



Memorandum

8.1C

1111 Broadway, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94607

• 510.208.7400

• www.AlamedaCTC.org

DATE: March 24, 2022

TO: Alameda County Transportation Commission

FROM: Tess Lengyel, Executive Director
Carolyn Clevenger, Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Policy
Vanessa Lee, Clerk of the Commission

SUBJECT: Public Comment Submissions regarding the San Pablo Avenue
Multimodal Corridor Project Concept for Further Project Development

Please find additional written public comments received for the March 24, 2022 Alameda County Transportation Commission meeting, Item 8.1: Approve the San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Project Concept for Further Project Development:

- Corinne Gustafson
- Emily Earl
- Gabe Desmidt
- Mimi Mougovan
- Rene Pinchuk
- Sarah Casey
- Tisha Barros

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: FW: San Pablo Avenue
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:37:06 AM

Vanessa Lee
Alameda County Transportation Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Corinne Gustafson <corybg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 7:12 PM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: San Pablo Avenue

Limiting San Pablo Ave. to one lane in each direction would be a horrendous decision. Unlike most cities El Cerrito has no side street on the bay side (due to short sightedness in sale of these properties in recent years) and only a fully residential street on the other. A truck unloading supplies or any other obstacle would fill the bicycle lane and force bicycles into the single lane of traffic. Very unsafe. I am shocked that this closure is even being considered.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
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Sent from my iPad

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: FW: San Pablo Proposal
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:37:20 AM

[Vanessa Lee](#)
[Alameda County Transportation Commission](#)

From: Emily Earl <emilyearl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: San Pablo Proposal

To whom it may concern,

I recently learned about the changes proposed for San Pablo Avenue. Wow those are big changes and they are really going to affect those of us who run businesses on the Avenue! I am a board member and long time worker at Ashkenaz music and dance community Center on 1317 San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley. We operate a music and dance community Center that is open both day and night. During the day we have dance classes and then the evening we have Live music and dancing from around the world.

Those parking spaces out front are extremely vital to the running of our business. Bands have lots of heavy equipment that they are loading in and out. We are getting deliveries throughout the day and that's where the delivery trucks park. At night many patrons like to park along San Pablo Ave. because many vehicles are getting broken into across the street in the REI parking lot!! With so many quieter and safer streets to bike on, why choose a state highway that is really meant for cars and traffic?

truthfully we should be planning for more cars with all the new buildings that are going up. People are going to be driving cars in Berkeley. By taking away a lane of traffic on San Pablo Avenue those cars are going to go onto the smaller streets and into the neighborhoods which will actually cause more accidents. And when the traffic gets bad on the freeway or sometimes the freeway closes, everyone gets off and take some Pablo Avenue. If there is an emergency, a fire, earthquake etc. we are going to need those lanes of traffic to move about the city. Please rethink this plan, there's a better plan out there!

It's great to plan for bikes and pedestrians, wonderful! But let's find a better and safer route that works for all.

Sincerely,

Emily Earl

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: RE: Proposal for changes to San Pablo street
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:37:15 AM

[Vanessa Lee](#)
[Alameda County Transportation Commission](#)

From: Gabe Desmidt <gabedesmidt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 5:52 PM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: Proposal for changes to San Pablo street

Dear Committee,

Dear CTC Committee,

I have recently learned of the proposed changes to close a lane of San Pablo street and eliminate parking for a bicycle lane. I like the idea of a greater bicycle friendly corridor to get people out of their cars and onto a bike! I want to support the advancement of bicycle friendly city scape but feel this is really not a great approach. San Pablo street is one of the most used corridors for resident commuters in the area. The elimination of a lane would create congestion for local commuters and cause a huge slow moving bottle neck for the area causing traffic too slow to a crawl.

I understand the hope of encourage people to not use fossil fuel burning cars for polutless bicycles, but how much will be saved when vehicles will be idling in slow traffic due to congestion because of the loss of a lane?

The Green Way is widely used for bicycles and is a preferred route for any North to South travel. It is generally away from cars and is only two blocks from San Pablo street. Is it possible to promote routes to the Green Way and improve the damaged

sections to make it more attractive for bicycle?

Thank you for the ideas, please keep working on bicycle friendly concepts with out cutting down San Pablo street, our main corridor for low speed car commuting.

Yours sincerely,

Gabe DeSmidt

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: FW: San Pablo Avenue
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:38:24 AM

[Vanessa Lee](#)
[Alameda County Transportation Commission](#)

From: Mimi Moungovan <mimiinberkeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:38 PM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: San Pablo Avenue

Hi -- i understand you are taking input for the proposed reduction of lanes on San Pablo Avenue.

i'm a bike rider -- i was in the San Francisco Chronicle -- now SFGATE --- in the early 70s for riding my bike to work. i still ride my bike.

i'm also a person who lives in a particular place that requires me to drive places -- especially at 74.

to costco because i'm making under 20,000 a year and need to watch my money.

to the vet for my dog who i can't carry there.

to the swimming pool which is open at night and i don't want to be

on san pablo going to it in the dark and coming out and driving home wet and dark.

to my doctor in fremont -- i take BART -- but when you get a new knee

you can't take BART.

this has been a four-lane THOROUGHFARE for how many years?

based on the needs of a population in ? whatever year it was

made.

the population of Berkeley has burgeoned in the last few years

--

so the idea of REDUCING the thoroughfares is beyond my imagination.

do you know what year San Pablo Avenue was built?

clearly, unlike streets like mine which are 2 lanes, it was planned as a thoroughfare.

there will be so much traffic, so much car idling, so much revving cars,

so many accidents, so many turns to DRIVE THROUGH NEIGHBORHOODS

AND EMIT MORE EMISSIONS, than ever ever ever ever ever ever before or imagined.

you've likely seen situations around a detour --

where suddenly HELTER SKELTER sets in and people are u-turning, driving through

small neighborhoods, all because everyone is in a friggin hurry.

our city manager, Dee Williams, may speak up against this idea.

it's my understanding that she personally drives a car or SUV to work -- never public transportation --

i'm guessing she has parking in place for her in Berkeley -- but if she could be consulted

and told that one of the streets that she USES TO GET TO WORK will be strangled

i'm guessing that she could elucidate that it's not such a great idea.

This isn't Manhattan where you can jump on a subway about any two blocks and get anywhere.

Hospital, work, grocer.

This is an entirely different setup.

So whether it's a city manager living in another county needing to get to work,

or people in the hills of Berkeley needing to pick up their kids at school or get food,

slicing a major thoroughfare is hell on wheels.

Sincerely,

Mimi Mougovan

1403 Ward Street, Berkeley

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: FW: Proposal to eliminate lanes of traffic on San Pablo Ave and parking.
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:37:56 AM

[Vanessa Lee](#)
[Alameda County Transportation Commission](#)

From: pindes@aol.com <pindes@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: Proposal to eliminate lanes of traffic on San Pablo Ave and parking.

On the above project, please list me as totally opposed.
Rene Pinchuk
Kensington

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: FW: San pablo Street oakland
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:37:35 AM

[Vanessa Lee](#)
[Alameda County Transportation Commission](#)

From: Sarah Casey <18sarahc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: San pablo Street oakland

Hello,

As a concerned citizen of Oakland, a bicyclist, as well as a driver. I believe the road changes to Telegraph have been a huge danger for both pedestrians and motorists. I have almost been hit on my bike due to lack of visibility caused by parked cars that block the bike lane. One driving lane on a main thoroughfare seems to be causing a constant traffic jam in temescal. I work in Berkeley and live in Oakland, I use San Pablo everyday, if this only had one lane, it would be even worse than Telegraph, this is a thoroughfare that runs all the way through the east bay. And when I am biking to Berkeley, I take the bicycle boulevard, which is safely away from most motorists, in order to leave this is as a fast and efficient way for motorists to get from point a to point b. I foresee these changes causing more traffic on I-80 which is already bad enough. I don't know where this model for road operations came from but now that we have seen the potential dangers and hang-ups it seems very irresponsible to proceed with changes that have proven to be ineffecient..

Thanks for listening.

Sarah Casey

From: [Vanessa Lee](#)
To: [Elizabeth Lake](#)
Subject: FW: San Pablo plan
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:37:30 AM

Vanessa Lee
Alameda County Transportation Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Tisha Barros <tkbarros13@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Vanessa Lee <VLee@alamedactc.org>
Subject: San Pablo plan

Hello,

I live in North Oakland and strongly oppose the latest proposal for a change to San Pablo to accommodate the 5 cyclists that may use it. I'm beyond frustrated that our tax dollars are going to these things. Leave the major thoroughfares alone and focus on things that actually matter please! Please please PLEASE do not continue these disastrous changes all over Alameda county. Cars are not going away and the traffic and congestion and bad air quality will only worsen. We need to focus on better roads, more crosswalks, more garbage cans all over (why are there do few???) and most importantly, helping the homeless. Housing and much more mental health resources are in dire need.

Thank you for reading.
Tisha Barros