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Subject: Concerns about the Transportation Study
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:11:44 PM

Dear Transportation Commission and Planning Board,

I'm writing to voice my concerns about the transportation study recently done. I'm one of thousands of commuters that travel by ferry. And the transportation study affects us in a HUGE way. I hope you take these comments under consideration when placing your vote on whether to proceed with the roadmap proposed in the study.

It is my belief that the study has been wrongly prioritized and our most urgent issues won't come into consideration for 3-8 years. And I'm not alone. I, and a few riders, have started a Facebook group to give riders a voice and collect issues. We had a petition last year for frequency changes (197 signers) and a petition this last month about the Bay Farm parking issues.

With this study, you are setting the priorities for all transportation infrastructure expenses and efforts. **None of the ferry commute issues seem to have made it to the "Near Term Completion" set of 14 items.** The closest item is Item 20 to increase ferry frequency and span of service, slated for 3-8 years from now. Moreover, Harbor Bay Parking and Main Street parking are #31 and #32 respectively and have been downgraded to medium priorities, again with the issues being deferred for 3-8 years from now.

Issues like bicycle friendliness and crossing estuary are important, but they are for a much smaller population than the ferry ridership. You've given us the means to commute by ferry but not invested in it in a way that matches the need of the growing Alamedan population. I hope you take our commute reality into consideration:

1. We need to go to where the jobs are. They are not always going to be across the estuary. They're across the bay, in SF, SSF, Redwood City, etc. You've helped Alameda residents by supporting the ferry in the first place. But you have to prioritize how this method scales with population growth. And you need to address very salient pain points that are plaguing us today. These cannot wait 3-8 years. We need you to recognize that as an island, this is a MAJOR transportation option. And it should be one of your preferred options (along with BART and AC Transit, for getting people to those jobs while still keeping vehicles off the road.
2. Biking, which is heavily featured in the study, is important and an advancement, but is not an option everyone. I understand that it's a convenient answer that helps greenlight new construction without the worry of adding more cars to the road. But it's not realistic. We are commuting to our commute...doing school and daycare drop-offs, running errands. We are multi-tasking and stacking our days to address the needs of our households, not just needs of ourselves. And if we take a car to BART, a park and ride, or the ferry, we are still committing to

public transportation for the bulk of our commute. Don't penalize us for not being able to a bike. We have more than just ourselves to worry about. By prioritizing biking infrastructure changes, you're solving for a small set of the current population that has the luxury of that style of getting to the ferry (or other commute), and for future residents. But that means you're ignoring the very real problems of today's residents.

The fact of the matter is that we are an island, and ferries are essential to our commute

- Ridership is skyrocketing, but the current infrastructure is unable to handle the capacity.
- The city is growing, but ferry infrastructure is already struggling with current capacity, let alone the tens of thousands that will be added to it within the next couple of years.
- The population of working Alamedans has far outpaced your investment in commute infrastructure, and we are not seeing the problems recognized, or any efforts being prioritized to resolve them.
- There has not been any investment or planning in the ferry commute system, despite the large percentage of the population that relies upon it.

I am asking for you to stop, to consider the priorities, and to up-level the tasks that would lessen the growth pain points for the ferry commuters.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Bauer
1331 Sherman Street

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