

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF REDUCING VEHICULAR COMMUTE AND
INCREASING REMOTE WORK IN THE BAY AREA**

WHEREAS, climate change and air pollution, caused by the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and fine particulates from automobiles with combustion engines, represents a profound threat to the Bay Area's air quality, public health, environment, and economy; and

WHEREAS, NO_x is a noxious gas that has been linked to respiratory problems and other health conditions and also reacts with other chemicals in the atmosphere to form fine particulate pollution, and fine particulate matter; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average gasoline passenger vehicle emits .89 of a pound of CO₂ per mile; and

WHEREAS, about 1 in 12 workers in the Bay Area are super commuters and drive more than 90 minutes each way to and from work; and

WHEREAS, the average Bay Area household spends \$13,350 a year on transportation; and

WHEREAS, the California Highway Patrol reported 197,146 fatal and injury traffic crashes statewide in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders issued to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19 necessitated a shift in how Bay Area employers operate, and many employees quickly made the adjustment to remote work; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District estimated that the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders resulted in a decrease of an estimated 70% of Bay Area vehicle miles traveled in the first three months, which resulted in estimated reductions in total emissions of 15% for fine particulates, 30% for NO_x and 20% for CO₂; and

WHEREAS, the Commuter Benefits Program is mandatory for all employers in the Bay Area with 50 or more full-time employees, per Senate Bill 1128, and remote work qualifies to meet the program requirements; and

WHEREAS, the option to work from home or another off-site location is critical to reducing single occupancy vehicle trips; and

WHEREAS, there will be employees post COVID-19 who will not be able to work remotely, but could use public transportation if applicable options are available; and

WHEREAS, the increase of the use of public transportation reduces the number of single occupant vehicle trips; and

WHEREAS, people are more inclined to use public transportation if it is faster than driving in a single occupancy vehicle and cities and counties can increase the speed of public transportation through land use decisions; and

WHEREAS, the increase in bike lanes and other land use decisions, such as the inclusion of complete streets, increases safety and the perception of safety thereby increasing the number of people who will use bicycles to meet their transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, the increase in bicycle and pedestrian travel has been shown to provide population-level health benefits and reduced health care costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby strongly supports the goal of reducing single occupancy vehicle trips in the Bay Area, and supports the implementation of policies that will increase options, incentives and abilities for employees to use public transit and other alternative modes of transit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby gives direction to staff to determine whether the City has policies in place that encourage more employees, who are able to do so, to work remotely and without sacrificing quality of service to Los Altos residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby encourages staff to identify opportunities where the City can encourage and incentivize the reduction of single occupancy vehicles when making decisions about transportation demand management measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby encourages staff to identify opportunities to support increasing the use of public transit and reducing the need for single-occupancy vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby strongly supports advocating for measures that are equitable and applied fairly geographically that increase public funding for faster, accessible, and convenient public transit to ensure that public transportation is available for those who cannot afford private transportation and those who prefer public transportation.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 12th day of January, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Meadows, Weinberg, and Mayor Fligor

NOES: Council Member Lee Eng and Vice Mayor Enander

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Neysa Fligor, MAYOR

Attest:

Andrea Chelemengos, MMC, CITY CLERK