



Office of the City Manager

June 1, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

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

Re: Ashby and North Berkeley BART Community Advisory Group

The first meeting of the Ashby and North Berkeley BART Community Advisory Group (CAG) will take place on Monday, June 8, 2020 from 6pm - 9pm. This is an important milestone in the process that the City of Berkeley and BART are collaboratively advancing to plan for development at the Ashby and North Berkeley stations, to help provide much-needed affordable housing and improve station access for all.

The CAG process was set in motion by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) [adopted by the City Council](#)<sup>1</sup> and BART Board of Directors. The MOU established a framework for future development at the two BART stations, including convening the CAG and other avenues for community engagement on land use scenarios and zoning for the sites. Per State law (AB 2939), zoning must be developed for the sites by July 1, 2022. The MOU articulates milestones and timelines for completing the zoning, leading to a solicitation of developers which is consistent with the joint vision and priorities for the site identified by the City and BART.

The charge of the CAG is to: (1) provide input to the Planning Commission on matters directly related to zoning of the Ashby and North Berkeley BART Stations in conformance with AB 2923 zoning standards; (2) bridge communication between the Planning Commission's zoning process and neighborhood groups and the community; and (3) provide input on a joint vision and priorities document to be developed by the City and BART. There will be many opportunities for community members to engage in this process. In addition to CAG and Planning Commission meetings, there will also be community workshops and other avenues for engagement.

The CAG includes 15 community members. The following four commissions each selected one member: the Commission on Disability, the Housing Advisory Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Transportation Commission. Per Council direction, the remaining 11 community members were selected by Mayor Jesse Arreguin and the two councilmembers in whose districts the BART stations are located, Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (District 1), and Councilmember Ben Bartlett (District 3).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/12\\_Dec/Documents/2019-12-10\\_Item\\_31\\_Approval\\_of\\_a\\_Memorandum.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/12_Dec/Documents/2019-12-10_Item_31_Approval_of_a_Memorandum.aspx)

This planning effort builds upon community engagement processes that have been underway for several years, including the City's Draft [Adeline Corridor Specific Plan](#) and the community visioning process for the North Berkeley BART led by Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani and former Councilmember Linda Maio.

The CAG process is being managed by the Planning & Development Department. Staff is working with a consultant team led by Van Meter Williams Pollack, which has extensive experience analyzing infill development and zoning for construction of transit-oriented development and affordable housing projects. The consultant team also includes Rick Jacobus of Street Level Advisors, an expert on housing economics and affordable housing in the Bay Area and nationally.

The first meeting of the CAG (June 8, 6-9pm) will be held online using the Zoom webinar video and audio platform. This web-based platform allows CAG members, staff and members of the public to participate remotely, in compliance with the City of Berkeley Health Officer's Shelter in Place Order.

The agenda and other materials for the meeting, including a link to the Zoom URL for the public to participate, will be posted on the City's website at: [www.cityofberkeley.info/bartplanning](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/bartplanning).

For more information, please contact Timothy Burroughs, Director of the Department of Planning & Development.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager  
David White, Deputy City Manager  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager  
Timothy Burroughs, Director, Planning and Development Department

References:

Draft MOU approved by City Council, Dec. 10, 2019:  
[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/12\\_Dec/Documents/2019-12-10\\_Item\\_31\\_Approval\\_of\\_a\\_Memorandum.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/12_Dec/Documents/2019-12-10_Item_31_Approval_of_a_Memorandum.aspx)

Adeline Corridor Plan page:  
<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/AdelineCorridor/>