

Draft Grants List and Estuary Crossing Discussion

**City Council
October 18, 2016**

Draft Grants List – Prioritized Order

1. New Ferry Terminal at Sea Plane Lagoon
2. Estuary Water Shuttle Feasibility Study
3. Clement Avenue Complete Street
4. Clement Avenue East Extension to Tilden Way
5. Alameda Point Bay Trail
6. Central Avenue Complete Street
7. Willie Stargell Complete Street

Named Project: Alameda Point Bus Rapid Transit Lanes

AC Transit Lead: Cross Island BART to Ferry Express Bus

Improving Bike/Ped Access across the Estuary

- Strong need for improvements
- History: 2009 Estuary Crossing Study
- Primary obstacle: Coast Guard navigational clearances
- Solution: Phased, multi-faceted approach



2009 Estuary Crossing Study

- Analyzed feasibility of 17 options, including 5 bridge options, tube improvements, and bus/water shuttles
- Multi-jurisdictional: Caltrans, the Coast Guard, Oakland and ACTC
- Near, mid and long term options studied
- Council accepted Study in September 2009

2009 Estuary Crossing Study Recommendations

- Top bridge option: Moveable Bike/Ped Bridge. \$75 million to construct, \$1.5 million to operate annually. Practically infeasible:
 - Significant technical challenges at 600 feet long, making it one of longest moveable bridges in world.
 - Unpredictable closure times causing significant crossing delays during peak hours.
 - Significant opening/closing time required to reach 175 foot height when open.
- Only move forward if Coast Guard navigational clearance issues can be addressed.
- City to “work with stakeholders to determine if vessel restrictions during commute hours could be possible, vertical and horizontal clearances could be reduced and funding could be obtained.”
- Short-term: Improve Posey Tube
- Mid-term/Next Steps: Develop water shuttle/taxi alternative

City/Caltrans Actions: Since 2009

- Estuary Crossing Shuttle established (2011)
 - Accommodates 10 bicycles
- Posey Tube Walkway Improvements made by Caltrans (2016)
 - Upgraded walkway guardrails, and made other structural changes that widened pathway slightly and improved safety.
- Discussions with Coast Guard on navigational clearances (2016)
- Discussions with Caltrans on their leading further evaluation of bike/ped bridge (2016)
- Sent letter to Senator Boxer, indicating City welcomes her assistance in working with the Coast Guard (2016)

City Actions: Near Term

- Apply for grant funding for Water Shuttle Feasibility Study
- Encourage Caltrans to submit planning grant application to ACTC for feasibility study for further evaluation of Estuary Crossing
- Explore Posey Tube improvements that would double space for bicycling and improve ventilation
- Develop informational materials describing all current bike/ped options for crossing the estuary
- Include significant enhancement to estuary crossing on West End, including bike/ped bridge, in Citywide Transit and TDM Plan

City Actions: Mid/Long Term

- Establish a water shuttle, in partnership with developers in Alameda and Oakland
- Re-design Posey Tube and approaches to better serve people walking/biking on both sides
- Once all constraints are addressed and funding found, build a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge
- Advocate for Miller-Sweeney Bridge replacement, with bike/ped/transit access
- Possible future BART station on west end with dual access between Alameda and Oakland

Transportation Commission Recommendation

- Support submittal of the seven grant projects to Alameda CTC
- Send a letter to Caltrans to prioritize estuary crossing issue with an emphasis on long-term solution, including complete multi-modal re-design of existing tubes, and encourage submittal of planning grant to ACTC
 - Explicitly discouraged staff to include bike/ped bridge in letter due to infeasibility
- Send a letter to the County to prioritize multi-modal lifeline Miller-Sweeney retrofit and encourage submittal of grant application to ACTC

Staff Recommended Next Steps on Bike/Ped Bridge

- Continue to work collaboratively with Caltrans on their taking the lead to further evaluate feasibility of bike/ped bridge crossing
- Engage consultant bridge engineer to do peer review of 2009 Study
- Continue to engage the Coast Guard on political level, with support from congressional delegation
- Develop next steps document for improved estuary crossing, including bike/ped bridge, for Transportation Commission and Council approval