



## CONSENT CALENDAR

### Agenda Item # 4

#### AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** February 26, 2019

**Subject:** Letter to VTA requesting consideration of enhanced services for Los Altos school-aged children

**Prepared by:** Aida Fairman, Interim Engineering Services Director

**Attachment(s):**

1. Draft letter to VTA

**Initiated by:**

City Council

**Previous Council Consideration:**

February 12, 2019

**Fiscal Impact:**

None

**Environmental Review:**

Not applicable

**Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:**

- Does the Council wish to send the attached letter to VTA requesting consideration of enhanced services for Los Altos school-aged children?

**Summary:**

- On February 12, 2019, the City Council received a presentation on the VTA proposed transit system modifications
- Council directed staff to prepare a letter to VTA requesting VTA consider options to provide enhanced services to Los Altos school-aged children

**Staff Recommendation:**

Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority requesting consideration of enhanced services for Los Altos school-aged children



**1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022-3087**

February 26, 2019

Nuria Fernandez  
General Manager  
Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134

Re: Homestead Road “School Tripper” Addition – Proposed Route 51  
Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Proposed Transit System Modifications

Dear Ms. Fernandez,

The Los Altos City Council received an update on the Proposed VTA Transit System Modifications at its February 12, 2019 meeting by VTA staff. The presentation and subsequent Council discussion focused on requested route changes to the existing Bus Route 81 (New Bus Route 51).

The City requests that the VTA explore additional modifications to this route that include a time-of-day “school tripper” addition with a route along Homestead Road through the City of Los Altos.

Currently, Route 81 bypasses Homestead Road through the City of Los Altos by traversing onto Foothill Expressway (southbound) to reach De Anza College in the City of Cupertino via Stevens Creek Boulevard. The bus route then diverts back to Homestead Road via North Sterling Road. This existing route bypasses Cupertino Middle School and Homestead High School, both of which service residents living in the southern portion of the City of Los Altos.

The City of Los Altos requests for a “school tripper” alternative can be accomplished by modifying the route during the morning and mid-afternoon school commuter periods that includes the bus route continuing onto Homestead Road from Grant Road within the City limits and then turning right onto North Sterling Road to reach De Anza College. The alternative would allow the bus to get back onto its normal route again via Homestead Road and service our community twice as part of the minor route change.

The City of Los Altos currently only has five (5) VTA bus routes with focused service in North Los Altos (Routes 22, 35, 40, 52, and 522) leaving South Los Altos disproportionately serviced by the VTA (Route 81). While we understand that bus routes are not designed to specifically service only schools, the existing and proposed VTA routes are focused along high ridership routes that service public schools. Within the City of Palo Alto for example, VTA bus routes service both high schools and all three middle schools. In the City of Cupertino, VTA Route 53 services Homestead High School but provides no connection for Los Altos residents serviced by the same school.

The requested Homestead Road “school tripper” addition to the proposed Bus Route 51 will improve connections to Homestead High and Cupertino Middle Schools for both the City of Los Altos and City of Cupertino and provide a new connection to the Cupertino Middle School parts of the community which currently has have little to no transit service. This change meets the spirit of the VTA’s 90/10 “Ridership/Coverage” change presented by the VTA staff.

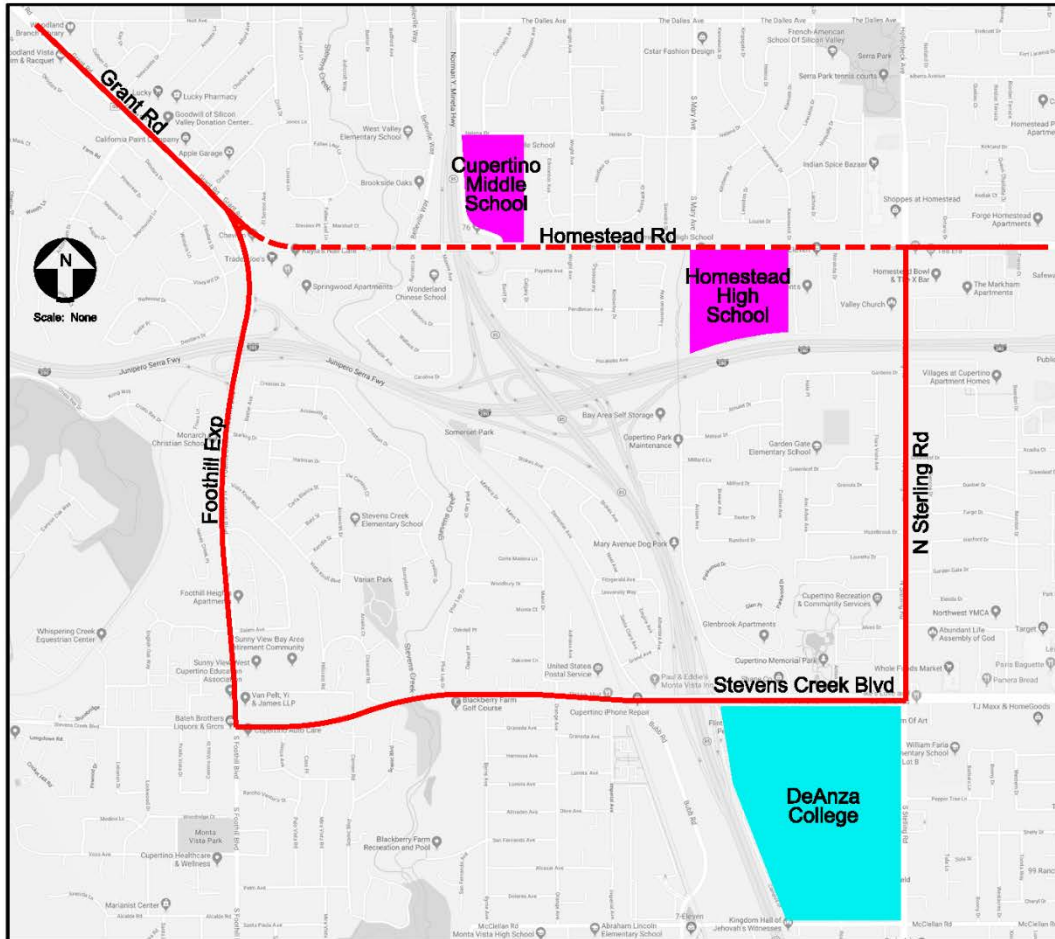
Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact City Manager Christopher Jordan at (650) 947-2740.

Sincerely,

Lynette Lee Eng  
Mayor

c: Los Altos City Council

## PROPOSED HOMESTEAD ROAD “SCHOOL TRIPPER” ROUTE AM AND MID-AFTERNOON SCHOOL COMMUTE PERIODS



### Map Legend:

- Existing Route 81 Route
- - - Proposed Route 51 “school tripper” route