

From: [Cameron Holland](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment from Bike Walk Alameda on Agenda Item 6-E, Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 2:52:59 PM

Please include these comments under Council Agenda Item 6-E. Thank you!

To:

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Vice Mayor John Knox White

Councilmember Malia Vella

Councilmember Jim Oddie

Councilmember Tony Daysog

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council:

This letter is in support of the recommendation at Regular Agenda Item 6-E to continue, enhance and expand the Commercial and Slow Streets programs in Alameda. These programs respond directly to the needs of Alameda pedestrians and bicyclists during COVID-19 by relieving overcrowding in outdoor spaces, providing safe pedestrian access to downtown businesses, and supporting healthy outdoor physical activity.

In reviewing expansion and enhancements of these programs, we encourage council members and city staff to align approved proposals with prior commitments made under the March 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, the November 2019 Vision Zero Policy, and the March 2020 City Council Resolution to Promote Safe, Liveable Streets and Environmentally Sustainable Transportation Choices, as well as with current intentions under the proposed General Plan. In particular, the current programs can do more to adequately address the following:

- **Enhanced safety for bicyclists in our Commercial Streets:** While making significant improvements for pedestrians to encourage shopping during COVID-19, the Commercial Streets program does not yet provide a truly safe environment for bicyclists nor does it encourage more visitors to travel to our downtown areas by bicycle or other active transportation. Both commercial corridors continue to prioritize car traffic, requiring bicyclists - including families, seniors and more cautious riders - to share the road with cars. Many riders, especially youth, choose instead to ride on the sidewalk, defeating social distancing protocols. Providing **real protections for North-South bicyclists**, and **facilities for bicyclist pick-up and drop-off** at downtown establishments, would support City goals to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries, reduce emissions and promote multi-modal access to business districts.
- **Expansion of Commercial Streets:** We strongly support the proposal to **expand Commercial Streets on Park Street to San Jose**, both to provide better pedestrian access to highly frequented restaurants and storefronts and to reduce speeding along that stretch. Encinal to San Jose is currently a four-lane section unnecessarily book-ended by two-lane sections, leading to speeding in a small space as cars jockey for position.

- Expansion and enhanced safety of Slow Streets: The Slow Streets program provides a necessary outlet for safe physical outdoor activity and encourages active transportation across the Island. We strongly support Staff's recommendation to pursue grant funds to improve the program, including by **expanding the Slow Streets network** to more streets, improving safety through **additional barriers**, and reducing the number of through-traffic cross-streets that bisect the Slow Streets corridors. Small **roundabouts**, used in many residential neighborhoods to slow traffic, may be an apt solution for these intersections.

The work of City staff and council to bring these two programs to life represents a deep commitment to the health of our residents and the strength of our local businesses, our community and our environment. We look forward to further growing and bolstering these initiatives collaboratively through 2021.

Bike Walk Alameda

From: [Kathy Weber](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Jim Oddie](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Eric Levitt](#); [Andrew Thomas](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [Eric Fonstein](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to support Council Referral 6-E 2020-8363
Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 11:49:45 AM
Attachments: [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)
[2020-10-20 Council Letter Request to Extend Striping to San Jose.pdf](#)

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Honorable Mayor, Councilmembers and City Staff,

We respectfully submit the attached letter for your consideration.

The Downtown Alameda Business Association Board of Directors appreciates your consideration of our request to support **Council Referral 6-E 2020-8363** and continue to waive the Encroachment Permit Fees Through October 31, 2021 to support the Commercial Streets Program. Additionally, we formally request the continuation of the lane reconfiguration and restriping of Park Street to extend south from Encinal to San Jose Avenue as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to continuing our partnership to provide support to our business community.

Kind Regards,
Kathy

Kathy Weber

Executive Director

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#DowntownAlameda





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Daisy's

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Executive Director

Kathy Weber

October 2020

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

The Downtown Alameda Business Association is urging your support of **Council Referral 6-E 2020-8363** on your October 20, 2020 agenda.

The realignment of Park Street and the implementation of the Commercial Streets Program has provided significant benefit to our business district. The resulting expanded space has enabled businesses to activate this space and create parklets to support commerce.

On behalf of the Downtown Alameda Businesses Association Board of Directors I would encourage that the City continue to waive the Encroachment Permit Fees Through October 31, 2021 to support the Commercial Streets Program. Additionally, we formally request the continuation of the lane reconfiguration and restriping of Park Street to extend south from Encinal to San Jose Avenue as soon as possible.

In addition to the benefits of traffic calming, we have businesses who are interested in activating parklets in this area. The response to the area between Lincoln and Encinal has been overwhelmingly positive. The restriping of the area from Encinal to San Jose Avenue will provide a constant, cohesive two-lane street alignment from Lincoln to Otis.

Scheduling the extension of the lane reconfiguration and restriping on Park Street at the earliest possible time will provide continued to support the Downtown Alameda Business Association members during these unprecedented economic times.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue to collaborate with Council and City staff; together, we can offer much needed support to our local businesses at this critical time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathy Weber

Kathy Weber

Executive Director