours of service. The preferred service plan recommends increased frequencies with clockface scheduling and expanded service hours

## 1. Preferred Service Plan

- Service is focused on locations that generate ridership (Belle Haven, Downtown, Stanford Shopping Center, and Stanford Medical Center)
- 30-minute frequency commuter shuttle, with more direct routing to reduce travel times, replaces Willow and Marsh Shuttles
- Coordination with electrified Caltrain schedule
- Midday Hourly service with an East and West Shuttle between Caltrain and Belle Haven and Caltrain and Sharon Heights and Stanford Medical Center to replace the Crosstown Shuttle
- Timed connection at Caltrain for the Midday shuttle



# **1. Preferred Service Plan**

#### **Benefits**

- More frequent peak service to Belle Haven, the Bayfront, and Stanford Medical Center
- Faster service to Caltrain for Belle Haven and Sharon Heights
- Direct Service on Santa Cruz Ave Corridor
- Subsidized TNC/rideshare service is available to more residents

#### Disadvantages

- Longer travel times for commuters
- Revised routing may require a longer walk to access stops





### Willow Road Shuttle

Stanford Medical Ctr – Menlo Park Caltrain – Bayfront

### **Targeted User:**

Commuter and General Public

#### Frequency

• Every 30 Minutes

### Hours of Operation

 Weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### **Markets Served**

- Stanford Medical Center
- Menlo Park Caltrain
- Belle Haven
- Willow and Marsh Road Business Parks

### Service Type: Fixed-Route Shuttle



#### PREFERRED SERVICE PLAN

M2

## **East Shuttle**

Stanford Medical Ctr – Menlo Park Caltrain – Belle Haven

### **Targeted User:**

 People with Disabilities and Older Adults, and General Public

#### Frequency

• Every 60 Minutes

### **Hours of Operation**

• Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### **Markets Served**

- Stanford Medical Center
- Menlo Park Caltrain
- Belle Haven

#### Service Type: Fixed-Route Shuttle





### **Targeted User:**

 Seniors and Disabled Residents, and General Public

### Frequency

• Every 60 Minutes

### Hours of Operation

- Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
   Markets Served
- Sharon Heights
- Central Menlo Park
- Menlo Park Caltrain





Service	Destinations:	Service Span	Frequency
Commuter Shuttle Willow/Stanford/B ayfront	<ul> <li>Stanford Medical Center</li> <li>Stanford Shopping Center</li> <li>Downtown Menlo Park</li> <li>Caltrain</li> <li>Belle Haven</li> <li>Bayfront Area</li> </ul>	Weekdays: Peak: 6-10 am, 4-7 pm	Every 30 mins
East Shuttle Caltrain/Belle Haven	<ul> <li>Stanford Medical Center</li> <li>Stanford Shopping Center</li> <li>Caltrain</li> <li>Civic Center</li> <li>VA Medical Center</li> <li>Belle Haven</li> </ul>	Weekdays: Midday: 9 am- 4 pm	Every 60 mins
West Shuttle Caltrain/Sharon Heights	<ul> <li>Sharon Heights</li> <li>West Menlo Park</li> <li>Santa Cruz Ave</li> <li>Downtown Menlo Park</li> <li>Caltrain</li> </ul>	Weekdays: Midday: 9 am- 4 pm	Every 60 mins

### **Travel Times**



## **TNC/Rideshare Program**

TNC/Rideshare fills the transportation gap for Menlo Park Seniors and Disabled. Riders would request a ride through a smartphone app or by phone.

- TNC/rideshare replaces Shoppers Shuttle for residents over 65 years old
- Service fills the need for Medical Transportation
- Service would extend to surrounding communities for registered users
- Proposed Fare of \$4, City covers the remaining ride cost up to \$20. Rider is responsible for a cost above \$24.



# **TNC/Rideshare program**

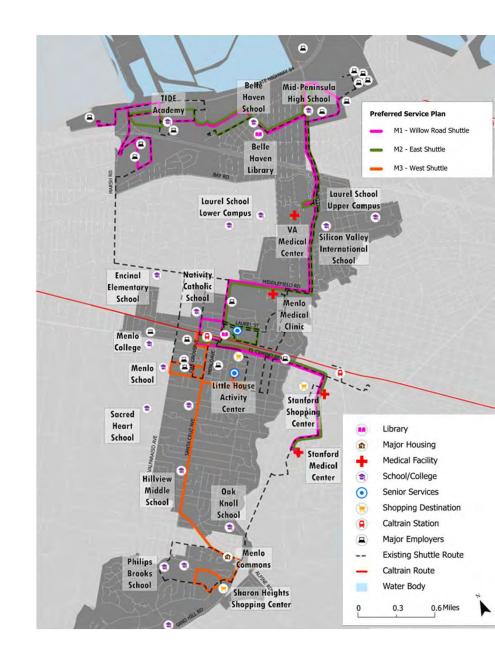
#### **Program Recommendations**

- The ability to schedule trips via concierge program
- Trip limits based on available funding
- Open to all trip purposes for registered users
- Development of a fare subsidy program for low-income users



### 2. Future Service Plan

- Expanded service to new development in the Bayfront Area including Willow Village, and developments on Independence and Constitution Drive
- Commuter and Midday shuttles are rerouted to better serve Willow Village
- Midday Shuttle is extended to serve North Bayfront developments on Constitution/Independence Drive



### **3. Reduced Service Plan**

- Service is focused on locations that generate ridership (Belle Haven, Downtown, Stanford Shopping Center, and Stanford Medical Center) at the expense of more coverage
- Midday hourly service with an East and West Shuttle between Caltrain and Belle Haven and Caltrain and Sharon Heights to replace the Crosstown Shuttle
- 45-minute frequency commuter shuttle, with more direct routing to reduce travel times, replaces Willow and Marsh Shuttles
- TNC/rideshare replaces Shoppers Shuttle for residents over 65 years old
- TNC/rideshare wouldn't be wheelchair accessible and has an estimated fare of \$4



### **Other Recommendations**

SamTrans – Transit Provider	Business Community	City of Menlo Park
<ul> <li>Proposed SamTrans service extensions from Belle Haven to new northern developments will improve access for those area.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Businesses near shuttle stops should collaborate with the City to improve waiting areas with shelters, benches, signage, and other amenities to enhance the shuttle experience.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Invest in transit infrastructure like bus lanes, signal priority, and queue jumps to improve service in high-congestion areas.</li> <li>Partner with community organizations to create a mobility management program, connecting residents to local transportation resources and addressing mobility gaps.</li> </ul>
<u>Recommendations</u>	Recommendations	<u>Recommendations</u>
<ul> <li>Extend Route 281 to Marsh Rd via Belle Haven.</li> <li>Extend Ride Plus service Area to Marsh Rd.</li> <li>Modify EPX Routing to include Constitution Drive</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improved transit waiting environment</li> <li>Dedicated mobility/commute manager for the Bayfront Area</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improved marketing to increase program awareness, engagement, and visibility</li> <li>Investments in transit-priority infrastructure</li> <li>Mobility management program</li> </ul>



# **Funding Considerations**

### **Shuttle Funding Sources**

#### Federal DOT

• Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

#### Federal Non-DOT

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Department of Veterans Affairs

#### State

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

#### Regional

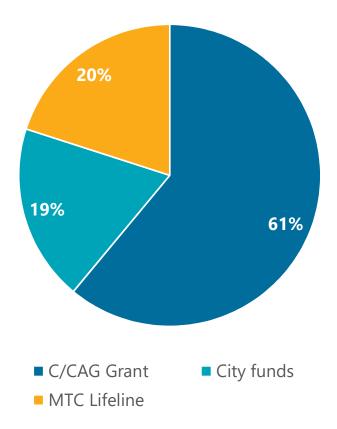
- San Mateo County Measure A,
- Caltrain and SamTrans grants
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

#### Private Sector

 Employers, property managers, owners' associations, and transportation management associations

## **Current Funding Sources and Budget of the Program**

Shuttle	Funding Sources	Current Budget FY2023-2025	
Crosstown Shuttle	60% C/CAG Grant 40% MTC Lifeline Grant	\$874,000	
Shoppers' Shuttle	100% City funds	\$150,400	
Marsh Road Shuttle	25% City funds (Massura A \$379.000		
Willow Road Shuttle 75% C/CCAG Grant 25% City funds (Measure A and Developer fees)		\$341,900	
Total		\$1,746,200	



#### FUNDING

### **Peer Review**

The Consultant team examined three peer city programs to inform **how the City of Menlo Park could adjust its fee structure.** These programs were chosen based on their funding sources, organizational models, and budget sizes.

#### Mountain View

MVgo and Mountain View Community Shuttle

#### Emeryville

Emery Go-Round

#### San Leandro

• San Leandro LINKS

### **Key Themes**

- All programs were based around a nonprofit TMA
- This structure enables cities to bridge the gap between local government and business communities. Collaboration was crucial in all the examples cited
- Forming a TMA helps facilitate the creation of improvement districts that fund transportation programs, such as Mountain View
- MVgo operates without directly assessing property owners. This reflects the concentration of large employers within the city
- Emeryville has the most expansive assessment program; it applies to all property owners within the city



# **Next Steps**



## **Action Requested**

- Provide Feedback on Shuttle Recommendations
- Recommend Acceptance of the Comprehensive Shuttle Study to City Council



### **Next Steps:**

- Present recommendations to City Council
- Finalize Recommendations and Final Report

Visit us at:

menlopark.gov/shuttlestudy

# **Questions?**

### Marvin Ranaldson, Nelson\Nygaard

mranaldson@nelsonnygaard.com

Thank you

### **Comparison of Preferred Service Plan and Existing Service**

Shuttle	Existing Service	Preferred Service Plan	Key Changes
Commuter	Marsh and Willow Shuttles with 60-minute headways in the commute peak periods, with one-directional service	One route with 30-minute headways and bi-directional service	Combined route that allows for stops on the return trips but longer routes for riders destined for the business areas along Marsh Road
Community	Crosstown with 90-minute headways, all day service	Midday East Midday West	Two shuttle routes with a transfer at Caltrain and 60-minute headways
Community Door to Door	Shopper's Shuttle operates on four days <sup>1</sup> a week in the morning	Transportation Network Companies (TNC) such as Uber, Lyft	Operates more days and hours but includes a fare. Vehicles are not wheelchair accessible
<sup>1</sup> Shoppers' Shuttle operates on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday			