**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. **What is the Interstate 80 (I-80)/Ashby Avenue Interchange Improvements Project?**

Ashby Avenue is an important gateway to the cities of Emeryville and Berkeley. Currently, the
I-80/Ashby Avenue Interchange has no connection between Shellmound Street and westbound
I-80, nor between Shellmound Street and Frontage Road. Motorists traveling westbound can access the City of Emeryville only through the I-80/Powell Street Interchange.

The proposed project will provide a direct connection to the City of Emeryville for motorists on westbound I-80 as well as a direct connection to the San Francisco Bay Trail and Frontage Road for bicycles and pedestrians.

This project was included in the voter-approved 2014 Alameda County Transportation Expenditure Plan. Alameda CTC and partner agencies are working to deliver upon this promise.

1. **What are the project benefits?**

The interchange improvements will enhance connectivity for all users, including motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, by:

* Improving mobility, circulation, operations and safety
* Improving local connectivity
* Providing multimodal accessibility
* Increasing safety through incident management
* Providing more efficient access
* Lessening freight traffic on local streets
1. **Which public agencies are involved with this project?**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the federal and state environmental lead for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Alameda CTC is the project implementing agency and is working cooperatively with the cities of Berkeley and Emeryville to deliver the project. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is another key project partner.

The project team has also reached out to many agencies and stakeholder groups to ensure
that the proposed project reflects the input of the area’s numerous and diverse stakeholders
and perspectives.

1. **What work is currently being performed, and what is the schedule?**

As part of the current phase of work, several interchange alternatives are being evaluated. Alternatives that improve connections for all users, including providing multimodal accessibility and improving local connectivity, will be carried forward for further evaluation through environmental studies.

The remaining project schedule includes the following major milestones and estimated
time frames:

* Draft Environmental Document (DED) Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) –
mid 2020
* Public hearing – mid 2020
* Final Environmental Document (FED) IS/EA – late 2020
* Final design – mid 2022
* Construction – late 2022 - early 2025
1. **How much will this project cost, and what is the funding source?**

The project cost is estimated at approximately $52 million. The primary funding source for the project is Measure BB, a transportation sales tax measure approved by Alameda County voters
in 2014.

1. **What impact will the project have on I-80 and local surface streets in the cities of Berkeley
and Emeryville?**

The new interchange will provide a direct connection for motorists between Shellmound Street and westbound I-80 as well as Shellmound Street and Frontage Road. The new interchange will also replace the existing bridges over I-80 allowing freight/goods movement (larger trucks) to remain safely on I-80 instead of exiting and re-entering I-80 via local surface streets. For bicyclists and pedestrians, the new interchange will provide a direct connection from the San Francisco Bay Trail to the City of Emeryville (via 65th Street) and the City of Berkeley’s Aquatic Park.

1. **How can I get involved?**

Questions and comments regarding the project can be submitted at any time to the project team at inquiry@I80Ashby.com. Community members interested in project updates are invited to visit the project web page regularly at [www.I80Ashby.com](http://www.I80Ashby.com).

A public open house for the project was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at the South Berkeley Senior Center from 6:30-8:30pm. The purpose of the public event was to invite members of the Berkeley and Emeryville communities to interface directly and share valuable feedback with members of the project team. Meeting summaries will be posted to the project web page.

**Look ahead:** The next public meeting is slated to take place mid 2020, when community members will be invited to provide input on the Draft Initial Study and Environmental Assessment (IS/EA). Following environmental review and approval of a preferred project alternative, Alameda CTC will begin Final Design followed by construction, which is currently estimated to begin in fall 2022.