

LETTERS

Support bus lanes

Dear Editor: As a student and resident of Santa Clara County, I see Bus Rapid Transit or BRT (which would reduce car lanes on El Camino Real from San Jose to Showers Drive in Mountain View) as being a vital new mode of public transportation. Although in order for it to work, designated bus lanes must be supported by all cities along the route to further speed up the service and make it worth the financial investment. A mixed-flow option where buses are integrated into regular traffic flow does little to improve the current traffic situation.

The benefits of this system would be immediate, as well as address the growth issue in years to come. Whether we like it or not, there will be a continuing increase of cars on the roads, one major artery being El Camino Real. We need to start thinking about other modes of transportation to get commuters out of their cars and onto more efficient public transit. Even after hear-

ing Mountain View City Council members' concerns and questions, I am still unsure why many cities seem to be resistant to the dedicated lanes of BRT. It is essential to the success of the project and supporting population growth, as well as the Grand Boulevard Initiative's vision.

Recognition also needs to be given to the city of Santa Clara for saying "yes" to dedicated bus lanes and incorporating BRT into its general plan. Perhaps other cities can learn from Santa Clara and support this much-needed rapid bus project.

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