

Gail Payne

From: Ronald Mooney <ron@ronmooney.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Transportation
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission meeting 7/24/2021 #6B

Dear Commissioners,

General Comments on Commercial Streets.

I am grateful for the City's proactive approach which was applied last year. Overall I think the program has worked very well. While we all hoped that by now we would really see the end of the effects of the pandemic, it is clear with the Delta variant and potential new variants to arrive we will go well into 2022 with the need to support our local residents, visitors and businesses in my opinion.

I have read the staff report, and agree with the recommendations and ask the Commission support their recommendations. I also have a few suggestions to add.

Overall I hope we, the Alameda community, get away from the mindset that the number one function of streets are to get cars quickly from one end of the island to another point. Streets should be a shared resource, providing safe transportation for pedestrians, bicycles, bus, truck and car modes. We should embrace the Vision Zero goals quickly.

Specific areas:

Park Street and Webster Street Reconfiguration.

Regarding Park Street, we live and work on the section which has had the lane reduction and love it. Personally I would like to see the speed limit posted to 20 MPH from Lincoln to Otis. As the data from the Vision Zero plan shows, it is a much safer speed.

I would like there to be continued discussion and design work to create safer bicycle and pedestrian use along the section as well, with a permanent design goal of one lane in each direction.

Temporary Parklets.

We are very supportive of the creating a semi-permanent parklet program. I know the Downtown Association is supportive of creating an annual permit fee and inspection.

I would offer that were parklets are in BIA districts, the Associations could have the requirements and examples on file and offer pre-inspections to help their members know and maintain a safe, compliant and enjoyable space. Of course the City inspections would be the controlling/official ones.

Temporary Parking Reconfiguration

I would add to the mix the need to designate appropriate passenger drop off zones, and 'curbside' pick up limited time parking. Frankly I do not know exactly what that would look like, but it seems that the need is here.

Temporary Alameda Avenue Closure.

Agree with the continued closure of the section of Alameda Avenue, with the District working with the City for a long term vision, ie after 2023.

Ronald Mooney
510.385.0725