



**RAIL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
CITY OF BERKELEY 5/22/24
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND COMMENT SUMMARY**

1111 Broadway, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94607 • 510.208.7400 • www.AlamedaCTC.org

This report summarizes the Public Information Meeting conducted for the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) Rail Safety Enhancement Program (RSEP) improvements to five at-grade railroad crossings in the City of Berkeley. The five at-grade railroad crossings are located along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Martinez subdivision at Cedar Street, Virginia Street, Hearst Avenue, Addison Street, and Bancroft Way between Second Street and Fourth Street. In coordination with the City of Berkeley, a virtual Public Information Meeting was hosted on May 22, 2024 with a 2-week public comment period through June 5, 2024.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of this meeting was to inform residents and businesses adjacent to the project areas, and key project stakeholders of the proposed safety improvements in the City of Berkeley as well as provide a project update. The meeting also highlights the effects on public parking and left-turn access at adjacent driveways. Alameda CTC hosted a virtual public information meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. Informational flyers advertising the meeting were mailed to all residents and businesses within a 300-ft radius of each of the project railroad crossings. The flyers stated that interpretation services were also offered, if requested. In addition, flyers were posted on utility poles and streetlights within 300 feet of each Berkeley project crossing. The flyers included a link to attend the meeting virtually on Zoom and a QR code to scan for additional project information.

A panel of key project team members participated in the meeting presentation, to discuss the project and respond to questions and comments. The panel consisted of the following members:

- Jhay Delos Reyes, Director of Project Delivery, Alameda CTC
- Kenneth Jung, Project Liaison, City of Berkeley
- Omar Masood, Project Liaison, City of Berkeley
- Lauren Jumanan, Project Engineer, Kimley-Horn
- Kevin Aguigui, Consultant Project Manager, Kimley-Horn
- Ivy Morrison, Moderator, Circlepoint

Following the meeting, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation was mailed to businesses located adjacent to the project's proposed medians at each crossing. All members of the public had the opportunity to submit written comments during the public comment period, which was available from May 22, 2024 through June 5, 2024. Businesses that were mailed a copy of the meeting's PowerPoint presentation had an extension for the public comment period that ended on June 16th, 2024.



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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Several verbal comments were made during the meeting; however, there were no comments made regarding the RSEP improvements. Below is a summary of comments received during the meeting and through the end of the public comment period:

Comment Type	Summarized Comment	Response / Next Steps
Verbal	Will this project support the implementation of a Quiet Zone in this corridor?	<p>Alameda CTC’s RSEP is not part of the City of Berkeley’s railroad quiet zone study efforts.</p> <p>In November 2019, a presentation was made to the City of Berkeley Transportation Commission about the Berkeley Quiet Zone Project, which is available here. To find out more information about Berkeley’s quiet zone efforts, contact transportation@berkeleyca.gov.</p>
Written	Four property owners adjacent to the Cedar Street and Hearst Avenue submitted written comments expressing concern with the left-turn restrictions created by the proposed raised medians.	<p>The current design is based off of safety recommendations from the “Diagnostic Team”, which includes the representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission, Union Pacific Railroad, the City of Berkeley and the Alameda CTC.</p> <p>Alameda CTC is conducting follow-up meetings with each commenting property to better understand current business operations related to left-turning movements and the impacts caused by the left-turn restrictions and project improvements.</p> <p>All proposed design modifications will need to be presented to the Diagnostic Team. The Diagnostic Team will evaluate any proposed modifications and make a formal recommendation based on considerations for public safety at the railroad crossing and impacts to the existing business operations.</p> <p>Alameda CTC will share the formal recommendations of the Diagnostic Team with the commenting property owners.</p>