



TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, July 20th, 2023, 7:00 pm

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA, 94709

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to order

7:01 pm: Vice Chair Fixler called the meeting to order

2. Roll call

7:03 pm:

Commissioners Present: Noelani Fixler, Barnali Ghosh, Adrian Leung, Bryce Nesbitt, Rick Raffanti, Kim Walton, Ray Yep

Commissioners Excused: Karen Parolek

Commissioners Absent: Liza Lutzker

Staff Present: Liam Garland (arrived at 8:10 pm), Hamid Mostowfi, Ron Nevels, Srinivas Muktevi, Eric Anderson, Noah Budnick

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

7:03 pm: None

4. Approval of minutes from June 15th, 2023

7:03 pm: Discussion: Commissioner Yep asked that the mention of Rule “28” be corrected to say Rule “20 A;” Commissioner Ghosh asked that mention of the Public Transit “Subcommittee” be changed to the Public Transit “Liaison” and that mention of a price increase for Clipper Cards be removed; commissioners asked that staff add a “DRAFT” watermark to the draft letter about staffing that was included in the June 15, 2023 agenda packet; Commissioner Nesbitt asked that the new device for conducting traffic counts be described as a “crowdsourced device” that counts traffic; commissioners asked that the minutes restate the City Clerk’s policy on Commission meeting minutes.

7:11 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Ghosh / Nebitt) to approve the minutes with the requested changes:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Nesbitt, Raffanti, Walton, Yep
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Parolek, Lutzker
Recused: None

7:20 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-2-0

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

7:12 pm: No changes suggested.

6. Update on administration and staff

7:13 pm: Co-Secretary Mostowfi (Public Works Acting Transportation Manager) provided updates and answered Commissioners' questions on the following: Signal installations on San Pablo and Virginia (Caltrans) and on California and Ashby (Berkeley Public Works); Addison Street between Shattuck and Milvia is reverting back to two-way travel by mid-August; the Transportation Division made an offer to a Principal Planner candidate and is hiring an office assistant to help with parking citation appeals. Co-Secretary Nevels (Public Works Acting Manager of Engineering) provided updates and answered Commissioners' questions on the following: providing periodic updates on the watershed management plan; the Engineering Division is hiring three Assistant Public Works Engineers, selected a fourth candidate to fill a future Assistant Public Works Engineer opening and is hiring to backfill two Junior Public Works Engineer positions. Acting Principal Planner Eric Anderson answered commissioners' questions about bicycle counts.

7. Announcements

7:18 pm: Commissioner Raffanti reminded the Commission that Golden Gate Fields is going to close, and Commissioner Nesbitt noted that this will have an impact on truck traffic.

B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. ACTC San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program: Safety Enhancement and Parallel Bike Improvements Projects – Action Requested

7:20 pm: Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) staff and consultants from Kimley-Horn and Associates gave a presentation about their San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program, which includes safety enhancements on San Pablo Avenue and bicycle network improvements on parallel streets (see attached presentation). The project runs along San Pablo

Avenue in Alameda County, connecting the municipalities of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions and staff answered them about where bicycle detection systems will be included in the project to enable people to safely cross San Pablo Avenue; the net gain or loss of car parking spaces; where traffic calming elements like speed tables will be installed to improve safety and access for vulnerable road users; how the project is being funded; how the parallel bike route was planned; why dedicated bus lanes do not run the entire length of the project; if changing the speed limit on San Pablo Avenue was considered; if bus stops and bus shelters will be relocated; how the parallel bike route will connect with existing and planned routes in the bike network; if the Commission recommends the project move forward, what parts are fixed and what is malleable; if there is the potential to add greening to this project; if there is any way to send new street designs to navigation apps so they can update the directions they give people.

The one member of the public who attended the meeting commented in support of the traffic calming elements that create the parallel bike route and asked if adding traffic signals will slow down buses, hoping that AC Transit can use technology that allows buses to “hold” green lights and, thus, not impeded by traffic signals.

Commissioners commented that they are very excited about the project; expressed their thanks to ACTC staff for working on it; the project has a wide scope and long history and appreciate the staff expertise that went into outreach and design; they look forward to seeing the project implemented and hope there’s good collaboration and coordination with the City of Berkeley; they are disappointed that there isn’t a protected busway in the Berkeley section of the project; AC Transit should be worried about drivers slowing down buses in Berkeley; staff should be recognized for their work stitching the project together; ACTC should collaborate with local businesses to enhance the project from an urban design perspective; bike riders will use San Pablo Avenue anyway; frustration that the bike route leaves San Pablo Avenue; the project has important pedestrian safety improvements to make crossing San Pablo Avenue safer; disinterest in biking on San Pablo Avenue; concerned that the project could encourage drivers to speed on the parallel bike route; need for bike route connections in Albany; building more housing on San Pablo Avenue will increase the number of people who bike on San Pablo Avenue, so there should be a protected bike lane on it as well as a parallel bike route.

8:31 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Fixler / Raffanti) that the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission recommends City Council approve the Alameda County Transportation Commission concept design within Berkeley for the San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program with the following adjustments and considerations:

- Explore the potential funding for greening San Pablo Ave as part of this project, Contribute to the overall urban design perspective in project scope, for example, bike racks, benches, bus stations, or other designs.
- Speed tables can be unpleasant for cyclists, the preferable design is diverters to remove thru traffic from bicycle boulevards altogether. If speed tables are added, a wheel gap for cyclist convenience is recommended.

Additionally, the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission recommends that the City Council direct City staff to partner with the Alameda County Transportation Commission on final design and implementation of these projects.

Outside of the scope of The San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program, The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission recommends the Alameda County Transportation Commission investigate the following items for projects in the future:

- Ensuring robust connections between cities that are hard to plan between, for example the Adams Street discontinuity between Berkeley and Albany.
- Explore future efforts to ensure google, apple maps, waze, and other direction apps do not lead drivers on bike boulevards and other designated bike routes.

Discussion: Commissioners said that it is better to implement this project than not implement it; urban design elements like bike racks, benches, bus stations and shelters should be added; ACTC should explore greening San Pablo Avenue and how to fund it; diverters and speed tables with gaps between them are preferred over removing stop signs and using standard speed tables; there should be good bike connections between the cities along the corridor and that a countywide bike network should be explored; greening should be included now because it will be more expensive to add it in the future.

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Nesbitt, Raffanti, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Parolek, Lutzker

Recused: None

8:38 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-2-0

2. Informational Briefing on the City of Berkeley's Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy and 5-Year Paving Plan

8:40 pm: City of Berkeley staff gave a presentation on the methodology and process used to develop the 5-Year Paving Plan. Public Works uses the StreetSaver pavement management tool to recommend what streets to pave and works with utility companies to coordinate utility work and City paving. Staff also noted that building green infrastructure currently takes funding away from the paving budget.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions and staff answered them about how the paving plan changes from fiscal year to fiscal year; what streets from the previous fiscal year have been paved and why some are on hold; why Shattuck Avenue isn't on the repaving list; the process for the City to access State gas tax funding; adding green infrastructure; how StreetSaver works; the City's paving contract.

There were no public comments.

The Commissioners discussed how the former Public Works Commission's subcommittee reviewed the 5-Year Paving Plan; how the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission has reviewed the paving plan and how the Commission will move forward and advise the City Council on the plan; how staff used StreetSaver analysis, utility work, major City projects and the Water Board's green infrastructure requirements to develop the draft 5-Year Paving Plan; paving funding scenarios; the estimated change in StreetSaver's Pavement Conditions Index (PCI).

9:30 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Ghosh / Nesbitt) to extend the meeting for 15-minutes:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Nesbitt, Raffanti, Walton, Yep
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Parolek, Lutzker
Recused: None

9:45 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-2-0

The Commissioners continued to discuss the paving plan's equity zone; the cost of not paving streets; getting feedback from staff regarding specific questions from Commissioners; the generally unsustainable nature of paving; that the 5-Year Paving Plan subcommittee should propose a motion to the next Commission meeting.

9:45 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Leung) to extend the meeting for 10-minutes:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Nesbitt, Raffanti, Walton, Yep
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Parolek, Lutzker
Recused: None

9:45 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-2-0

The Commissioners continued to discuss the 5-Year Paving Plan subcommittee's draft memo; the subcommittee meeting with staff to get more detail on how the plan was developed.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

9:46 pm: Subcommittee reports & assignments
Verbal reports from subcommittees

D. COMMUNICATIONS

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9:47 pm: The Commission will have the 5-Year Paving Plan on a future meeting agenda; Commissioner Walton suggested drafting a letter commending staff who've left Public Works for their hard work; Commissioner Nesbitt requested a

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briefing on pavement lifecycles, to make a presentation on crowdsourced traffic camera technology and to discuss annual bicycle counts.

F. ADJOURNMENT

9:51 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Yep / Raffanti) to close the meeting:

Ayes: Fixler, Ghosh, Leung, Nesbitt, Raffanti, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Parolek, Lutzker

Recused: None

9:51 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-2-0

Public Present:

One member of the public at 7:01 pm

One member of the public at 9:51 pm

Speakers: 1

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Administrative Procedures

From the City of Berkeley Commissioners' Manual, 2019 Edition, page 70 regarding minutes:

Although the Brown Act does not require minutes, except for closed sessions, the Commissioners' Manual does require minutes of commission meetings but not for subcommittee meetings. When required, minutes are limited to action minutes only. Minutes are unofficial until approved by the commission. The minutes are converted to PDF and posted on the City's website.

The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the commission's proceedings and transactions. The secretary shall provide action minutes similar to those provided to the Council by the City Clerk. Action minutes list the date, time, and place of the meetings; the staff in attendance; the commissioners present and absent; and a clear and concise description of final actions taken. Approved motions are indicated by "moved, seconded, and carried" and include a breakdown of the vote. The vote breakdown includes the commissioners voting

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yes, no, abstain, absent, recused, and reason for recusal. Reasons for making a motion, debate, content of public comments, and audience reaction are not to be included.

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Public Works

Commission Co-Secretary: Ron Nevels, Acting Manager of Engineering, Public Works
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San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program



Berkeley Transportation and Infrastructure Commission

July 20, 2023

San Pablo Avenue Corridor Program



- Enhance **safety** for all travel modes
- Improve **comfort and quality** of trips for all users
- Support a **strong local economy** and efficiently accommodate **growth** along the corridor while respecting local contexts
- Promote **equitable** transportation and design solutions for diverse communities throughout corridor

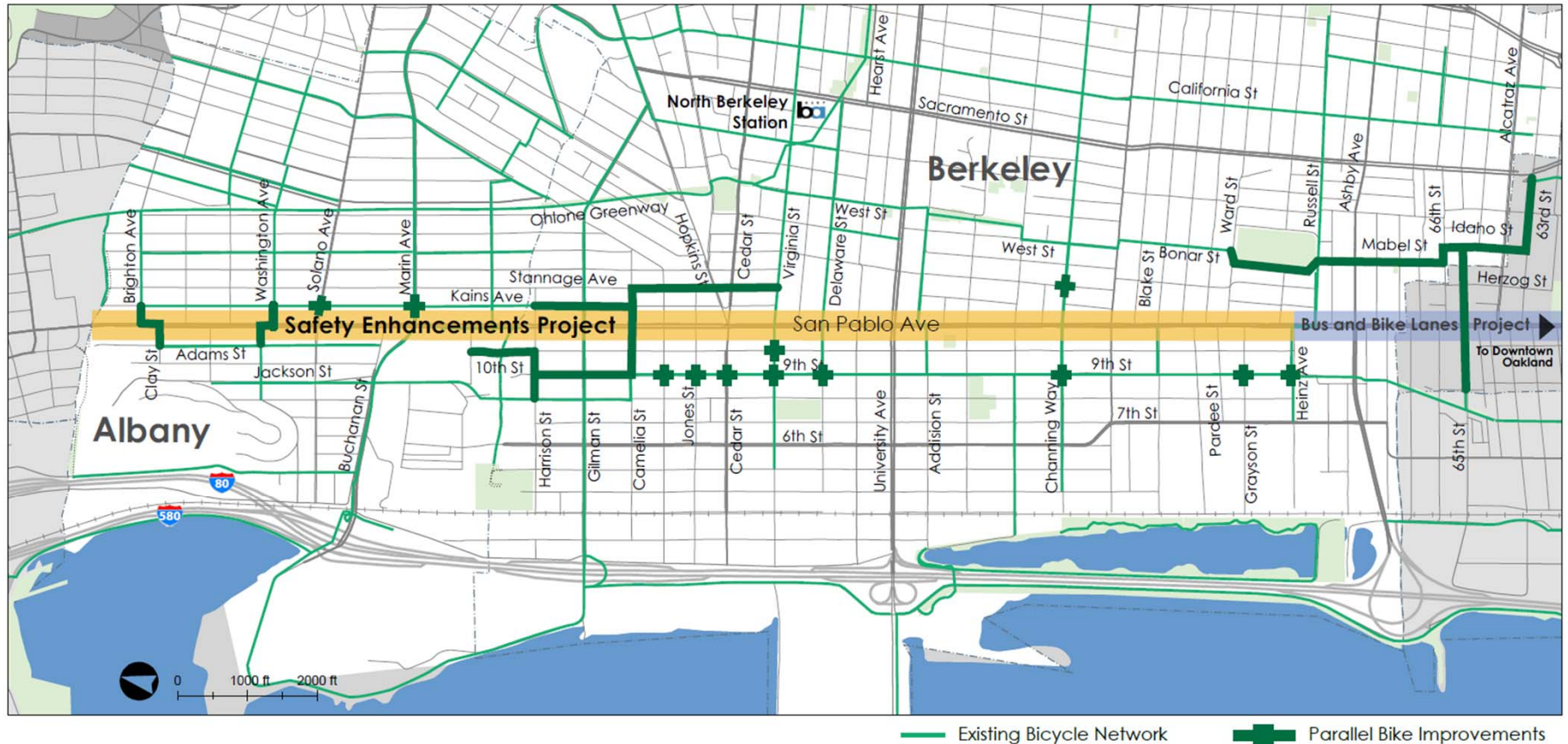
Project Overview Map



Program Partners

- Cities of:
 - Oakland
 - Emeryville
 - Berkeley
 - Albany
- AC Transit
- Caltrans

Project Locations: Safety and Parallel Bike

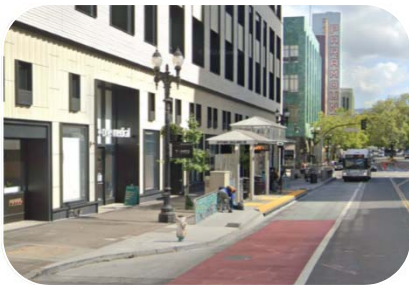


Coordinated Projects

- Parker-Addison Mobility and Safety Improvements Project
- Addison St Bicycle Boulevard
- Ohlone Greenway Safety Improvements Project

Safety Enhancements Project

Project Elements



Bus bulbs



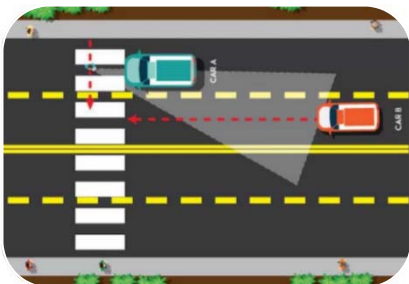
Pedestrian Signals (PHBs)



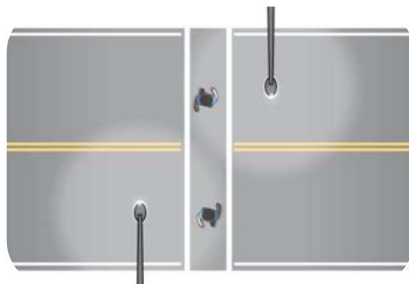
Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)



Median Refuges



Bus Stop Relocations



Lighting Upgrades

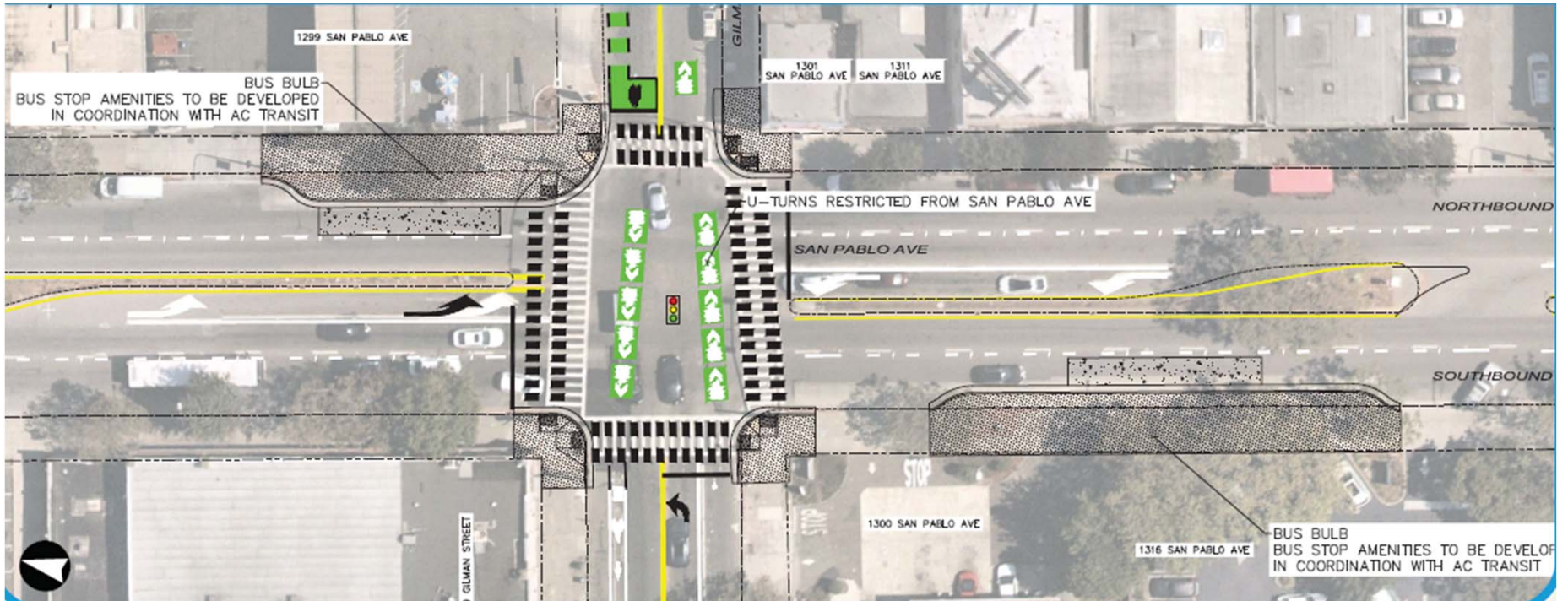


ADA ramp and signal upgrades

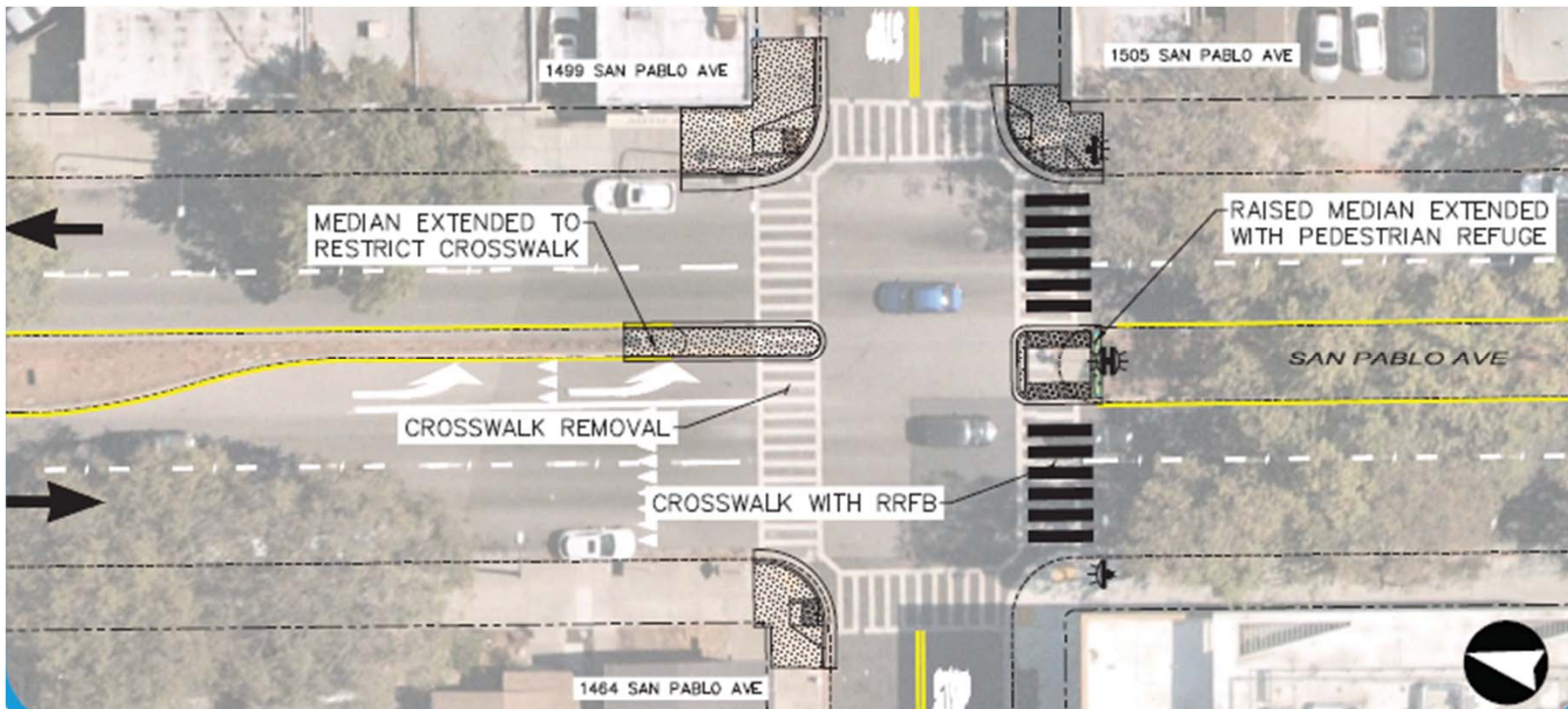


Protected Bikeway Connectors

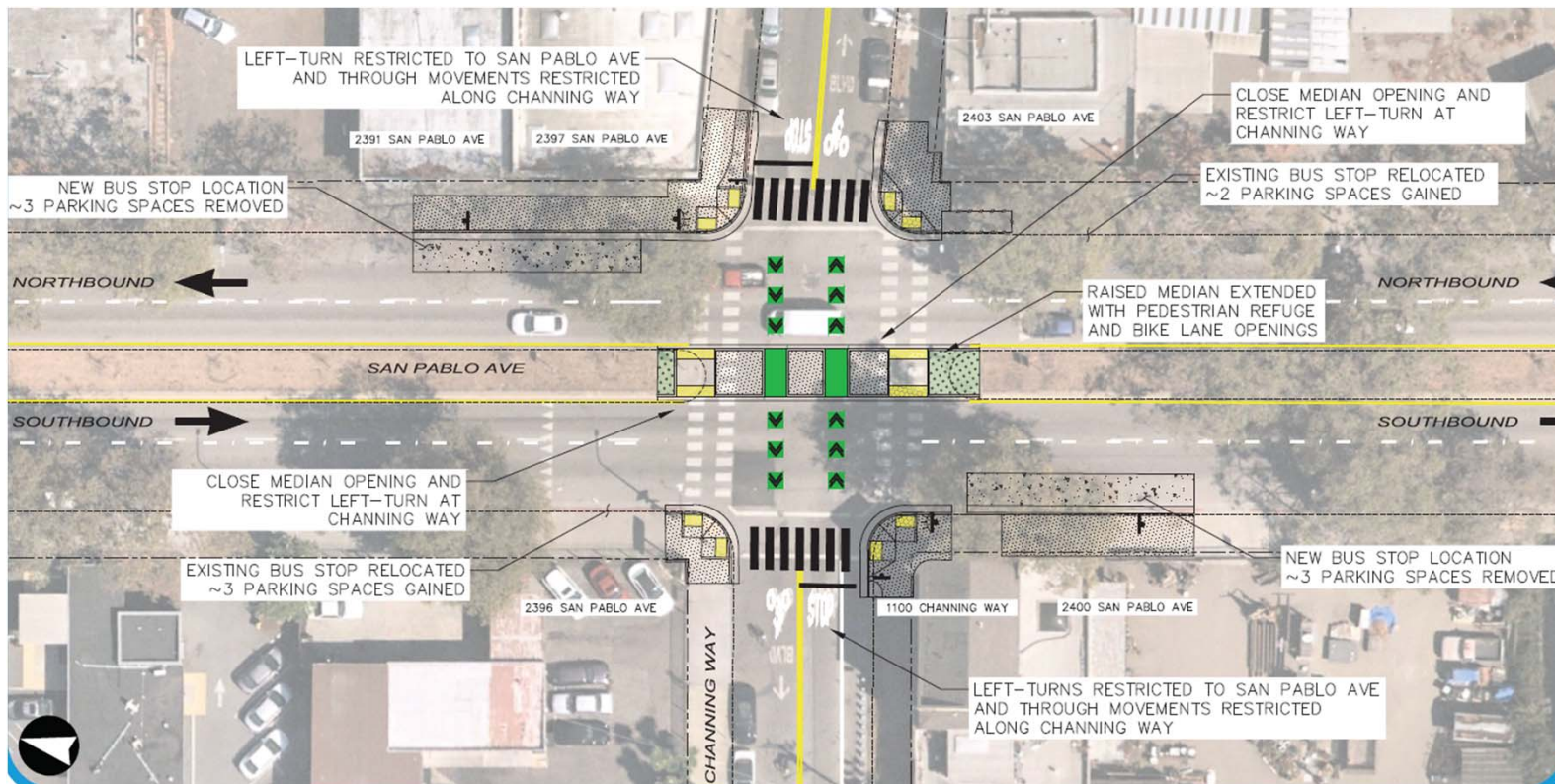
San Pablo/Gilman



San Pablo/Jones



San Pablo/Channing



Parallel Bike Project

Project Elements



Diverters



Traffic Circles



Median Refuge Islands



Flashing Beacons



Wayfinding



ADA ramp upgrades

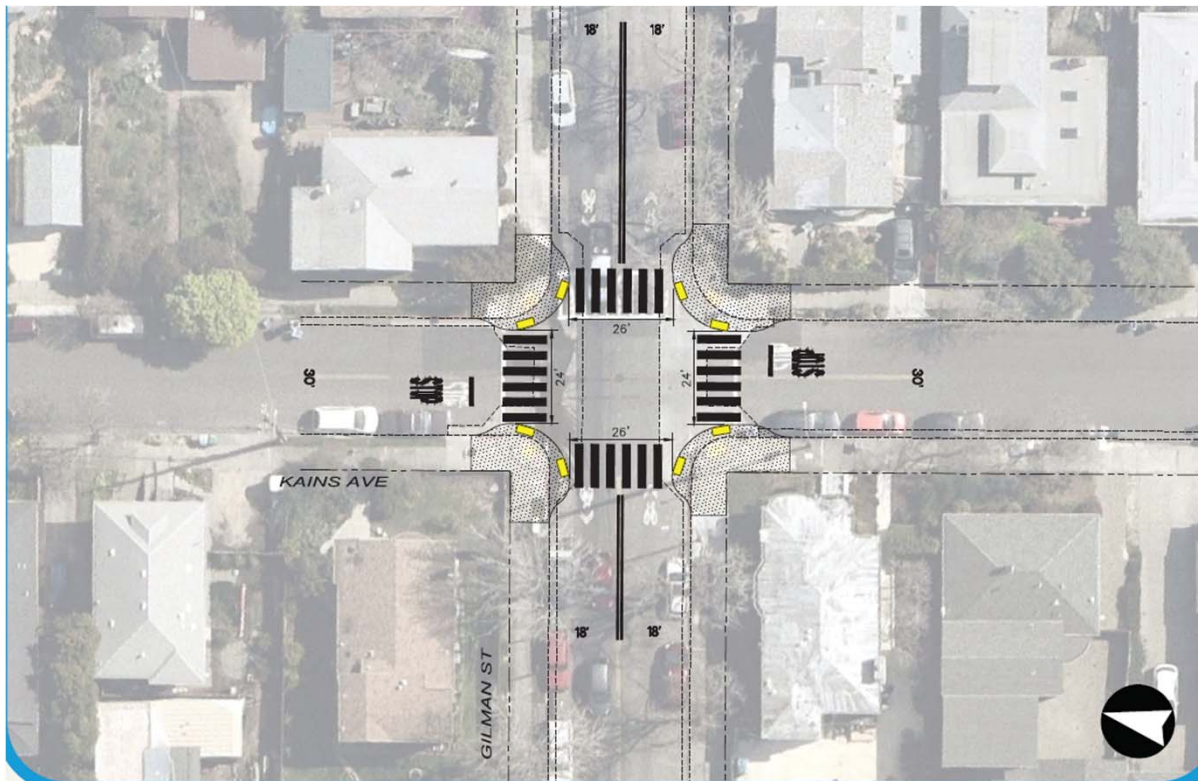


New stop controls

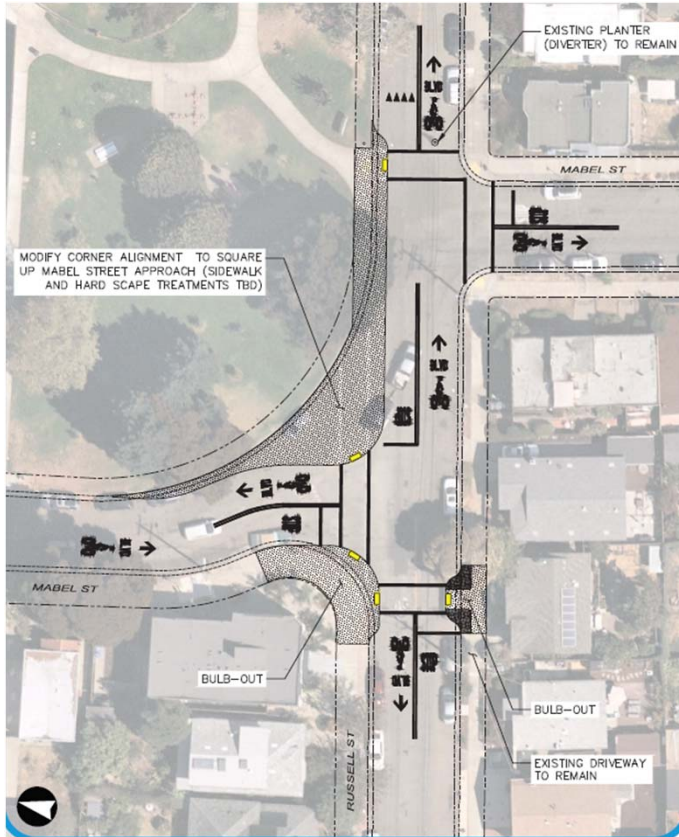


Bulbouts

Kains/Gilman



Russell/Mabel



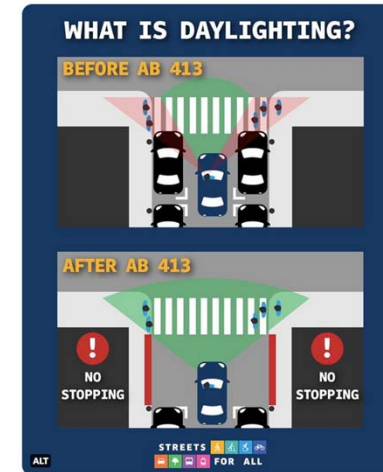
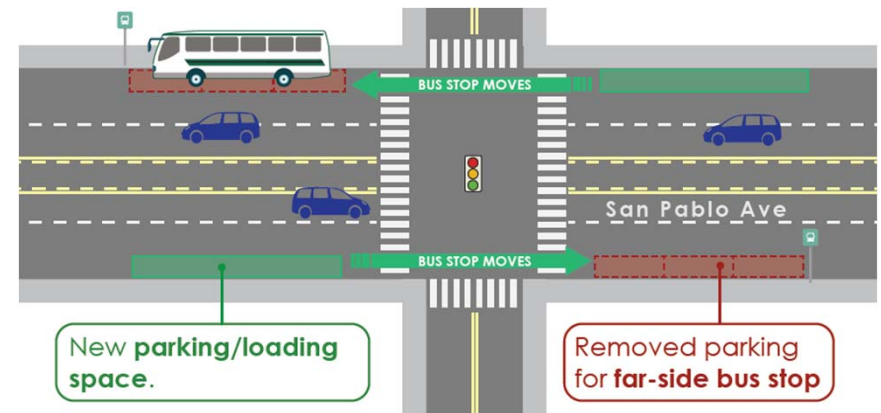
Circulation Changes

- Diverters (Parallel Bike)
 - Channing/Curtis
 - Delaware/9th (reverse orientation)
 - 9th/Jones
- Median closures (Safety Enhancements)
 - San Pablo/Pardee
 - San Pablo/Blake
 - San Pablo/Channing
 - San Pablo/Virginia
 - Kains/Marin (Albany)
- Other turn restrictions
 - San Pablo/REI entrance



Parking Changes

- Safety Enhancements (On SPA)
 - Bus stop changes (majority of cases)
 - Class IV bikeway connectors
 - Some reductions due to stop lengthening and daylighting
- Parallel Bike (Off SPA)
 - “Daylighting” (red-curb) at residential intersections
 - Improves sight distance for all users



Safety Enhancements and Parallel Bikeways Project Outreach

- Interactive webmap
- Storefront outreach
- Bus stop flyers
- Postcard mailers (2)
- Active Transportation Working Group (ATWG)
- E-blasts and presentations upon request to CBOs
- Community open house (3/30, over 100 attendees)
- Transportation Commissions (May/June)

Key Outreach Themes

- Parallel bike routing and facility type
- Level of traffic control device at major street crossings
- Stop-control changes and speed humps along parallel bike streets
- Suggested improvements at locations not along project streets
- Location-specific parking concerns
- Bus stop nuisance issues
- Detailed design comments (striping, bike detection, signal operations, materials, landscaping)

Changes based on outreach

- Kains vs Stannage routing
- Mabel/65th/Idaho routing
- Pardee/9th diverter – removed
- Channing/10th diverter – removed
- Kains/Gilman – bulbouts added
- SB Dwight, SB University – bus bulbs shortened
- SB Allston, NB Cedar – bus stops stay nearside
- Speed tables added
- Stop-control flipped, traffic circles change to yield control

Next steps

- Environmental clearance
- Caltrans Project Report (Safety Enhancements)
- Final design

Project Schedules

	Safety Enhancements	Parallel Bike Improvements
Planning/ Scoping	2017 – Spring 2022	2017 – Spring 2022
Environmental Studies & Final Design	Winter 2022 – Spring 2025	Winter 2022 – Spring 2024
Construction	Fall 2025 – Winter 2026	Fall 2024 – Winter 2026

Recommended Action

That the Commission recommend that the City Council:

1. Approve the conceptual design for the San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program: Safety Enhancement and Parallel Bike Improvements Projects within the City of Berkeley, and
2. Direct city staff to work with the Alameda County Transportation Commission on final design and implementation of these projects.

Questions and Comments?

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