

May 2, 2018

MP Grade Separation Issue #3:

What The Felton Gables Neighborhood Misunderstands About Fully Elevated Grade Separations

Menlo Park City Council Members:

1. Felton Gable residents expressed strong objections to a potential unattractive and noisy viaduct being studied for installation adjacent to their neighborhood even though no such study has ever been proposed.
2. They also expressed strong objections to ANY track elevation near their neighborhoods without understanding the actual noise and visual impacts of such an inflexible position. Their position would NOT improve their neighborhood but would harm other residents and local businesses.
3. The city staff and Rail Subcommittee members could have assured Felton Gables residents that a study would address all their concerns, but instead, said nothing.
4. The city staff continues to create confusion by communicate misleading and incorrect information about fully elevated grade separations even though these mistakes have repeatedly been pointed out the past few months. Why? For example, a fully elevated grade separation solution is not the same thing as a viaduct. And the viaduct profile it shows at public reviews indicates grade separations cannot be fully elevated, i.e., Ravenswood and Glenwood streets must be lowered. This claim message is false.
5. With three grade separations in-place, Encinal could be closed to vehicle traffic only. This would improve the safety of students who walk and bike to Encinal School and improve the flow of traffic on Middlefield.

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I am a member of a growing coalition of residents, local businesses and commercial property owners who are not only deeply concerned about the "high stakes" associated with the selection of a design alternative for future grade separations but also with the amount of misleading and inaccurate information and unfounded fears that appear to be deterring the Council from approving a study of THE most promising alternative, fully elevated grade separations.