

**Supporting Information: comparison between SCC-DFTBPR/MM and B3LYP/MM adiabatic maps**

We note that the two-dimensional adiabatic map at the SCC-DFTBPR/MM level (Figure S1) has qualitatively the same feature as the B3LYP/MM result (Figure 4 in main text). The position for the saddle point is slightly different from that at the B3LYP/MM level. For example, on the SCC-DFTBPR/MM surface, the saddle point is at (0.0, 0.7), while at the B3LYP/MM level, the saddle point is at (-0.15, 0.4). However, the flat nature of the potential energy near the saddle point is observed at both levels. For example, on the SCC-DFTBPR/MM surface, the energy difference between the saddle point and the B3LYP/MM saddle point, (-0.15, 0.4), is less than 1 kcal/mol. Similarly, on the B3LYP/MM surface, the energy difference between the saddle point and the SCC-DFTBPR/MM saddle point, (0.0, 0.7), is also smaller than 1 kcal/mol. Therefore, SCC-DFTBPR/MM is very consistent with the B3LYP/MM result, which justifies the use of SCC-DFTBPR/MM in potential mean force calculations<sup>16</sup>.

**Figure S1**

Same as Figure 4 in the main text, but at the SCC-DFTBPR/MM level.

Figure S1

