

BERKELEY PIER/FERRY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Community Meeting #1 | January 21, 2021

Community Discussion Notes – Breakout Room #4

Breakout Room 4

Summary of Key Ideas

- People love the Marina as a park and open space. The future of the Marina should reflect this
- Concerns about environmental impacts from ferry itself, other activities
- Questions about the viability of ferry service as a major commuting option
- The Group preferred options A and C since they are the furthest North and have the least impact on recreational users to the South near HS Lordships

Discussion Notes

- Comment
 - Thinks the Pier/Ferry project should wait until after the BMASP process
 - Hotel needed at HS Lordships
 - Supports ferries but thinks this should be modeled as a boutique/recreational service rather than commute focused. Unsure that it will have enough demand due to competition with BART and future of work from home
 - Access to the ferry should be from transit, walking and biking. High parking prices required to make this happen
- Comment
 - Would use the Tideline service from the Marina pre-pandemic. Liked the service but it was not frequent enough
 - Frequency is more important than vessel size for ferry service
 - Implores city to look at offering more service out of the Marina rather than at a new location
 - Believes that the benefit of a ferry is that it provides an alternative mobility option, not that it should compete with BART or the Bridge
- Comment
 - Avid windsurfer. Says Berkeley Marina has some of the best windsurfing in the Bay
 - Purpose of the marina is water, wind, sun, recreation, and open space. Doesn't want that jeopardized by overdevelopment or too many cars

- Concerns about ferries affecting the water clarity, especially for fisherman and swimmers
- Worried that a transportation issue is driving the reasoning for the pier, rather than to improve recreation and access in the marina
- Doesn't want to ruin the Marina's unique character
- As close to Skates (North) as possible to avoid water recreation near HS Lordships
- New high-quality restaurant should be considered for the HS Lordships building
- Comment
 - Used the Berkeley-SF ferry after Loma Prieta
 - Worried this ferry would face the same fate as that one, which lost ridership after the bridge and tub reopened
 - Thinks working from home will limit potential ridership
 - Ferry need to be time competitive with other options
 - Loved the recreational aspect of the old pier
 - Appreciates the need for an economic boost, but unsure if a ferry is the way
- Comment
 - Concerned that the transportation and economic needs are driving the process rather than the needs of the Berkeley public
 - Concerns about 1st/last mile connections, doesn't want to see a parking lot full of cars
 - Concerns about large 400 passenger ferries
 - The marina is a green open space, not an industrial/commercial center
 - WFH impact on ridership
- Comment
 - Concerns about the demand for a ferry
 - Concerns about RM3 funding and transit ridership after covid
 - Vessels should be electric/hydrogen
 - Thinks a pilot with small electric vessels would be a good start
- Comment
 - Concerned about the ferry's impact on marine life
 - Concerns about the ferry's financial stability
- Comment
 - Consider solar panels above parking spaces, use the energy to charge the ferries