

# BERKELEY MARINA FERRY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Workshop 2, Breakout Session 1 | August 10, 2021

## Breakout Session Notes

### Waterside Concepts

- Comment
  - No strong feeling about pier configuration, but recognize that some people do, and that their perspective is important
  - Make sure those needs are reflected
- Comment
  - I use the space as a sailor (slip at marina) and sea kayaker via south basin
  - No strong preferences about a lot of the details
  - Noticed that some options have the ferries on the marina channel side and others use the south side
  - one feature of the old pier that I loved as a sea kayaker is that it is a wonderful refuge – even in the dense fog, I can go out a few miles along the pier and not worry about getting run over
    - Would therefore favor the options with the ferry on the north side so that the south side is a safe zone for small craft and kayakers
  - Not so worried about volume of ferry traffic
- Comment
  - Just absorbing information; come to this area almost every day, long-time ocean body surfer
  - Really want to solve the problems of Berkeley
  - No further comments at the moment
- Comment
  - Appreciated Tom's comments; thinking about the impact on water activity to the south side of the pier is really important
  - Makes me nervous; any potential designs that have ferry activity on the north side are more appealing
  - Would love to learn more about the actual ferry operations
  - Beautification, long-term vision for the marina are most important considerations
- Comment
  - Mostly go to CC park with family members, so mostly on that side
  - Used to work for the city
  - Recognize the importance of balancing out the money part
    - Need affordable options for recreation, family options etc.
    - My understanding is that the ferry could really help the marina financially
    - Need to have low-cost options, but also need \$ to maintain everything

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- Comment
  - I like the Circle
    - Thought it was really nice
    - Sheltered cove
  - The ones that didn't have much protection from the south were problematic
  - Understand the first one is more expensive, but liked the sense of community created by a sheltered cove
  - Was watching the ferries last year, and seemed like they had very few people on them; particularly these days when many people are working from home
- Comment
  - Purely based on aesthetic, really liked the circle
    - Adds unique character to the place
- Comment
  - Pass; would rather listen and learn
- Comment
  - Have some really specific questions
- Comment
  - No comments on these option; just hear to listen
  - Many questions about this project; sure we'll get to them eventually
- Comment
  - Have some concerns that this is being presented as a done deal, as if the ferry is going ahead
  - I think relying on the ferry as a revenue stream as a means to address other marina needs is not right
    - A bond might be more appropriate
  - The surety of a revenue stream is not so sure
  - Concerned about the impact of riders on the rest of the marina and changing the nature of it
  - I use the marina as a precious commons, which is less and less common in the Bay Area
    - So many spaces being used for commercial needs these days
  - Primary use should be for the peaceful common use, rather than commercial activity
  - Concerned that the ferry will adversely impact the overall nature of the marina
  - Shouldn't look like its set in stone
  - Regarding designs: many of them don't seem to address wind and waves from the north and northwest, which happens during the fall and winter
- Comment
  - Really support what above said
  - Really skeptical; worried this will change the nature of the waterfront

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- Used to love hanging out in the wind shelters on the pier in high school
- I do a lot of bird watching in the area
  - Most interested in the design which would best support invertebrates that support winter waterfowl (i.e. mussels on the piers, shellfish in the mud)
  - Would love an expert to conduct that analysis
- Also disheartened to hear about the demise of the old pier, which is a huge shorebird roost that supports thousands and thousands of shorebirds
  - Another resident has been working on a plan to restore nesting habitat for several shorebirds
- Comment
  - Actually prefer a straight pier rather than a curved option; feels like a curved option may impede view of Golden Gate Bridge
- Comment
  - When Nelson was talking in the beginning, he said he was really looking at replacing the pier rather than rehabilitating it
    - I think there should be more work done to rehab the pier
      - Save material destruction etc.
      - Maintenance creates jobs
- Comment
  - Agree with above about the pier being straight
    - Loved walking farther and farther out; great feeling
  - Also want to second the preference for designs which keep the ferry to the north side and to protect the south side for kayaks and small boats etc.

## Landside Concepts

- Comment
  - I primarily bike to the pier
    - I have an eBike and bike from the hills
  - I prefer the clustered concept
    - Not paving over anything new (which I would oppose), and the lot is generally unused now
    - Like the idea of using green pavers or different approaches that make it feel like a flexible space
    - Love the idea of making it a space for food trucks, movies, etc.
  - It wasn't raised in here, but I hope that whatever plan we have will address smoothing out these roads—they need repair
- Comment
  - Concerned about dispersed is that Ferry users probably won't want to park in the more distant spaces, and will fill up spaces in the south sailing basin which is used during the week
    - Ferry users arrive early in the morning

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- South basin lot is locked until 9:00am; we often want to go paddling earlier than that, but can't use the lot
  - Afraid the dispersed concept would make this a lot worth
- If the clustered version was big enough to accommodate all users and didn't conflict with a new use of the lordships building, I would be in favor
- Comment
  - Clearly prefer clustered parking
  - Many Saturdays and Sundays, there's no parking in the existing lots; wouldn't support anything that made that work
  - Kayak Launch shown is a perfect spot – so perfect that it would require even more parking in this area.
- Comment
  - What I didn't understand is: how can you use the parking lot for other purposes? Where are the cars going to go?
- Comment
  - Echoing the preference for multi-use functions, the clustered option makes sense
  - Wonder whether it will actually be enough over the course of a day
  - Really like the concepts and ideas around eventually making it more multi-use and dynamic; feels like that will revitalize the public space (regardless of the ferry service)
- Comment
  - Also prefer the clustered parking, because people taking the ferry will want to park as close to the pier as possible
    - Like multi-use ideas; food, events etc. sound great
    - But, feels like there has to be a huge priority safety. Right now, I wouldn't go there at night (and most people I know wouldn't either)
  - Like the idea of the bus coming as far down as possible
  - Access for pedestrians and bikes
  - Improving/expanding bus service
    - Timed to the ferry of course, but also need better service for other people
  - Would use public transit a lot more option if it was more frequent and reliable
- Comment
  - In favor of clustered, definitely
  - Suspect its not too big of an issue
  - Are there any advantages to dispersed parking?
- Comment
  - Agree with most people that the clustered parking is preferrable
- Comment
  - No comments; still listening and learning
- Comment

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- Should still be having a no-ferry option
- I'm very concerned about climate change; I would like to know the number of BTUs per passenger mile for ferry passengers, compared with other forms of transportation?
- Ferry is getting \$450m from measure 3, and feels like we should be spending it on other things to address climate change
- Also really concerned about the impact of birds
- Comment
  - General question: if in fact there's 250 parking spaces put aside for the ferry, what is the estimate with the number of riders?
    - Heard before there would be roughly 3x more riders than parking
  - Alternative use for the current restaurant? Hotel would generate more revenue. Should consider that in the decision about parking
- Comment
  - I have to choose choice C, none of the above
    - Seems like it's the tail wagging the dog
    - I'm in favor of keeping the existing ferries on K dock
- Comment
  - How does the parking impact the bay trail?

## **Chat Window**

- Extremely well-said, Robert; totally agree. I don't want to see our public space default to a boring mini-mall approach to development reliant on a ferry as the end-goal.
- I'm not interested in a boring mini-mall, but my kids (and I!) would love a kiosk/mini-cafe for hot chocolate on windy days. I think small-scale location-sensitive amenities could be positive for both revenue and Berkeley residents.
- Summarizing in writing for reference re: waterside options of pier upgrade: I like the aesthetic of a pier that ends up being perpendicular to the Golden Gate Bridge; the circular/curved options deflate the impact of "walking over water" into the horizon. If the pier isn't open at night, it would impede views of the GGB and SF/Mt. Tam for pedestrians on the south side of new pier...
- ferries are pretty scary from a kayak!
- a bird viewing spot is likely silly--the ferry/wake will flush away waterfowl that currently use the area, alas
- What has happened to the Berkeley Marina Master Plan? Has it been abandoned?
- Ferries are incredibly energy inefficient. Buses and trains are WAY better for the environment. No question
- i do not believe the ferry is realistic. We are going to spend a lot of tax payer dollars with no return.
- Well expressed Erin.

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- Tom - BMASP is still moving forward. check the website at [www.cityofberkeley.info/bmasp](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/bmasp)
- But windsurfers would not be able to park in the ferry parking lot
- Many swimmers use the area designated for windsurfer launch, especially at low tide levels.
- I endorse option C also. A and B both interfere with recreational use

#### **Emails from chat window**

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