



Office of the City Manager

May 17, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Draft Adeline Corridor Plan and Environmental Impact Report Published

I am pleased to announce that the Draft Adeline Corridor Plan and associated Environmental Report (EIR) is now published for community review and input. The Draft Plan articulates a vision and specific goals and actions for the area along Adeline Street and a portion of South Shattuck Avenue – an area that has a rich history of cultural and economic diversity and political activism, and that also is facing acute challenges, such as displacement and rapid increases in the cost of housing.

The Draft Plan reflects input gathered at dozens of community meetings and workshops held since the planning process kicked off in 2015. Informed by that input, the Draft Plan presents five strategic goals:

- Preserve the unique character and cultural legacy of the Adeline Corridor, sustaining the community as a place where all people can live, work, play, learn, worship, dine, shop, and thrive.
- Promote equitable access to housing by producing new affordable housing, preserving existing affordable housing, and preventing displacement.
- Foster economic opportunity for South Berkeley residents and businesses by facilitating job training and workforce development, active community spaces, and a thriving environment for commerce along the Adeline Street/South Shattuck Corridor.
- Provide safe, equitable transportation options that meet the mobility needs of all residents, regardless of age, means, and abilities, and that further the attainment of the City's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- Provide safe, sustainable, beautiful, healthy, and inclusive public spaces that encourage social interaction, provide opportunities for recreation and environmental health, and support active community life in South Berkeley.

Specific actions that are critical to achieving these goals and the draft Plan's vision of an inclusive, vibrant, diverse Adeline Corridor with increased economic opportunity and housing choices include:

- Ensuring that at least 50% of all new housing units produced along the Adeline Corridor over the next 20 years are income-restricted and affordable at a range of income levels. This will be achieved by maximizing the number of deed-restricted affordable units at publicly-owned sites, such as the Ashby BART station, and by adopting new zoning regulations and an on-site affordable housing incentive program.
- Developing a preference policy to prioritize new affordable housing units (inclusionary Below Market Rate units and/or Housing Trust Fund/subsidized units) to current residents or potentially those who have previously been displaced from the neighborhood, as consistent with Fair Housing law.
- Supporting capital improvements that strengthen existing community institutions, such as the Berkeley Flea Market, South Berkeley Farmers Market, and Juneteenth Festival, as well as future institutions, such as the African American Holistic Resource Center.
- Creating a Business Improvement District that serves the Adeline Corridor.
- Re-designing Adeline Street to create new public space and improve safety and sustainable mobility for all.

The Draft Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) are available for review at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/AdelineCorridor/>. Hard copies are also available for reference at the City of Berkeley at 1947 Center Street (2nd Floor) and at the following locations: the Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library (1901 Russell St.), the Central Library (2090 Kittredge St.) and the Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center (2939 Ellis St.).

Community members can provide written comments on the Draft Plan and DEIR by emailing staff at adelinecorridor@cityofberkeley.info, or by mailing comments to the Planning Department, 1947 Center Street, 2nd floor, Berkeley CA 94704, Attn: Alisa Shen/Adeline Corridor. The City of Berkeley Planning Commission will also hear presentations about the Draft Plan and Draft EIR, and hold a Public Hearing about the DEIR at their regularly scheduled meeting on **Wednesday, June 5, 2019, starting at 7:00 pm** at the Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center.

The City will host a community meeting to present and gather input on the Draft Plan on **May 29, 2019 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm** at the Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center. Councilmember Bartlett and Mayor Arreguin are also hosting a town hall meeting, focused on future zoning and development at the Ashby BART station, on **June 3, 2019** at the Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center. Staff is also presenting at several City Commissions over the next several weeks and months and will meet directly with community leaders and stakeholders to hear questions, ideas, and concerns. Detailed information about upcoming community meetings will be available on the project website.

The City of Berkeley is soliciting comments on the Draft Plan and Draft EIR from **Friday, May 17, 2019** until **Monday, July 1, 2019**.

Over the summer, staff will review all input collected and prepare potential Plan revisions and Final EIR for consideration by the Planning Commission in September/October 2019. The Planning Commission will prepare a recommendation on the Plan and EIR for City Council consideration. A City Council Work Session to review the Draft Plan is also scheduled for September 17, 2019.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the many community members who contributed to the Draft Plan and who ultimately will be central to its implementation. Faith-based groups, business leaders, and many other community-based groups and residents have provided invaluable input and guidance. We look forward to additional input on the Draft Plan over the coming weeks and months.

I also want to thank the multi-department team of staff who developed the Draft Plan. Special thanks to Alisa Shen, Principal Planner in the Planning Department, for her leadership and commitment to community engagement.

Please contact Timothy Burroughs, Director of the Department of Planning & Development, for more information. He can be reached at tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info or 510.981.7100.

cc: All Department Directors
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