

# C/CAG

## CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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September 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: City of Burlingame – Broadway Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Burlingame's grant application for the Broadway Grade Separation Project (Project). This project aligns with the goals and requirements of the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program: it addresses safety issues faced by vehicles, passenger and freight trains, and active transportation modes; dramatically improves vehicular and rail circulation; improves access to the nearby Broadway commercial district; and improves air quality.

C/CAG is the County Transportation Agency (CTA) and the designated Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for San Mateo County. C/CAG represents all of San Mateo County's 764,442 residents through its 21-member Board of Directors that includes a seat for every jurisdiction in San Mateo County. C/CAG works to improve climate resiliency, mobility, the environment, and equity throughout San Mateo County.

With over 10,000 at-grade railroad crossings throughout the State of California, the Broadway at-grade railroad crossing in Burlingame remains the top priority on the California Public Utilities Commission's Grade Separation Priority List. In January of 2024, a passenger train struck an occupied vehicle stopped on the train tracks, reminding us of just how dangerous the crossing remains. This is in addition to many previous collisions at the Broadway at-grade railroad crossing, several of which have resulted in fatalities. Unsafe situations arise at the crossing on a daily basis, and grade separation presents the best opportunity to solve the problem by completely and permanently separating the railroad from all vehicular and active transportation traffic.

In addition to addressing the dangers associated with this crossing, the Project will improve traffic flow and the overall quality of life in and around the Project area. Broadway is the only gateway to Burlingame from U.S. 101, connecting the freeway to two vital business districts, numerous small and large businesses, and 11 San Francisco International Airport-serving hotels. Over 100 Caltrain commuter trains pass through the Broadway at-grade railroad crossing daily. When trains cross Broadway, all other transportation comes to a halt, resulting in congestion, trip delays, air quality

impacts, and impacts on local and regional businesses.

Local, regional, and state partners have committed significant resources to progress the Project towards a “shovel-ready” state and the Project has completed the 65% design phase. RCE funding will be used to complete the necessary design and environmental work to finish the preconstruction phase.

With the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, this new critical infrastructure will improve public safety, reduce traffic, facilitate active transportation modes, and invigorate the economic vitality of Burlingame and the region while allowing train service to increase and meet statewide and regional mobility needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. If you have any questions regarding this grant application, please contact me at [scharpentier@smcgov.org](mailto:scharpentier@smcgov.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Charpentier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sean Charpentier  
Executive Director  
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County