

**Transportation Commission Correspondence  
Received via Email for Wed, Nov 18, 2020 Meeting**

**From:** Queen Anne's Corner HOA <[queenannescorner@gmail.com](mailto:queenannescorner@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Gail Payne <[GPayne@alamedaca.gov](mailto:GPayne@alamedaca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lauren Brandt <[lauren@henrybrandt.net](mailto:lauren@henrybrandt.net)>; Tyler Brandt <[tyler@henrybrandt.net](mailto:tyler@henrybrandt.net)>;  
[justine.wolitzer@gmail.com](mailto:justine.wolitzer@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] [HOA] Sherman/Encinal/Central Intersection Roundabout

Dear Gail,

We were forwarded the announcement for the November 18, 2020 Transportation Commission meeting and associated project documents.

We wish to state unequivocally our desire for the City to keep the street trees that are currently fronting our property on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Sherman Street.

As was explained in the staff report, we understand that the project will remove street trees in locations and protect in place trees along Central Avenue. We look forward to the completion of the tree survey and recommendations from the City's arborist for protecting the existing Sherman Street tree in place or planting a replacement street tree fronting our property.

As we intend to monitor this City project as it moves forward, please add the Queen Anne's Corner Homeowner Association to your list of interested residents for the Sherman/Encinal/ Central intersection.

Lastly, we had planned to enhance our irrigation system next year, but wish to avoid any conflicts with this project. Since we were unable to interpret sheet no. CP20 to locate our property line precisely, would you be able to clarify the City's project limits by providing a dimension from the existing curb face or existing edge of sidewalk?

Thank you so much for your time and efforts.

Best,

Lauren H Brandt  
President & Treasurer

**Queen Anne's Corner Homeowner Association**  
[queenannescorner@gmail.com](mailto:queenannescorner@gmail.com)  
1400-1406 Sherman St, Alameda CA

**From:** Jennifer Bowles <[jrosebowles@gmail.com](mailto:jrosebowles@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:51 AM  
**To:** Gail Payne <[GPayne@alamedaca.gov](mailto:GPayne@alamedaca.gov)>; Andrew Thomas <[athomas@alamedaca.gov](mailto:athomas@alamedaca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Paine,

I am writing in regards to the Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project, which I enthusiastically support. As a Landscape Architect and citizen, I fully support the planting of as many new trees as feasible, and the minimization of tree removal.

In appreciation for your work on this project,

Jennifer Bowles

1331 St. Charles Street

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**From:** Ann Evans <[aeevans77@earthlink.net](mailto:aeevans77@earthlink.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 9:51 AM  
**To:** Gail Payne <[GPayne@alamedaca.gov](mailto:GPayne@alamedaca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Transportation Commission Mtg - Wed, Nov 18 at 6:30 p.m. - Zoom Mtg - Central Ave Project

Gail,

Thank you for pointing out the 2 new alternatives for Sherman Street. Both options would seem to address most of the concerns I have and those I've heard from other neighbors. I registered for the meeting Wednesday. I plan to listen only. A-

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**From:** Heather Abrams <[abramsheather@yahoo.com](mailto:abramsheather@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 9:10 PM

**To:** Gail Payne <[GPayne@alamedaca.gov](mailto:GPayne@alamedaca.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Transportation Commission Mtg - Wed, Nov 18 at 6:30 p.m. - Zoom Mtg - Central Ave Project

Ms. Payne,

Thank you for the thorough and professional report. I very much appreciate you sending it to those who have expressed interest. I want to take a moment to again express the strong support of Sherman Street neighbors, especially in the 1300 block, for the roundabout and for the possibility of closing Sherman on the south end of the roundabout. This has been a long and exhaustive planning process for the city and we are very much looking forward to improved safety and enhanced bicycling and walking opportunities.

One of my neighbors sent an email expressing concern about parking, and when I respectfully disagreed, several other neighbors emailed me expressing their support for the roundabout. There is ample on street and driveway parking on our street. We have lived here for well over 20 years and in that time only once have I not been able to park directly in front of my home; it was so unusual that I still remember the day. The proposed improvements to our safety well out weigh the possibility that I may have to park in my driveway or a few doors down.

Although this will come too late to help my children bike safely to school, you should have heard their delight that the kids they babysit will get the safety benefits. Please proceed, this promises to be a wonderful improvement for the neighborhood and for the city.

Thank you,

Heather Abrams

November 18, 2020

By electronic transmission

**To:** City of Alameda Transportation Commission

**Subject:** Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project – – Maximize tree preservation and planting (Item 6-A on Transportation Commission's November 18, 2020 agenda)

Dear Commission members:

I am a city planner and a long-time Alameda tree advocate. I contributed to the 1988- 91 and 2011 Master Street Tree Plans and have donated several hundred trees to the City since the 1980s that have been planted as street trees and in parks.

It is good that project Goal and Objective No. 4 calls, among other things, for more street trees as part of the project. Staff has advised that the new roundabouts might be an opportunity area for new trees, which is also good. However, it is unclear whether new street trees will actually be installed as part of the project and there is no indication on the Exhibit 2a and 2b plans for new trees. This appears mostly due to possible budget constraints, which staff tells us are currently being reviewed and will hopefully be resolved.

As stated in the staff report's environmental review section, there is also a possibility that some existing trees might be removed. However, staff appears to be working very diligently to avoid removals and to design new infrastructure to avoid damaging tree roots.

**The Commission should support these tree preservation and planting efforts and ask staff and the consultants to minimize tree removals as much as possible and provide new street trees for all sidewalk sections currently lacking street trees as well as in the new landscape areas and roundabouts.** Any new sidewalk trees should continue the existing iconic London Plane Trees (*Platanus acerifolia*) to maintain conformity with the City's Master Street Tree Plan. A wider range of species could probably be used for the roundabouts and new landscape areas.

Large trees, such as London Plane, should have at least a 3 foot wide planting area and preferably 4 feet. However, the existing planting strips along the north side of Central west of 4th Street are only 28–30 inches wide. In addition, there are narrow sidewalks and other constraints to providing 3- 4 foot wide planting areas along the north side of Central west of Fifth Street and the south side between Fifth and Sixth Streets. All of the above constraints could be addressed by narrowing the sidewalk where it passes the tree to provide wider planting areas. I believe that staff supports this approach.

Finally, no street trees or other improvements are currently being proposed on the south side of Central west of Boat Ramp Road. This section now has a substandard asphalt sidewalk and minimal planting strips for trees. Staff advises that the adjacent property is expected to be developed as part of Alameda Point and street trees and sidewalk improvements would be installed as part of that project.

Please contact me at 510–523-0411 or [cbuckleyaicp@att.com](mailto:cbuckleyaicp@att.com) if you would like to discuss these comments.

Christopher Buckley

By electronic transmission:

cc: Mayor and City Councilmembers

Andrew Thomas, Planning, Building and Transportation Director

**To: Alameda Transportation Commission**  
**From: 100K Trees for Humanity**

**Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

**RE: The Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project - avoid tree removals and maximize tree planting**

Dear Commissioner and City Staff:

100K Trees for Humanity commends the Transportation Commission on taking action to implement the proposed improvements regarding the Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project. However there is no indication in the drawings presented for any street trees to be included, and the staff report discusses possible tree removals.

As the Transportation Commission considers this project, we urge you to assure that tree plantings are maximized and supported as part of the project as set forth in:

- Alameda's Climate Emergency Declaration (CED), and
- the Climate Action & Resiliency (CARP) goals.

We would also like to emphasize that any proposed tree removals be minimized, seeking solutions of conservation over removal, as can be aligned to support the CED and CARP.

To support our City's goals of climate emergency and carbon reduction with increased natural solutions, there are several opportunities in the project for maximizing tree planting. This includes the:

- planned roundabouts,
- several proposed landscaped areas,
- infill street tree plantings and along the sidewalks west of 5th St.

Therefore, we ask the Commission to require that the Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project avoid or at least minimize as much as possible the removing of any street trees and maximize the planting of new trees to support and fulfill the CARP and CED.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Amos White, CEO, 100K Trees for Humanity  
Marlow Schmauder, CTO, 100K Trees for Humanity  
Ingrid Ballmann, iBiD Designs  
Ani Dimusheva, Friends of the Alameda Urban Forest

To: Transportation Commission

From: Patricia Potter, President, Bike Walk Alameda; Chairman, Transportation Committee,  
Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA)

**Re: Agenda Item 6a, Transportation Commission Meeting 11-18-20**

**This is to support: Staff Recommendation to Support a Motion to Recommend that City Council Approves Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project Final Concept**

The purpose of the Central Avenue project is to make Central Avenue safe for all, including children riding their bikes to school. There are two particularly important safety aspects to the Project:

1) A two-way cycle track down Central and 2) Roundabouts.

Protected bike lanes have been proven to save lives and encourage more bicyclists and, thus, fewer cars. If more students rode to school safely, fewer parents would have to drop them off and pick them up, thus reducing the number of vehicles on Central. If protected bike lanes were installed, more people taking the ferry would be inclined to ride a bike to the ferry, thus, reducing the number of cars on Central.

Roundabouts are safer and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from idling at stop lights. Of particular importance, safety-wise, is the Sherman-Encinal –Central intersection. The current 5-way intersection is confusing, dangerous, and encourages speeding. It is particularly important that this intersection have a roundabout. Either design under consideration would be an improvement. To lessen the impact on vehicles currently going north on Sherman, perhaps the slip lane design would be preferable.

Please support Staff's recommendation to approve the Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project Final Concept.