



September 22, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I understand that you have been approached by Bike Walk Alameda, a local Alameda advocacy group, which is requesting your help to facilitate the construction of a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Oakland Estuary. Specifically, the group has asked you to engage in discussions with the United States Coast Guard to evaluate the feasibility of such a bridge and to determine how a bicycle and pedestrian bridge could be designed to meet Coast Guard requirements. On behalf of the City of Alameda, I am writing you to express the City's support of this effort.

The City has been working on plans to improve bicycling and walking access between the west end of Alameda and Oakland for many years. In 2009, the City led a multi-jurisdictional planning effort to determine how to improve estuary crossings for people bicycling and walking in the near, medium and long term. The U.S. Coast Guard was a participant. At the time the agency set navigational clearances that made construction of the bridge infeasible.

Bike Walk Alameda hopes that a fresh look at the situation may change the previous result. Specifically, they believe that if the Coast Guard could work collaboratively with all the stakeholders to determine if vertical and horizontal clearances could be reduced, that solutions can be found.

The City of Alameda strongly supports continued dialogue with the Coast Guard, especially with the engagement of your office, toward finding a solution that works for all parties. Improving bicycle and pedestrian access is a high priority of ours. The City would willingly participate in any discussions with the Coast Guard and other stakeholders.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important project.

Sincerely,

Jill Keimach, City Manager

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Cc: Senator Boxer's Oakland Office (70 Washington Street, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94607)
Jennifer Ott, Director of Transportation Planning Division, City of Alameda
Lucy Gigli, Bike Walk Alameda

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