



September 25, 2017

City of Alameda Planning Board
City Hall
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Board Members and Commissioners:

Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda was formed in 2008 to support the City of Alameda in the implementation of its Local Action Plan for Climate Protection. We are writing in support of the Transportation Choices Plan Draft, dated August 2017. The Plan outlines several positive steps towards reducing congestion within Alameda and during commute hours going on and off the island. Transportation is responsible for 60% of Alameda's greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing the number of drive alone trips within Alameda and across the estuary will help reduce these emissions. The result will make Alameda a healthier place to live, and be a positive step towards slowing down global warming.

Though CASA endorses the Plan, we feel that the City will need to do more to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. As the City embarks on the next phase of its Climate Action Plan, we should stretch beyond what is an easy/doable goal, to one that requires effort, because maintaining the same number of drive alone vehicles crossing the estuary and accepting 1,600 more on-island drive-alone trips in 2030 is not aggressive enough.

There are many projects that can and should be implemented now. Striping Main Street from Atlantic to the Main St. ferry will encourage more ferry commuters to ride their bikes rather than drive. More bike corrals along shopping streets, such as Park and Webster, and more bike racks in front of retail shops where the bike is visible to the rider will encourage more bicycling. The Plan's Transportation Partnerships (#7) should happen now to incentivize residents to ride their bikes to businesses such as restaurants and taverns.

Further to our point of acting now rather than later, we reference #33 New Technologies and Innovations; "Other Smart Cities initiatives include new technologies the (sic) reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as electric vehicle charging station..."

CASA feels that building the infrastructure for clean air vehicles is an important step towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, especially with the increased interest in all-electric vehicles. Several cities in the Bay Area are moving towards more EV charging stations in the community, and Alameda is uniquely positioned to be successful in building these charging stations given we have our own, potentially very clean energy sourced utility, Alameda Municipal Power. We feel it is important to make this project a priority.

As a move towards reducing congestion, the Plan is a good one. It is CASA's belief that together we can and will do more to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Best regards,

Pat Potter, Transportation Committee
Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda