

Gail Payne

From: johnsen cyndy <cyndyjohnsen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:14 PM
To: Gail Payne
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comments for tonight's Transportation Commission meeting (OAAP)

Gail -- please see below. Thank you!

RE: Item 6-A, 10/28/2020 TC Meeting

Dear Transportation Commissioners:

As a resident of West Alameda, and an employee of a company headquartered in uptown Oakland, I wanted to contribute my personal thoughts on OAAP, which will impact my daily life considerably.

The future I envision here involves less driving. There are so many reasons why I believe we all need to drive less, but this year, with all the wildfires and smoke we've had to suffer through, climate change rises to the top. The threat feels more real than ever. The need for action is urgent.

It's crystal clear to me that we need to make biking, walking, and taking transit an easy choice. It's equally clear that the world we've built so far often does not do that. In no place is this more obvious than within the Posey and Webster Tubes.

Because OAAP was envisioned to be multi-modal, and because this corridor is famously hostile to bicyclists and pedestrians, the project needs to deliver significant progress towards safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, first and foremost.

In its current form, OAAP fails on that front. Another tube path isn't real progress. Sure, a few brave or very desperate people will use it, but the vast majority won't.

What people would use, is the bike-pedestrian bridge. I'd use it to get to and from work, to take dance lessons in Jack London Square, to grab Sunday morning dimsum in Chinatown, to get to BART or Amtrak, etc. Thousands of others would use the bridge as a regular part of their daily routines — almost 500 people just signed a petition that was circulated by Bike Walk Alameda. We'd see reduced emissions, less car traffic, fewer serious car injuries, less noise, healthier people, and a much richer community overall. So many of us would be able to take personal action to address climate change in a very real way, every day.

We need to make real progress on the bridge now, by funding key studies that move it along, instead of spending limited money on projects with such marginal gains for a small group of users.

All this to say, OAAP can and should be improved by furthering the bike-pedestrian bridge, and I hope it will.

Thank you,