



ORCHARD SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

ASOCIACION DE PADRES Y MAESTROS
Hiệp Hội Giáo Chức Phụ Huynh

Comments to Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Charcot Avenue Extension Project

Comments on community outreach:

- Please in future provide On-Site Notice-Billboards
- Mailings should go to all households in the area bordered by I-880, Montague, Lundy, Brokaw
- Information in Spanish and Vietnamese should be included

Alternatives to examine

- **No-Project Alternative**
- **Bike- and pedestrian-only overpass**
- **Relocating the overpass south of Brokaw** from Ridder park to Junction next to Lowe's Home Improvement (this could be continued to Zanker Rd and Skyport Dr)
- **Road widening on Brokaw Rd.** incl. reassessing the timing of traffic lights there (see also http://vtaorgcontent.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Site_Content/EnvisionSV%20Projects%20Not%20Modeled.xlsx, page 3, #52)
- **Alignment with only 2 lanes throughout** (incl. only one left turn lane from Oakland into Charcot)
- **Inclusion of additional traffic calming measures next to school** (e.g. installing speed bumps along the side of the school, not allowing truck traffic, full traffic light on Silkwood/Charcot, traffic guards on Silkwood/Charcot & Oakland/Charcot)

Impact traffic

- Impact analysis according to **Transportation Impact Policy**
- Will this project increase **neighborhood cut-through traffic**?
- Impact on **Vision Zero San José**
- Please provide **a breakdown of the VMT analysis** for the complete overpass as well as **by transportation mode** (biking, walking, car)
- **Impact on intersections locally** (1mi radius) as well as **regionally** especially Montague/Oakland, Brokaw/Oakland, Montague/McCarthy, Montague/Trimble, Brokaw/Ridder Park, Murphy/Ringwood, Murphy/Lundy, Ringwood/Trade Zone, Trade Zone/Montague, Trimble/Junction, Charcot/Zanker, Charcot/1st, O'Toole/Brokaw, 880/Montague, 880/Brokaw
- Expected **amount of total traffic on Charcot by the hour and truck traffic** specifically?
- Describe the amount of **expected traffic turning into Charcot from Oakland** that will make two turn lanes necessary

- Describe **planned speed limits** along Charcot from Highway 87 to Oakland Rd as well as **expected actual average speeds** based on experience from similarly designed roads taking into consideration that acc. to “North San José Urban Design Guidelines” Charcot from 1st to Paragon is planned as a Parkway a street that “has a more lush, vegetated character created through a combination of planted medians, generous landscaping along their street and building edges, and two lanes of traffic moving at relatively slow speeds.”
- **Impact on drop-off, pick-up and parking situation** at the school especially Fox Ln but also Event Center on Oakland Rd and in Silkwood Ln neighborhood (more people parking further into the neighborhood and towards Rock Ave)
- **Impact on surrounding residential areas**, especially:
 - o Silkwood Ln between Rock Ave and Charcot (will right turn from Silkwood Ln onto Charcot be possible during peak hours?)
 - o Wayne Ave, McKay Dr, Ringwood Ave (traffic not going to Montague or Brokaw on Oakland)
- Impact on Charcot overpass **during construction of other planned projects** on Montague (e.g. Flyover, McCarthy intersection, Brokaw widening) if they are done after overpass is constructed
- Impact on **access to industrial businesses on Oakland** especially for trucks entering those businesses
- Impact on **Paragon Dr** from taking away right turn from O’Toole to Charcot
- Impact on **railroad running through Oakland Rd** from increased traffic on Oakland.
- How will **traffic from Fedex shipping Center** on 710 Dado St, San Jose, CA 95131, **USPS facility** on Lundy, **Amazon shipping center** on 196 Montague Expy use the Charcot overpass
- Impact from **traffic coming from and going to Highway 87** (was Charcot part of the EIR for any Highway 87 expansions)?
- Impact **from future traffic towards/coming from Berryessa BART Station, potential Apple Campus**
- Impact from **nearby truck fueling station**
- Impact of **11 foot lanes** instead of 10 foot lanes
- Impact on Fox Ln from possibly needed **reconfiguration of SuperMicro Loading Dock** (trucks seem to currently access that loading dock through Rock and SuperMicro property but would then be diverted to Fox Ln)
- Are any **changes planned to Oakland/Montague and Oakland/Brokaw intersections** in the context of this project?
- Impact of **large number of pedestrians crossing Charcot** between 7:50 and 8:30 on traffic flow.
- Did any of the previous studies incorporate the recent, plentiful (especially housing) **developments in Milpitas**

Impact bike and pedestrian

- Impact on **walkability to school from the North** (impact from overpass/Charcot directly as well as **additional traffic on Silkwood Ln and Rock Ave**) including studying the average number of people entering the school from the North
- Impact of increased traffic on Oakland Rd on **walkability to school from the South**
- **Timing of planned traffic signal on Charcot** given the population crossing it will to a significant part be children and elderly and impact of that on traffic flow on Charcot
- Impact on **walkways to school during construction**
- **Left turn safety for bicycles on Oakland Rd.**
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian access to overpass on O’Toole**

- Impact on **bus stops on Oakland Rd.**
- Will there be **crossing guards** on Silkwood/Charcot and on Oakland/Charcot?
- Please consider **standard signal at Charcot + Silkwood Ln**
- What school population do you expect to **walk to school on the overpass and Charcot from westward direction**
- **Consider people illegally stopping on Charcot to pick-up or drop-off students**
- Impact on **Bike Plan 2020**
- **Impact on General Plan 2040 policies** such as:
 - o CD-3.2 Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle connections to transit, community facilities (including schools), commercial areas, and other areas serving daily needs. Ensure that the design of new facilities can accommodate significant anticipated future increases in bicycle and pedestrian activity
 - o TR-2.7 Give priority to pedestrian improvement projects that: improve pedestrian safety; improve pedestrian access to and within the Urban Villages and other growth areas; and that improve access to parks, schools, and transit facilities.

Air Quality/Pollution

- Describe pollution impact **during construction and upon completion.**
- Describe not only general air conditions in the Bay Area but do site **specific analysis** including
 - o Impact **outside as well as in the classrooms** close to the road
 - o **primary wind direction**
 - o **seasonal effects**
- Please measure and consider especially the **existing impacts of nearby pollution sources**
 - o Kinder Morgan San Jose Terminal
 - o I-880
 - o Train tracks
 - o As well as of increased traffic (especially from trucks)
- Consider impact given that students at the school are coming from a particularly **vulnerable population**
- Consider impact given that the school has been **identified as Area of Concern by BAAQMD**
- Identify **impact on homes on Silkwood and other roads in the area** that will see increased traffic
- Impact of **taking away trees on school grounds** on pollution levels
- Describe impact on plan **Climate Smart San José**
- Describe potential **mitigation measures during construction and upon completion**
- **Impact on General Plan 2040 policy** such as:
 - o EC-6.7 Do not approve land uses and development that use hazardous materials that could impact existing residences, schools, day care facilities, community or recreation centers, senior residences, or other sensitive receptors if accidentally released without the incorporation of adequate mitigation or separation buffers between uses.

Safety

- Describe **setback of class rooms bordering Charcot**
- Consider **safety of children playing on playground in case of accidents on Charcot** (car crashing into school grounds as has happened before on Oakland Rd)
- Consider possible **blocking of escape routes** for school in case of disasters (e.g. chemical carrying train exploding on Oakland Rd crossing)

- Consider **safety procedures in case of accident** of truck carrying dangerous goods (gas etc.) on Charcot
- **Impact on behavior of homelessness population** nearby
 - o Risk of junk and drug paraphernalia on and around school grounds
 - o Risk of more frequent school lockdown situations (see recent lockdown)
 - o Pan handling during drop-off/pickup
- **Risk of suicides** close to school on the overpass
- Look at if the school is designed as **shelter in place** and if the project would have any impact on that.
- During **heavy rains**, how will water from Overpass be drained? Could it flow down to Silkwood Lane and adversely cause flooding to our playground? What safety measures will be done to prevent that?
- Describe **Street/Road Lighting** plans - how many street lamps do you plan to install? Will there be road reflectors installed?
- Will the overpass be **earthquake proof**?
- Please analyze relevant **police reports** from the area for at least the past 5 years (e.g. **accident and crash data on Oakland Rd, illegal street racing in the area**)

State and Federal regulation regarding School

- Please consider State and Federal regulation especially regarding **school site selection, minimum size of schools** such as <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/schoolsiteguide.asp#Roadways>
- Consider impact of project on **land use on school grounds beyond right-of-way** – Children can't play too close to the borders of the school/street

Noise

- Describe noise impact **during construction and upon completion**.
- Describe **impact from (increased) traffic along Charcot, Oakland Road and Fox Ln**.
- Consider **noise level guidelines specific to schools**
- Evaluate **noise level impact to classrooms next to the road**
- **Impact of taking away existing trees** on school grounds on noise levels
- Please **identify the quietest place for students to be at recess**? What is the expected minimum noise level anywhere in the recess area.
- Describe potential **mitigation measures during construction and upon completion**

Aesthetically

- If **sound walls along school borders** (Charcot/Oakland) are needed please provide visualization for that.
- Will the overpass function as a **"gateway" to North San Jose** as described in North San José Urban Design Guidelines and the Envision 2040 Scenic Corridors Diagram (<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7466>). If yes, how so? Please provide visualization.
- Please provide **visualization of the planned layout going from lush parkway between 1st and Paragon to Overpass construction**
- Show how the section closest to the classrooms will look like. Provide **cut-through at the narrowest section**.

Biologically

- **Impact on tress** along the baseball field.
- Are they part of the **original orchard** at this site?
- Describe impact of **pollution on vegetation** (e.g. in yards at Silkwood Ln neighborhood)

Public Services

- Are there plans to **expand Public Services** in the area in the context of this project?

Timing of the project

- **Delaying the overpass after other planned improvements on Montague** have been finished (Trimble Flyover, McCarthy Intersection) and all Phase 1 improvements from the North San José Area Development Policy
- **Consider moving playground structure first** and with minimal impact on the school (e.g. during summer months)

Impact on homeowners

- Describe the **estimated loss in value to the homeowners** near the project

Equity

- Consider that the neighborhood has been identified as a **Community of Concern** in the Bay Area Plan 2040 by the MTC. (http://2040.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/Equity_Report_PBA%202040%207-2017.pdf) and designated a **“disadvantaged community”** by CalEPA for the purpose of SB 535 (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30> & <http://oehha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=c3e4e4e1d115468390cf61d9db83efc4>)

Previous EIRs

- Could you include **any EIRs for projects in the area** that included impacts from Charcot (e.g. school, Hampton Parks neighborhood, Silkwood homes, expansion of highway 87, shipping centers)
- **Why did the city not request for more right-of-way from the developers of the homes on Silkwood Ln in 2005** instead of now wanting to purchase the right-of-way from the school?