



Public

# TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:00 pm

*Mission: The Berkeley City Council established this Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to advise the City Council on matters related to transportation and public works infrastructure policies, facilities, and services in the City. In addition, the commission functions as the City of Berkeley's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).*

**South Berkeley Senior Center  
2939 Ellis Street  
Berkeley, CA, 94703**

## **A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Public comment on items not on the agenda
4. Approval of minutes from March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting
5. Approval and Order of Agenda
6. Update on administration and staff
7. Announcements

## **B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

\* Written material included in packet

\*\* Written material to be delivered at meeting

The public may speak at the beginning of any item.

### **1. ACTC Railroad Safety Enhancement Program (RSEP) informational presentation**

Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC)

The Alameda County Transportation Commission's Railroad Safety Enhancement Program plans to improve safety at twenty-eight highway-railroad at-grade crossings and two trespassing locations along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), including five in Berkeley. No action.

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
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**C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Information items can be moved to Discussion or Action by majority vote of the TIC*

1. Subcommittee reports & assignments: verbal reports from subcommittees
2. TIC Mission Statement (enclosed)
3. Public Works' [Top Goals and Projects](#) and [progress report](#)
4. Council Summary Actions 2022\*
5. [Link to Council and Committee Agendas and Minutes](#)

**D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**


**F. ADJOURNMENT 9:30 pm**

Agenda Posted: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 pm.*

**A complete agenda packet is available for public review at the Main Branch Library and at the Transportation Division and Engineering Division front desks.**

**ADA Disclaimer**

 *This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.*

**SB 343 Disclaimer**

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Works Transportation Division offices located at 1947 Center Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
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**Communications Disclaimer**

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Acting Commission Secretary: Hamid Mostowfi, Acting Transportation Division  
Manager, Public Works  
1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704  
Telephone (510) 981-7061 / Fax: (510) 981-7060 / TDD: (510) 981-6903  
Email: [hmostowfi@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:hmostowfi@berkeleyca.gov)



**TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:00 pm

South Berkeley Senior Center  
2939 Ellis Street  
Berkeley, CA, 94703

**A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Parolek at 7:01 pm.

**2. Roll call**

Commissioners Present: Noelani Fixler, Barnali Ghosh, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Bryce Nesbitt (arrived at 7:04 pm), Karen Parolek, Kim Walton, Ray Yep

Staff Present: Farid Javandel, Noah Budnick

**3. Public comment on items not on the agenda**

**7:04 pm:** 1 public comment

**4. Approval of minutes from February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:04 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Yep / Ghosh) to approve the minutes:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

**5. Approval and Order of Agenda**

**7:06 pm:** No changes suggested.

**6. Update on administration and staff**

**7:06 pm:** Secretary Javandel (Public Works Deputy Director) provided updates on the following: staff vacancies and recruiting, the Hopkins Corridor plan, the Gilman I-80 interchange project and Wildcat Canyon. He answered Commissioners' questions about regional salary comparisons, vacancies now compared to in the past, railroad crossings, BerkDOT and working with CalTrans. No action.

**7. Announcements**

**7:27 pm:** 1 public comment

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
Thursday, March 16th, 2023

## **B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. TIC 2023 Work Plan**

**7:29 pm:** Commissioners discussed the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission's 2023 work plan.

**9:01 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Nesbitt / Fixler) to approve the work plan as discussed, combining Vision Zero with Safe and Delightful Access for All.

**Discussion:** Chair Parolek clarified that the Commission's work will be organized in three categories: 1) Vision 2050, 2) Safe and Delightful Access for All and 3) BerkDOT

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**9:04 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

**9:10 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Fixler) to create subcommittees with assignments:

1. Paving policy — Nesbitt, Lutzker, Fixler
2. 5 year paving plan — Walton, Yep
3. Bike plan update — Parolek, Fixler, Lutzker
4. Adaptive Planning — Parolek, Ghosh, Walton
5. Funding/finance — Yep, Walton, Leung
6. BerkDOT — Lutzker, Ghosh, Fixler
7. Safe and Delightful Access to Opportunities for All — Nesbitt, Leung, Fixler
8. Vision 2050 / Asset management — Yep liaison

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**9:12 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

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**9:22 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Fixler) to create commission liaisons:

1. AC Transit board — Fixler
2. BART board — Ghosh
3. Commission on Disability — Leung
4. Environment and Climate Commission — Lutzker
5. Police Accountability — Lutzker
6. Vision Zero Coordinating Committee — Lutzker, Ghosh
7. Zero Waste — Nesbitt

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**9:23 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

**9:24 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Fixler) to extend the meeting to 9:40 pm

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

2. **Elect replacement backup speaker for April 18 City Council Meeting on West Hopkins item**

**9:25 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Ghosh / Leung) to appoint Parolek as backup speaker

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**9:26 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

## C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

**9:27 pm:** Commissioner Yep provided a briefing on the 5-year paving plan

## D. COMMUNICATIONS

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
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## E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**9:36 pm:** Commissioners discussed potential future agenda items, including working with the Environment and Climate Commission, studying permeable paving and alternatives to asphalt, bike share subsidies and scooter share data.

## F. ADJOURNMENT

**9:40 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Fixler) to close the meeting  
Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Nesbitt, Parolek, Walton, Yep  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**9:41 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-0**

Public Present: 3 people at 7:01 pm, 1 person at close  
Speakers: 2

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, CA 94703.*

Commission Secretary: Farid Javandel, Deputy Director of Public Works  
1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704  
Telephone (510) 981-7061 / Fax: (510) 981-7060 / TDD: (510) 981-6903  
Email: FJavandel@CityofBerkeley.info

# Railroad Safety Enhancement Program (RSEP)-Phase A

Railroad Safety Treatments for 28 Highway-Railroad At-Grade Crossings (Crossings) and Two Trespassing Locations Along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)



# Presentation Agenda

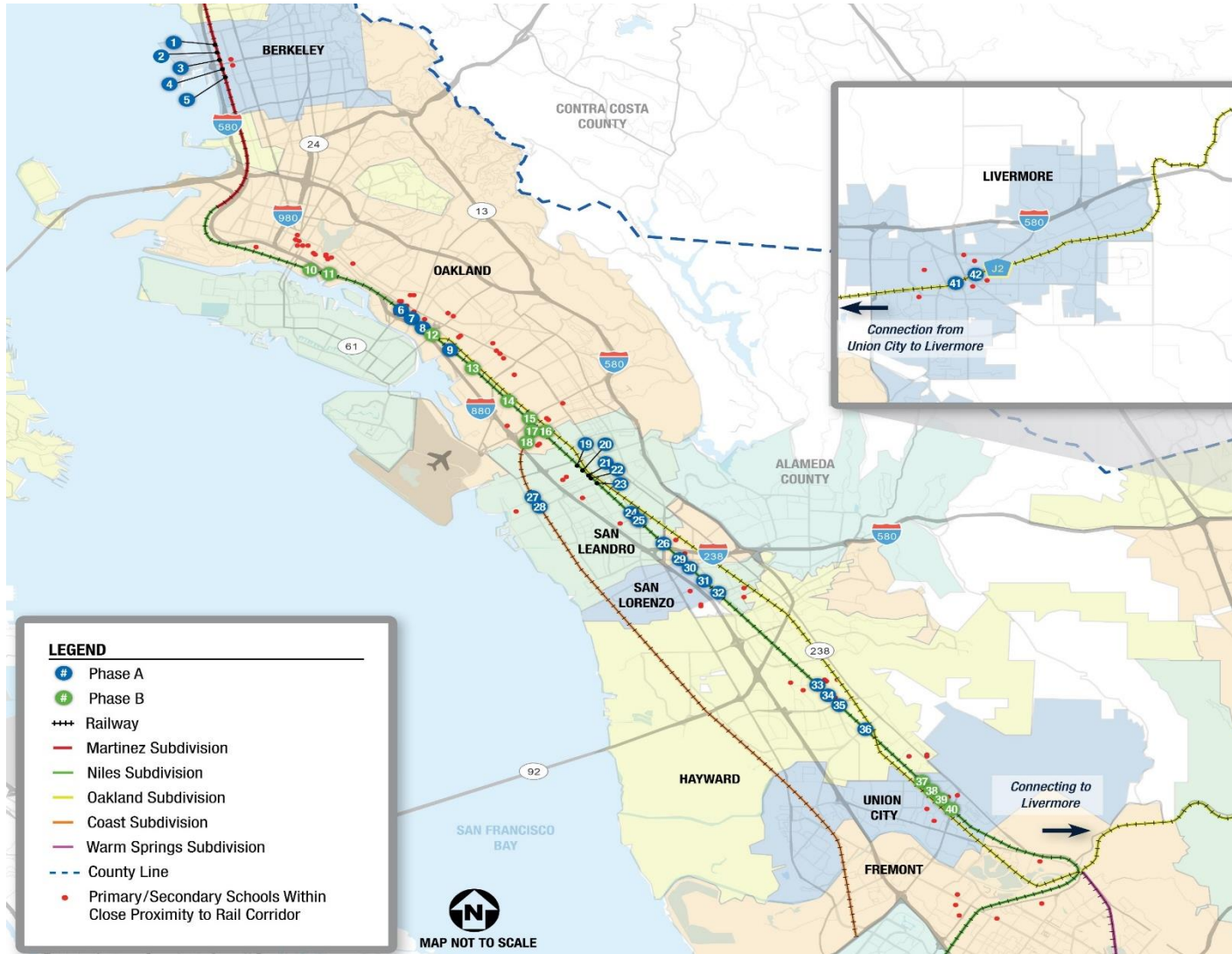
- I. Project Background & Overview
- II. Environmental Process
- III. Existing and Proposed Project
- IV. Cost, Funding and Schedule



# Project Background

- The Rail Safety Enhancement Program (RSEP: an Alameda CTC Project) was developed out of the:
  - 2016 - Countywide Goods Movement Plan
  - 2018 – Rail Strategy Study – Prioritized a subset of county's 133 at-grade crossings into the RSEP program
  - 2019 – the Federal Railroad Administration identified that Alameda County has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest pedestrian fatalities in the country.
    - 28 fatalities at RSEP crossings between 2012-2022.
  - 2020 – RSEP split into Phase A and Phase B
    - Phase A prioritizes crossings to be constructed in a three to five year timeframe.

# RSEP-Phase A and Phase B Crossings



## BERKELEY

- 1 Cedar Street
- 2 Virginia Street
- 3 Hearst Avenue
- 4 Addison Street
- 5 Bancroft Way

## OAKLAND

- 6 29th Avenue
- 7 Fruitvale Avenue
- 8 37th Avenue
- 9 50th Avenue
- 12 High Street
- 10 Oak Street
- 11 5th Avenue
- 13 66th Avenue
- 14 85th Avenue
- 15 98th Avenue
- 16 105th Avenue
- 17 Edes Avenue
- 18 Knight Street

## SAN LEANDRO

- 19 Davis Street
- 20 Alvarado Street
- 21 Williams Street
- 22 Castro Street
- 23 Marina Boulevard
- 24 Washington Avenue
- 25 Halcyon Drive
- 26 Hesperian Boulevard
- 27 Williams St (Coast)
- 28 Marina Blvd (Coast)

## HAYWARD / ALAMEDA COUNTY

- 29 Lewelling Boulevard
- 30 Paseo Grande - Trespass Location 2
- 31 Paseo Grand Avenue
- 32 Blossom Way
- 33 Pedestrian Crossing
- 34 Leidig Court - Trespass Location 1
- 35 Tennyson Road
- 36 Industrial Avenue

## UNION CITY

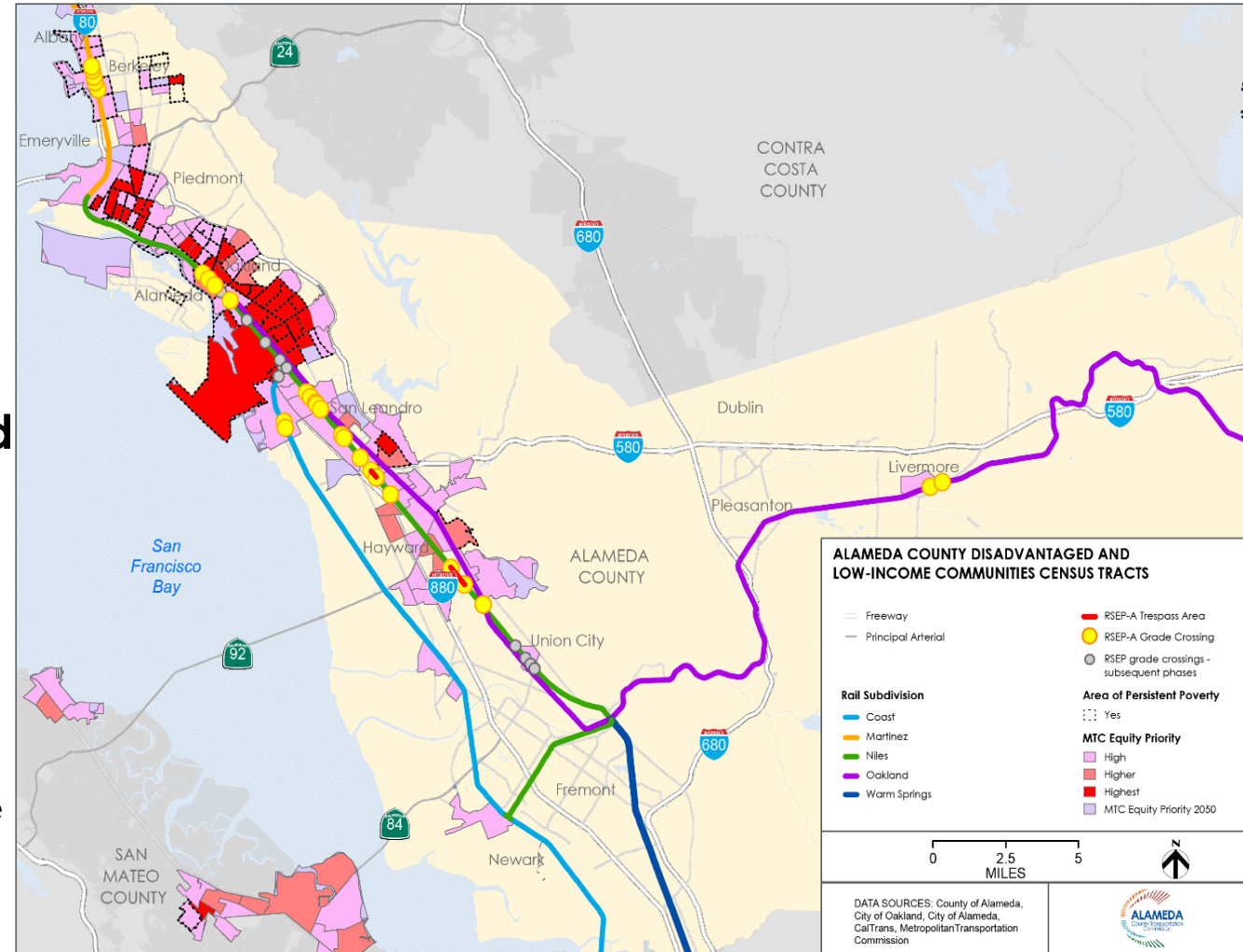
- 37 Whipple Road
- 38 E Street
- 39 H Street
- 40 Decoto Road

## LIVERMORE / ALAMEDA COUNTY

- 41 L Street
- 42 Junction Avenue

# RSEP Benefits

- **Safety**
- **Goods Movement**
  - Increased reliability
  - Connected to the Port of Oakland
  - Important to Regional Economy
- **Encourages Mode Shifts from Trucks to Rail and Cars to Active Transportation (walk and bike)**
  - Vehicle Miles Travelled and (Green House Gases) Emission reduction
- **Real Affect On Highest Equity Priority Communities (EPCs)**
  - Supports Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Micro-mobile Options
  - Building Safe and Accessible Crossing Enhancements Using Advanced Technology; Creates over 900 jobs



RSEP Corridor and Disadvantaged & Low-Income Communities Census Tracts



# RSEP-Phase A Overview

- Project will enhance safety at 28 Crossings and 2 Trespass Areas in Alameda County through:
  - Full Pedestrian Treatments
  - Roadway Treatments
  - Railroad Safety Education Program
- Involves Multi-Agency Partnerships
  - Union Pacific Railroad, California Public Utilities Commission, Local Agencies, Amtrak, Altamont Corridor Express, and Capitol Corridor
  - Serves Multiple Rail Operators
- RSEP-A does not specifically address Quiet Zones (QZ) but does include improvements that could support future QZ applications.



# RSEP-Phase A Environmental Clearance

- **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

- There will be four Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declarations (IS/MNDs) documents and three Categorical Exemptions covering the entire RSEP-Phase A project.
- 5 Crossings in Berkeley
  - All five crossings in Berkeley have IS/MNDs. Virginia and Hearst have recently completed their 30-day Public Review and Comment period. Cedar, Addison, and Bancroft are currently in the Public Review period.

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

- All RSEP crossings are expected to be Categorical Exclusions with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as the Lead Agency.

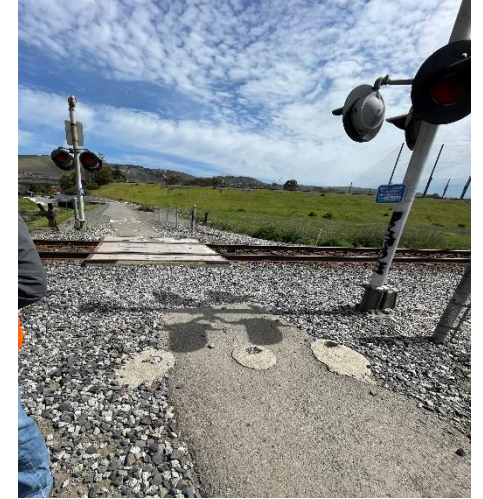


# RSEP-Phase A Project Existing Crossings

- No Sidewalks, Pedestrian Gates, and/or Fencing/Railing at crossings
- No Medians, or Narrow Median Islands
- Site Distance issues
- Traffic Queuing onto Tracks
- Non-standard Treatments
- Driveways near tracks



Berkeley: Cedar Street



Hayward: Industrial Parkway (Path)



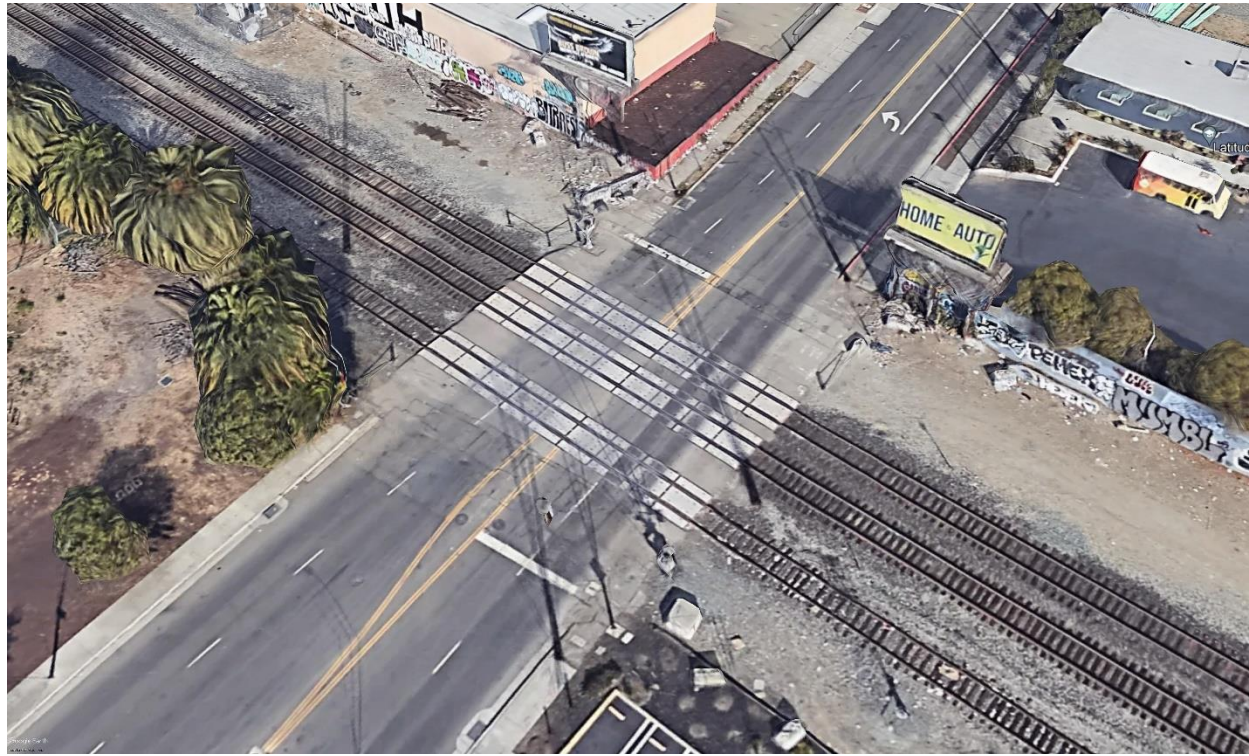
Oakland: Fruitvale Avenue



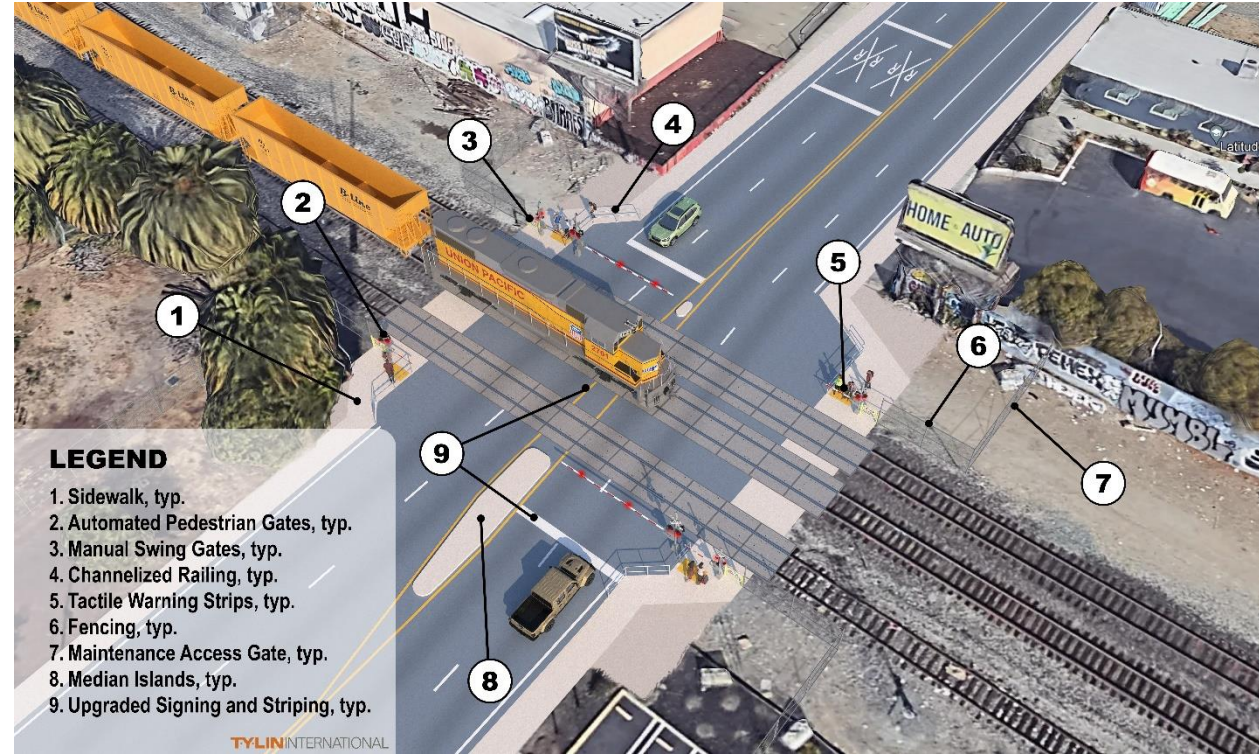
San Leandro Hesperian Blvd



# RSEP-Phase A Typical Safety Enhancements



Existing Condition



Safety Enhanced Crossing

## 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue Crossing in Oakland



# RSEP-Phase A Berkeley Crossings

- Scope Developed by Field Diagnostic Meetings with the City of Berkeley, California Public Utilities Commission, Union Pacific Railroad Alameda CTC

- **5 Crossings:**

- Cedar Avenue
- Virginia Street
- Hearst Avenue
- Addison Avenue
- Bancroft Way



Berkeley: Cedar Avenue



Berkeley: Virginia Street



Berkeley: Hearst Avenue

# RSEP-Phase A Berkeley Crossings

- **General Pedestrian Enhancements:**

- Sidewalks
- Automated Pedestrian Gates
- Fencing/Railing
- Tactile Warning Strips
- Mechanical Swing Gates
- Right-of-Way Access Gates
- Anti-Trespassing Surfaces



Berkeley: Addison Avenue



Berkeley: Bancroft Way

# RSEP-Phase A Berkeley Crossings

- **General Roadway Treatments:**
  - Updated signing and striping per the MUTCD
  - New or Longer Median Islands on both sides of the track
  - Additional Streetlighting
  - Restrict Parking near the crossings
  - Replace Crossing Surface (Concrete Panels, Track, and Ballast),
  - Trim/Remove Vegetation

# Project Costs & Funding (x \$1,000)

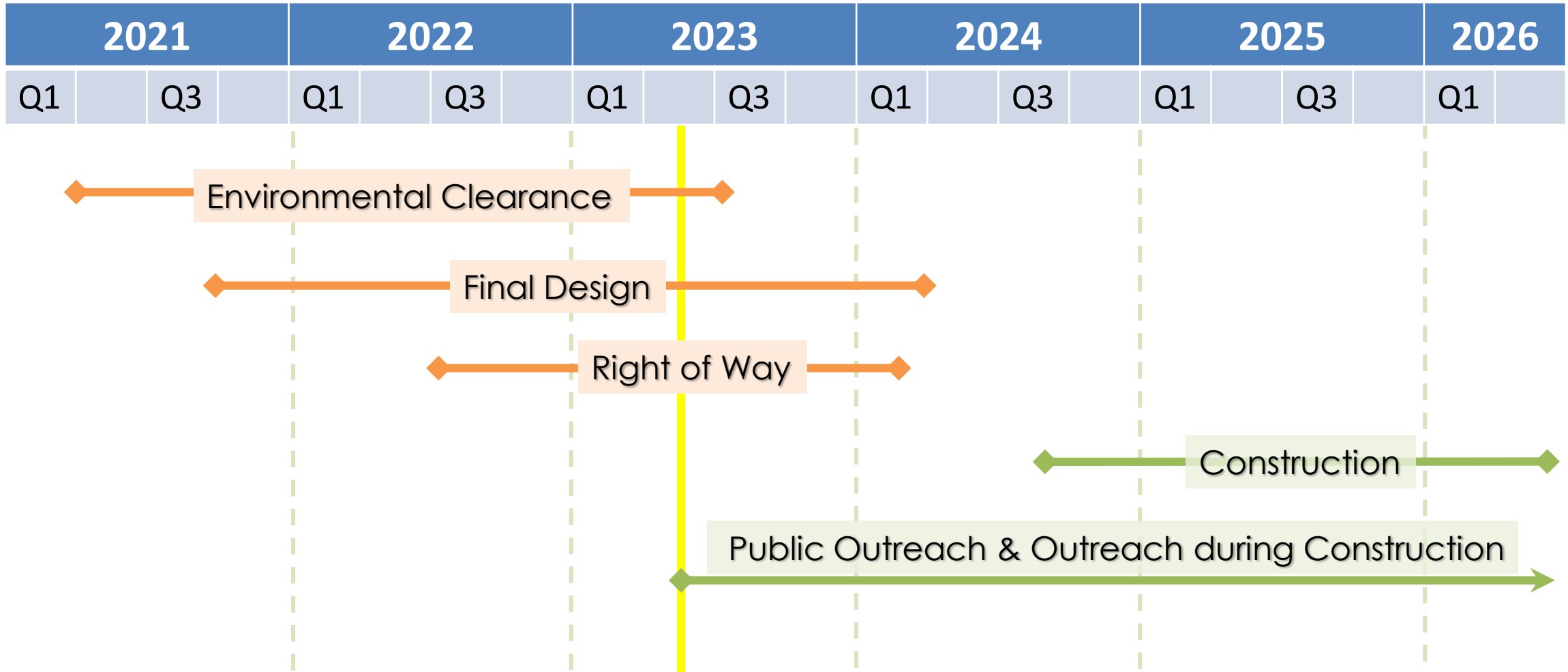
Phase	Project Cost	Funding		
		Local	Federal*	To Be Determined**
Design (Environmental & Final Design)	\$7,684	\$7,684		
Right of Way	\$1,675			\$1,675
Construction	\$72,220		\$25,000	\$47,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,863</b>	<b>\$7,684</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$48,875</b>

\* Alameda CTC has been awarded a \$25 million CRISI construction grant for this project

\*\*Alameda CTC has submitted applications for Senate Bill 1 – Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Cycle 3 Funds



# Project Schedule



# Questions?



Public

**From:** Friends of Five Creeks <f5creeks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 10:04 PM  
**To:** Javandel, Farid <FJavandel@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Cc:** Garland, Liam <LGarland@cityofberkeley.info>; City Clerk <clerk@cityofberkeley.info>; Manager, C <CManager@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Query re Friends of Five Creeks Feb. 23 letter to Trans. & Inf. Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello again, Transportation Division Manager Javandel,  
On Feb. 23 of this year, I sent the attached letter to the City Council and others include you as secretary of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission. The email itself, without attachment, is copied below.

My understanding, from the attached article in the April 10 Berkeley Daily Planet, is that it was not included in the packet of the March 16 meeting of the commission. It is not listed under Communications in the agenda.

**If this letter was not given to commissioners, please let us know why.  
Please direct us to any policy or rules that cover distribution of letters to commissions.**

**Please also distribute this email as a communication to the commission. If this email is considered too late for the April 20 packet, please make sure that it is distributed at the meeting following that one.**

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Susan Schwartz, President  
Friends of Five Creeks  
510 848 9358  
[f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com)  
[www.fivecreeks.org](http://www.fivecreeks.org)

**Here is the Feb. 23 email:**

**From:** Friends of Five Creeks <[f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 3:59 PM  
**Subject:** Letter regarding need for infrastructure to protect Codornices Creek along Hopkins Corridor  
**To:** City Clerk <[clerk@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:clerk@cityofberkeley.info)>, Berkeley Mayor's Office <[mayor@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:mayor@cityofberkeley.info)>, All Council <[council@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:council@cityofberkeley.info)>, Garland, Liam <[lgarland@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:lgarland@cityofberkeley.info)>, Skramstad, Mary <[MSkramstad@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:MSkramstad@cityofberkeley.info)>, Javandel, Farid <[fjavandel@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:fjavandel@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[bromain@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bromain@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[Manager@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:Manager@cityofberkeley.info)>

Public

**To:** Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, City Council members Manager, Public Works Director, Transportation Manager, Transportation & Infrastructure Commission, Environment & Climate Commission

**From:** Susan Schwartz, President, representing consensus of the board of Friends of Five Creeks

We hope you will read and act on the attached brief letter regarding the need to make reduction in urban-runoff pollution to Codornices Creek a serious part of re-paving of the Hopkins Corridor, which runs just south of the creek. It is a disgrace that our city, which boasts of its environmental virtues, would refuse to take measures to protect our area's only trout stream -- and in the exact place where firefighting-foam runoff killed almost the entire population of threatened steelhead trout in 2019.

Thank you for considering these matters. We look forward to seeing plans that include appropriate pollution-reduction measures.

Susan Schwartz, President  
Friends of Five Creeks  
510 848 9358  
[f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com)





# Friends of Five Creeks

*Volunteers preserving and restoring watersheds of  
North Berkeley, Albany, Kensington, south El Cerrito and Richmond since 1996  
1236 Oxford St., Berkeley, CA 94709  
510 848 9358 f5creeks@gmail.com www.fivecreeks.org*

Feb. 23, 2023

City of Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Council Members  
City Manager, Public Works Director Liam Garland, Transportation Manager Farid Javandel  
Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, Environment and Climate Commission  
2180 Milvia St., Berkeley, CA 94704 (by email)

Mayor, Council, Manager, Public Works Director, Transportation Manager, and Commissioners:

Friends of Five Creeks takes no position on parking or bicycles on a re-paved Hopkins Street. However, our volunteer organization, which has worked for local creeks and watersheds for 27 years, feels strongly that the City of Berkeley should be ashamed to having planned this project with no effort to reduce the street's polluting impact on Codornices Creek, our area's only trout stream, running just a half block north.

This is a particular disgrace to a city that claims environmental credentials. The Monterey Market area is the exact spot where foam from a city fire truck ran in a short, straight storm drain to the creek in 2019, wiping out nearly the entire population of threatened steelhead trout. Here is a summary of how the city has repeatedly failed to consider the creek:

- Shortly before the Hopkins planning began, the city repaved Monterey Avenue, providing for bicycles – but not for reducing polluted runoff, even where Monterey crosses the creek.
- The city promised that green infrastructure would be integral to the Hopkins Street paving project. Its consultants, however, did not include this in public-meeting agendas or discussion. Our letters calling for truly complete streets (available [here](#) and [here](#)) have been ignored.
- No plan we have seen has any indication of so-called green infrastructure to reduce pollution. As far as we can tell, staff, elected officials, and consultants talk only about aesthetic details, not reducing the petroleum residues, heavy metals, and other toxics that wash to creeks and the Bay, making life even harder for struggling wild creatures.
- Transportation Director Farid Javandel has admitted, in writing, that the city is rushing this project to contract in order to dodge stiffened pollution-reduction requirements that go into effect on June 30.

If Berkeley pushes this project through under today's weaker environmental rules, the least elected officials and staff should do is make sure that final plans include meaningful infrastructure that keeps pollution out of our only trout stream. There are many ways to do this other than space-devouring swales and rain gardens. We would be happy to discuss possibilities.

We look forward to a project that recognizes that “complete streets” also reduce the pollution they cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Schwartz".

Susan Schwartz, President, Friends of Five Creeks