

From: [Cyndy Johnsen](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Jennifer Ott](#); [BWA Board](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for Items 7-B, 7-C, 5-E
Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:43:12 AM
Attachments: [5 2 23 CC Comments Budget and Estuary Park.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Daysog, and Members of the City Council,

We hope you will consider our comments regarding items on tonight's City Council agenda, attached.

Thank you,

Bike Walk Alameda



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May 2, 2023

RE: Agenda Items 7-B, 7-C, and 5-E

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Daysog, and Members of the City Council,

We hope you will consider our thoughts on the following agenda items.

Items 7-B and 7-C

We're keenly aware of how very important street safety projects frequently get delayed, and the number of complex and important projects ahead of us, so we urge you to take this opportunity to commit additional budget to bolster our resources and keep projects on track. Traffic violence is our biggest public safety issue, and the climate emergency is an existential threat that won't wait. Please budget for them as such.

Item 5-E

It's exciting to see Estuary Park expand. We noted the plans propose a new parking lot with EV charging stations, and in the spirit of incentivizing climate-friendly transportation, we wanted to call out an oversight with the current park: it lacks easily-accessible bike parking. The only bike racks here are behind a locked gate accessible only to field permit holders.

There are an increasing number of families biking around town for everyday transportation and recreation. This site can be reached from the north by safe, mostly off-street facilities and the Bay Trail, and makes a great destination for biking families. Please direct staff and consultants to include plenty of easily-accessible bike parking in the plans for the next phase, and expedite the installation of more easily-accessible bike parking for the existing park.

More generally, we wanted to convey concern about building new parking lots in Alameda. We're learning more and more about their many negative impacts, from the obvious (they consume a lot of valuable

space that in this case could mean more green space; they induce more driving, particularly if they're free), to the abstract (urban heat island effect; drainage and water and air pollution issues; expense). Much of Alameda is already paved over, so we hope our city will carefully weigh impacts and evaluate all of our options before paving any new parking lots, and when we do, to carefully design them to minimize negative impacts. Our General Plan offers some guidance in LU-34:

Actions:

- a. **Size.** Minimize the size and amount of land dedicated to off-street parking.*
- b. **Design.** Design parking lots and structures for shared and multiple uses, active parking management, and electric vehicle charging. Surface parking areas should be well landscaped with shade trees to reduce heat island effects from expansive asphalt surfaces and to screen cars from view. Ensure impacts on Alameda's stormwater system are minimized.*
- c. **Location.** Place parking inside, below, or behind buildings. Avoid placing parking between the building and the public right of way or the waterfront wherever possible.*
- d. **Special Needs.** Ensure adequate space and facilities for special needs parking, including parking for seniors, the physically impaired and people with limited mobility options.*

It might be good to consider alternative, greener, and more permeable surfaces, like pavers or gravel, instead of asphalt. Perhaps these ideas are already being considered, but we wanted to surface them to be sure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bike Walk Alameda