

From: [Manoj Tolety](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#); [City Clerk](#); [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support ARPD receiving reserve funding!
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:24:04 PM

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Vella, Councilmember Knox White, Councilmember Spencer and Councilmember Daysog,

I'm writing to let you know that I support ARPD getting \$200,000 in additional reserve funding to resurface all tennis courts in Alameda that has a healthy, thriving tennis community. In fact, it is the primary reason that I moved from Oakland to Alameda almost 3 years ago!

Thank you,
Manoj Tolety
415-530-7616

-- We're all blind men trying to figure out an Elephant

From: [Drew](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [City Clerk](#); [Amy Wooldridge](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support ARPD receiving reserve funding!
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 6:28:31 PM

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Vella, Councilmember Knox White, Councilmember Spencer and Councilmember Daysog,

I'm writing to let you know that I support ARPD getting \$200,000 in additional reserve funding to resurface all tennis courts in Alameda.

Being a regular at Washington park I've noticed the cracks growing in recent years and making it slightly dangerous for players. It's a wonderful park that attracts so many people from families having fun to high level competition, it deserves to have new courts. They will be well used!

Thank you,

Drew Cribley

From: [Jackie Zipkin](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [Eric Levitt](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on May 20 City Council Meeting Item 2
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 7:01:21 PM

Dear Madame Mayor and Honorable Council Members,

I am writing today to respectfully request that as the Council considers its draft budget for Fiscal Years 2021/22 and 2022/23, it use this opportunity to realign the City's budget to create a supportive and proactive model for community safety and security.

In the current draft budget being discussed at this meeting, the City is proposing to spend less than 1% of the General Fund operating expenses on community development and 37% on police. While I understand that certain obligations such as pension and OPEB require a baseline of spending, rethinking policing approaches and responsibilities in line with the recommendations of the Task Force commissioned by the Council requires shifting funds away from PD and toward mental health services, supportive housing, and other priorities that would yield a safer Alameda. Further, use of the ARPA funds presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to prioritize community needs.

My specific comments at this time are as follows:

- **Reduce the police budget.** There are opportunities to reduce the police budget even without cutting positions. As an example, staff's presentation notes that \$600K due to internal service charges for other departments. The City should seek ways to address these safety needs without using police.

- **Fund new public safety programs outside of APD.** For example, the new Crime Analyst position should be housed in the City Manager's office for greater independent accountability.

Over the coming weeks, Transform Alameda and other organizations will be conducting a survey to identify community budget priorities. I strongly urge the Council to take seriously the results of that survey to ultimately adopt a people's budget that serves all of Alameda.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely,
Jackie Zipkin
Alameda Resident

From: [E. Fraser](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Eric Levitt](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] One (or Two) Million Is Not Enough
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 5:41:05 PM
Attachments: [Table 2.PNG](#)
[Table 3.PNG](#)

Dear Madam Mayor, City Council Members, and Mr. City Manager,

I may trouble your eardrums later with the same message but I wanted to provide you with a written basis to make some direction to staff with respect to funding policing alternatives in the upcoming budget cycle. The proposal of a \$1 (I think increased to \$2) million dollar pilot program is woefully inadequate. Put \$10 million behind a massive unbundling project, with the potential to increase.

As a member and co-chair of the Subcommittee on Unbundling Services Currently Provided by the Police (a subcommittee of the Police Reform and Racial Equity Committee), I had the pleasure of serving with some brilliant colleagues, including one that works in consulting cities and other California public sector agencies. That terrific colleague distilled the APD calls for service data into categories that were easy to digest. If you read [our final recommendations](#), you saw the results on pages 8 and 9 of our recs, which are reproduced below:

Table 2: 2018 - Sept 2020 (33-month Total) Calls for Service by Umbrella Category

<i>Umbrella Category</i>	Total Calls	Percentage of Calls
Parking & Traffic	38,949	25.5%
Suspicious Person/Car/Circumstances	25,527	16.7%
Fire Department Assist	16,708	10.9%
Disturbance	16,647	10.9%
Administrative / Internal	10,721	7.0%
Property Damage / Trespassing	8,801	5.8%
Theft	8,500	5.6%
Welfare and Social Services	8,324	5.4%
Animal Services	6,130	4.0%
Accidents	3,140	2.1%
Violent Crime	2,039	1.3%
Misc	2,005	1.3%
Narcotics/Alcohol	1,702	1.1%
Nuisance Behaviors	1,408	0.9%
Fraud / White Collar	1,239	0.8%
Children & Families	942	0.6%
Grand Total	152,782	100.0%

Table 3: Summary of Calls for Service by Criminality

<i>Criminal in Nature?</i>	Share of all Calls for Service
non-criminal	43.5%
potentially criminal	41.7%
criminal	14.9%
Grand Total	100.0%

Table 2 should serve as a template and roadmap to divide up APD's budget to existing (or newly created) agencies that handle everything other than the things actually requiring a police officer (*i.e.*, violent crime, theft, white collar, and possibly narcotics/alcohol depending on what this category means--the dispatchers could tell you). That means take all the money for animal calls and send it to a non-sworn department to handle those (as I understand is the case for calls during business hours already). Same for parking and traffic (as staff is "studying" perhaps indefinitely if prior studies are any indication).

Table 3 shows you where it should all end up: at least 43% of APD's budget should be reallocated to other existing (or new) departments, and possibly much more (depending on how the "potentially criminal" category is sliced up).

Staff needs direction TODAY to make this a reality. Kicking the can down the road with a token couple of million for a pilot program is ineffective. I appreciate that there is a bit of a chicken-egg problem here, but as the city's leadership, I urge you to figure it out and make it happen.

Mario Gonzalez is still dead and he will be followed to the grave by more innocent people if you do not act with real purpose and all deliberate speed. Right now, the next Mario Gonzalez/Shelby Gattenby/Raymond Zack is alive--but so long as APD is tasked with responding to calls they have no business responding to, that *next* victim's days are numbered and surely soon to expire.

Sincerely,

Erin Fraser



May 18, 2021

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Vice Mayor Malia Vella
Councilmember Tony Daysog
Councilmember John Knox White
Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer

RE: City Budget Workshop Agenda Items:
2-B Operating Budget
2-C Capital Improvement Program Budget
2-D ARPA Priorities

Dear Members of the City Council:

Thank you for your leadership in making Alameda a safer and more resilient city. We recognize that the City's budget priorities codify its policy priorities over the two-year budget cycle. We also recognize that the budget is a "zero sum game" and the City has many urgent needs for funding.

CASA members are here tonight to support the prioritization of sustainability and resilience measures in the City of Alameda's Fiscal Year 21-22 and 22-23 budgets.

Agenda Item 2-B Operating Budget

- We recognize and support the inclusion of the CivicSpark Fellow in the supplemental budget memo.

Agenda Item 2-C Capital Improvement Program

- We recognize and support the inclusion of the Urban Forestry Plan and recommend full funding at \$175,000 per year.
- We support funding of the De-Pave Park Master Plan at \$250,000. We recognize that this will increase the City's competitiveness for grant funding for the next stages of development.

Agenda Item 2-D American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Priorities

We support a "going slow" approach to allocating General Fund reserves that may be available through ARPA. These one-time funds will be needed for investing in Alameda's future.

Please consider these funding priorities in your deliberations.

- **Preparing Alameda for the Future** - Climate Change and Adaptation (sea-level rise, GHG reduction) – the staff report recommends that the City Council use the five priority policy areas for allocating resources from ARPA funds. We strongly support using these

one-time funds to invest in Alameda's future. Alameda is especially vulnerable to the threats of sea level rise and needs a significant amount of investment to address this existential threat.

- **Smart City Broadband** – The City is developing a Smart City Master Plan to ensure more equitable internet access, traffic signal synchronization, more energy efficient street lights, remote lighting, irrigation for enhanced water conservation, multimodal citywide traffic counts, citywide parking data, enhanced transportation safety measures, better connected City buildings and economic development opportunities. We support reserving ARPA funds to dedicate to implementation of the Smart City Master Plan.
- **Resilience Hubs** – A key opportunity for investment in our neighborhoods is funding for Resilience Hubs. Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities enhanced to support residents, enhance community connectivity, and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during, or after a natural hazard event. CASA, the Alameda Maker Farm and Alameda Backyard Growers are supporting the development of a Resilience Hub on land leased from the Alameda Point Collaborative.

The goal of the Hub will be to support the surrounding neighborhood with on-going services and resilience in the event of a natural disaster or emergency. Members are currently enrolled in leadership training through the NorCal Resilience Network and will engage the local neighborhood in the future vision for the Hub. Funding for a disaster communication system could be allocated from ARPA funds.

Enhancements to the City's Community Emergency Response Team (**CERT**) program to include neighborhood-based solutions and making neighborhoods more resilient is a key goal of CARP. We support reserving ARPA funds to investing in neighborhood-based solutions for resiliency.

CASA members will be in the audience at the Budget Workshop to provide public comment as appropriate.

Sincerely,



Ruth Abbe, Steering Committee
Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda
415-235-1356

From: [Transform Alameda](#)
To: [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda People's Budget Letter
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:30:54 PM
Attachments: [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)
[Alameda People's Budget Letter 5.20.21.pdf](#)

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Hello:

Please find attached, for the record, a letter outlining principles and priorities that we and other organizations, groups and individuals have for the next city budget. We will send you updated copies of this letter each time there's a new signature added and as we collect responses from the [Alameda People's Budget survey](#). This is a community survey about budget priorities and we will collect responses ahead of the adoption of the city budget in June.

We welcome questions and engagement on this effort and hope that you'll hear the voices of Alamedans as they ask to define our community's priorities in the coming weeks.

Thank you,

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[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Council and City Manager Levitt,

We are writing to you today as a growing coalition of organizations, groups and individuals in Alameda that share the following principles for the upcoming two-year budget cycle:

1. Our struggles to build a more equitable Alameda are interconnected. Commitments to racial, economic, and environmental justice; housing security; and community health and well-being require a deep investment from the city.

2. We must transform our city budget away from harm, from a budget that invests heavily in policing, prosecuting, and jailing BIPOC communities, towards one that invests in building self-determined, productive and ecologically sustainable livelihoods, meeting all Alamedans' survival needs, and transforming Alameda into a community which prioritizes all of its people and the planet.

3. We will work in unity to further our collective, connected aims towards a more equitable Alameda that ensures a healthy future for all. Our city's budget dollars must be better invested. Projects and efforts that support people's survival and well being need not compete for limited budget dollars while over \$30 million has been guaranteed to policing, budget cycle after budget cycle.

Budgets are moral documents, so we want these principles to be reflected in how public money is budgeted. Here are some ways to do so:

- 1) **Prioritize housing security and economic justice** for all people living in Alameda.
- 2) **Properly fund the mental health pilot program** as an alternative to police response during community crises.
- 3) **Make significant, long-term investments in the community's health and well-being;** including community-based mental healthcare services, violence intervention and prevention programs, and programs that provide support and opportunities for youths. These investments should reduce interactions between the community and police.
- 4) **Guarantee income** for the most impacted, low-income communities in Alameda.
- 5) **Divest from policing,** currently a large allocation in the proposed city budget.

Given these interconnected challenges, we know solidarity within the city budgeting process is the best path forward. **We pledge to work together towards a budget that gives us the best chance of surviving the current pandemic and the racial, housing and climate crises.** Together, we will make the structural changes necessary to transform this city into one that works for *all of us*.

You will hear from our coalition in the coming weeks about this specific budget, and we plan to increase community dialogue and engagement on budgets to come. We welcome any questions or further discussion regarding our budget principles and priorities.

Signed,

Transform Alameda
www.transformalameda.com

Alameda Renter's Coalition (ARC) Steering Committee
www.thealamedarenterscoalition.org/

Renewed Hope Housing Advocates

<http://renewedhopehousing.org/>

Melodye Montgomery - Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Police Accountability and Oversight (in her personal capacity)

Erin Fraser - Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Unbundling Services (in his personal capacity)

Jennifer Rakowski - Member of the Subcommittee on Police Accountability and Oversight (in her personal capacity)

From: [Marilyn Rothman](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For budget meeting tonight
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:22:15 AM

To the Mayor and City Council,
It is imperative that you budget for a mental health crisis response unit to start immediately.

Marilyn Rothman
Alameda homeowner

By electronic transmission:

May 11, 2021

Mayor and City Council
City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA. 94501

Subject: 2021-23 Budget - -Improved City of Alameda Tree Protection Ordinance (Items-2-B, 2-C and 2-D on May 11, 2021 City Council agenda)

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers:

As part of your budget deliberations, I urge the City Council to direct staff to resume work on improving Alameda's Tree Protection Ordinance. Alameda's ordinance is currently limited to just Coast Live Oaks and a limited number of street trees.

An improved Tree Protection Ordinance is highly consistent with Alameda's climate change mitigation objectives. **Every tree counts towards the reduction of carbon from the atmosphere and towards creating the cooling climate with its transpiration. Additionally, the City of Alameda declared a climate emergency in 2019, whereby we only have 9 1/2 years to draw down the carbon and get to net carbon neutral by 2030.**

The mature trees that would be protected under an improved ordinance provide exponentially greater climate change mitigation than newly planted trees. While planting new trees is extremely important, it takes many years and in some cases centuries for new trees to compensate for the loss of large mature trees.

Most Bay Area communities have tree protection ordinances that cover a broad range of species and address such issues as excessive pruning and construction-related root damage. Examples of other communities that have good ordinances that could serve as starting points for Alameda include Walnut Creek, Concord, Fremont and Palo Alto.

Among other things, an improved Tree Protection Ordinance should include:

1. Expand the definition of protected trees to ALL trees (not just Coast Live Oaks and the limited number of street trees listed in the current ordinance) over a specified size (perhaps 28" trunk diameter, like Walnut Creek), except for specified "undesirable" species, which could include such trees as Blue Gum Eucalyptus.
2. Require a permit for any tree "removal".
3. Define "removal" to include things like removal of over a certain percentage of a tree's canopy or height as well as removal of roots over a certain size within a specified percentage of the protected root zone.

4. For development-related tree removals, require implementation of project alternatives, alternative siting or configuration of the proposed improvements that would avoid removal.
5. Provide more effective penalties for illegal removals.

Although the 2017-2018 Tree Protection Ordinance work was all performed by city staff, if additional funding is needed to complete the ordinance, the American Rescue Plan funds to be considered under Item 2-D of the City Council's May 11 agenda could be a possible source, given the observation under Item 1.a. of the staff report's "Recommended Framework For Council's Consideration" that projects that address climate change and adaptation (including greenhouse gas reduction) are an eligible activity under the American Rescue Plan.

Please call me at 510-523-0411 if you would like to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY



May 11, 2021

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Vice Mayor Malia Vella
Councilmember Tony Daysog
Councilmember John Knox White
Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer

RE: City Budget Workshop Agenda Items:
2-B Operating Budget
2-C Capital Improvement Program Budget
2-D ARPA Priorities

Dear Members of the City Council:

Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) strongly supports prioritization of sustainability and resilience measures in the City of Alameda's Fiscal Year 21-22 and 22-23 budgets.

In March 2019, the City Council adopted its **Climate Emergency Declaration** and committed to leadership in climate mitigation and adaptation. In September 2019, the City Council adopted a far-reaching Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) designed to keep Alameda on the **Climate Safe Path**. In September 2020, the City Council received a new report on the **risks and vulnerabilities** from Alameda's emergent groundwater.

Alameda needs to be resilient – not only to the threats and vulnerabilities related to pandemics, racial injustice, institutional violence, and the housing crisis – but also to the other immediate threats of climate change, including droughts, fires, and flooding. In the past year, we have learned that community resilience can be achieved through raising money for restaurant meals for first responders and the most vulnerable; pitching in to schedule vaccination appointments for seniors and others experiencing the digital divide; and learning to build community through resilient neighborhoods and resilience hubs.

We have specific requests for consideration related to the City Manager's recommendations from the City Departments:

Agenda Item 2-B Operating Budget

- **Sustainability Expenses** – the City Manager does not recommend funding the CivicSpark Fellow for FY 22 and FY 23. We wish to remind the City Council that it has exactly one staff member dedicated to implementation of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, our new Sustainability and Resilience Manager. While we appreciate the City's investment in a senior leadership position, we would like to remind you that the CARP identified eight positions needed to achieve the City's climate action and resiliency goals. We request full funding of the Sustainability Expenses at \$86,000 each year (an increase of \$36,000 in FY 22 and \$46,000 in FY 23).

- **Add Senior Transportation Coordinator** – we strongly support the addition of a senior transportation coordinator funded through Measure B/BB. Transportation impacts account for 70% of the City’s greenhouse gas emissions. The transportation staff has done an excellent job in developing the Action Transportation Plan and the Transportation Choices Plan and we agree that additional resources are needed to implement these plans.

Agenda Item 2-C Capital Improvement Program

- **Master Street Tree Plan Update** – we strongly support moving forward to develop an Urban Forestry Plan, addressing not only street trees, but also trees on private property, in our parks and at our schools. CASA is a supporter of the Urban Greenbelt Initiative to invest in green infrastructure throughout the county. However, because of our outdated Master Street Tree Plan, lack of funding for increasing tree planting and tree maintenance (as anticipated by CARP), and our emergent groundwater issue that may impact the type of species that should be planted in Alameda, we need a new state-of-the-art master plan for increasing the urban canopy and sequestering carbon emissions. Returning Alameda to a Tree City USA will have the co-benefit of increasing the well-being and desirability of Alameda neighborhoods. We recommend increasing allocated funding from \$125,000 per year for FY 22 and FY 23 to \$200,000 per year to ensure that the Urban Forestry Plan fully meets the needs of the community.
- **Sea Level Rise Adaptation** – Two projects are listed in the Capital Improvement Program (Veteran’s Court and the Northern Shoreline). However, there are eleven priority projects listed as location-based priority flooding assets identified during the vulnerability assessment, including Crown Beach, Eastshore Drive, Bay Farm Lagoon, and Bay Farm Island Touchdown and Towata Park. All of these projects require inventories, feasibility studies, conceptual designs and construction activities. We recommend moving forward on the studies in order to prepare the City for potential future regional and federal funding.
- **De-Pave Park Master Plan** – is not listed in the Capital Improvement Program, but is an essential component in the City’s resilience and adaptation efforts. We recommend full funding of the \$250,000 master plan to increase the City’s competitiveness for grant funding.

Agenda Item 2-D American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Priorities

- **Preparing Alameda for the Future** - Climate Change and Adaptation (sea-level rise, GHG reduction) – the staff report recommends that the City Council use the five priority policy areas for allocating resources from ARPA funds. We strongly support using these one-time funds to invest in Alameda’s future. Alameda is especially vulnerable to the threats of sea level rise and needs a significant amount of investment to address this existential threat.

- **Resilience Hubs** – A key opportunity for investment in our neighborhoods is funding for Resilience Hubs. Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities enhanced to support residents, enhance community connectivity, and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during, or after a natural hazard event. CASA, the Alameda Maker Farm and Alameda Backyard Growers are supporting the development of a Resilience Hub on land leased from the Alameda Point Collaborative. The goal of the Hub will be to support the surrounding neighborhood with on-going services and resilience in the event of a natural disaster or emergency. Members are currently enrolled in leadership training through the NorCal Resilience Network and will engage the local neighborhood in the future vision for the Hub. Funding for a disaster communication system could be allocated from ARPA funds. The formation of resilient neighborhoods is a key goal of CARP.

CASA members will be in the audience at the Budget Workshop to provide public comment as appropriate.

Sincerely,



Ruth Abbe, Steering Committee
Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda
415-235-1356

From: Brandon Svec
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; John Knox White; Trish Spencer; Manager Manager; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS - MAY 11 - 6:00 P.M.
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:04:58 PM

Mayor, Council and all, Regarding item 2-B I would like my comments on the record.

I feel the police budget is too high and should under no circumstances be increased during the next budget. Now is the time to start moving money to other resources such as mental health and crisis response and alternatives to traffic stops like Berkeley has started recently. A department dedicated to safe transportation could handle traffic enforcement as well as work on programs to make streets safer and encourage walking and biking where possible.

I saw this [tweet](#) from APD about multiple armed officers dispatched to help Alameda Power direct traffic around downed power lines. I fail to see how dispatching highly paid, sworn officers with weapons to direct traffic is a good idea. It makes me wonder if the city or police department are getting paid for the use of the limited and expensive resources. This does not seem like an activity police should be involved with. I wonder why AMP would not have their own people take care of this the way CalTran would when doing road work.

I see a request for a data analyst position at APD on the budget docs. While I completely agree we need better data dissemination to the public such as how Oakland and San Leandro seem to do well, we DO NOT need another paid position under APD. Perhaps someone already on staff could compile the crime data, add some context and media like photos or video when appropriate and feed it through a tool such as Nixle, etc. If anything, the position should be independent from APD. Only after thorough data is actually collected and compiled should we discuss the need for an analyst position anyway.

Thank you,
Brandon Svec

From: Ashley Gregory
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:48:35 PM

Greetings Councilmembers,

I join the compassionate citizens of Alameda in demanding that the city's funds be used to meet the actual needs of the people of our city. We need social programs to support the well-being of those most impacted by systems of oppression and privilege. This means redirecting the 33% of our budget that goes to the police into implementing the following: a mobile mental health crisis response unit, job training programs, food assistance programs, youth programs, senior programs, programs to assist folks without stable housing, renters assistance and so much more.

We can do this.

Respectfully,

Ashley Gregory



(510) 516-0497

P.O. BOX 2732

ALAMEDA, CA 94501

www.bikewalkalameda.org

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We support the proposed workforce additions as described in Exhibit 4 for Planning, Building, & Transportation, and Public Works. Our only concern is whether they are sufficient.

Even pre-pandemic, our city ran so lean that hard-working staff could barely get to high priority projects. The additional workload brought on by the pandemic will hopefully lighten, but it has created a significant backlog. And the uptick we've seen in speeding, reckless driving, and bike and pedestrian fatalities represents a very worrisome public safety trend that will need attention in the years ahead.

The prioritized policies in the works, like Vision Zero, the Active Transportation Plan, the intersection equity policy, and the comprehensive parking policy, will help dramatically, and are all critical. They need to proceed as scheduled, preferably be expedited, and certainly not be delayed any further. While capital improvement projects are happening, their timelines are too frequently drawn out, and the finished projects are often compromised in key ways. A prime example is the Cross Alameda Trail, which suffers from a series of flawed intersections awaiting upgrades that are stalled due to budget and staffing limitations. Severe collisions are just a matter of time on what otherwise could be a world-class facility.

Our city needs to have the bandwidth and budget to move high-level, foundational policy work along, while expeditiously delivering capital improvement projects that are executed without having to cut corners.

It's increasingly apparent that our city also needs additional staffing to respond to emergencies or opportunities that arise. We've recently learned from other cities how rapid response, quick-build traffic calming interventions such as diverters, speed bumps, mini roundabouts, and temporary lane configurations can help where other approaches to traffic safety, such as enforcement, not only fail, but can cause unequal burdens on our vulnerable communities. We need additional Public Works and Planning, Building, &

Transportation staff to implement these solutions when needed. Our city has explored some of these ideas during the last year as part of our COVID response, but execution has been hampered. Slow streets have, so far, not expanded or been reinforced as the community would have liked, infrastructure quick build solutions have yet to be implemented, and bike corrals in our commercial districts have been consistently delayed. Our existing staff is amazing, but can only do so much. We've been asking too much of them for too long -- we really need more of them.

We have a significant backlog of medium priority projects that could be very impactful to Alameda's long-term goals, such as implementing a bike and scooter share program, that have no hope of ever materializing with current staffing commitments.

We understand there has been churn in our Public Works staff. This churn is not only costly but causes delays in delivering projects. While relying on consultants may be necessary, and even a best practice in some circumstances, figuring out a way to hire and retain staff might be a better use of city funds in the long run. Please consider up-leveling roles and compensation packages to make key positions more competitive. We need to recruit people with extensive experience in modern, complete streets thinking that aligns with the visions of our policy documents. We believe this up-leveling will result in greater coordination between Public Works and Planning, Building, & Transportation, which ultimately would mean more efficient and successful rollout of important transportation infrastructure projects.

We face an unprecedented number of crises in public safety, both large and small scale, immediate and relatively slow-moving, like climate change. We should not resign ourselves to compromising on any of these crises. It's time to invest like these are the emergencies they are.

Thank for your attention and consideration of these comments,

Best,

Denyse Trepanier
Board President, Bike Walk Alameda