



November 2, 2017

Dear Mike,
Mayor Michael Lempres
Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

RE: Rail Policy

Dear Mayor Lempres,

As Menlo Park continues to study various grade separation options for rail through our community, we have learned that the Atherton Rail Policy is silent on whether or not any level of elevated tracks within Atherton would be acceptable to the Town for rail grade separation alternatives within Menlo Park. We have currently analyzed grade separating three of our crossings and ending prior to Encinal Avenue. However, there has been some interest in extending the project through Encinal Avenue which may affect Atherton.

To that end, I would like to ask the Atherton Town Council to review its policy and consider allowing certain elevations at the Menlo Park/Atherton border or consider elevated tracks through Atherton to grade separate Atherton's crossings also. Specifically, we are interested in the following questions:

1. Would the Town support the option to raise the rail line in Atherton to accomplish grade separations at all four Menlo Park crossings? This would require raising the rail elevation approximately ten feet in height in Menlo Park, resulting in a hybrid grade separation option with the rail partially raised and roadways partially lowered compared to existing grades. As the rail decreases in elevation north of Encinal Avenue, it is expected that rail heights in Atherton under this alternative would be less than five feet and be limited to the area south of Watkins Avenue.
2. Is the Town interested in pursuing alternatives for grade separations at this time for Watkins Avenue or Fair Oaks Avenue? This could occur through an extension of the hybrid grade separation described above, or through fully raising the rail elevation approximately 22 feet in height.

Your input on these questions would be appreciated as the City determines next steps for grade separations. We are tentatively planning to consider this item in December.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Keith
Mayor