

Recommendations for Commercial Streets

Transportation Commission
July 28, 2021



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Recommendation



Review and comment on
City staff's
5 recommendations on
5 components of the
Commercial Streets
program



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How did we get here?

- March 17, 2020: Shelter in Place
- Indoor dining and most retail closed
- Physical distancing requirements
- Business request for support



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Original program objectives

- Support business needs for additional space to meet temporary changes in operations to address safety/COVID-19.
- Create more space to safely walk along the corridors while physically distancing.
- Create more space to safely stand in lines to shop at businesses while also allowing space for people to walk along corridor.
- Create more space for well-separated (6 feet or more) dining and shopping.
- Create more space for customer pick-up of products and to-go meals.



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Commercial Streets program

1. Park Street and Webster Street Reconfiguration
2. Parklets & Sidewalk Usage
3. Parking Reconfiguration
4. Alameda Avenue Closure
5. Citywide Use Permit



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Where we are today

- 75% of Alamedans vaccinated
- Cases increasing, recommendations for indoor mask wearing
- Business recovery just beginning
- Unknown future travel patterns
- Planning for active transportation, vision zero and bus transit



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Program evaluation

- Online Surveys and Events
 - Over 1,750 respondents to community survey
 - 2 virtual town halls and 2 in-person events
 - DABA and WABA business surveys and 2 business forums
- Collision Data
- Auto Traffic Data
- Key stakeholders

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Staff recommendations

- **High level:**
 - Use next two years to continue to improve and make changes to the program components to address known problems.
 - Continue to monitor regional and local transportation and health conditions.
 - Complete vision zero, active transportation and bus transit planning.
 - Provide regular updates to TC and Council



Park + Webster: What we did

- Restriped core segments:
 - Park: Lincoln to San Jose
 - Webster: Lincoln to Central
- 4 to 2 auto lanes + dedicated left turn pockets
- Room along curb for parklets
- Pedestrian bulbouts and shorter crossings



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Park + Webster: What we recommend



- Retain existing striping for next 2 years
- Make improvements to parking, bollards, striping
- Bring recommendations for final configuration in 2 years



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Park + Webster: Why

- Prioritizes safety and walking
- Allows for business recovery
- Businesses support
- Majority of community respondents support



Parklets & Sidewalk Usage: What we did

- Streamlined parklet permit program and waived fees
- 32 parklet permits issued; 27 currently active
- 6 sidewalk usage permits issued, including one for all businesses within WABA and one for DABA



Parklets & Sidewalk Usage: What we recommend



- Revise program to allow for semi-permanent parklets that meet higher safety and aesthetic standards
- Annually renewed permits
- Annually escalating permit fee
- Update sidewalk usage permit



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Parklets & Sidewalk Usage: Why

- Allows for business recovery
- Allows more outdoor dining options
- Businesses support
- Majority of community respondents support



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Parking Reconfigurations: What we did

- Most parking spaces along reconfigured sections of Park and Webster converted to 15-minute pick-up/drop
- Upon request, converted 30 additional spaces to pick-up/drop-off citywide



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Parking Reconfigurations: What we recommend



- Return to parking regulations in effect pre-pandemic
- Maintain some short-term parking, add loading and ADA spaces
- Re-start parking enforcement

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Parking Reconfigurations: Why

- Meets current needs
- Can improve parking availability and traffic flow
- Businesses support
- Majority of community respondents support

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Alameda Ave closure: What we did

- At request of DABA, closed half block of Alameda Ave to cars
- DABA created and maintains space for gathering/dining



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Alameda Ave closure: What we recommend



- Maintain Alameda Ave closure until street is repaved (expected 2023) or until DABA no longer wants to manage space
- Allow street mural painting



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Alameda Ave closure: Why

- Creates outdoor dining and community gathering area
- Businesses support
- Majority of community respondents support



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Citywide use permit: What we did

- Temporary conditional use permit allows businesses to use private outdoor areas and parking lots for commercial purposes and outdoor seating
- Planning Board approved
- At least 15 businesses utilizing



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Citywide use permit: What we recommend

- Allow existing permit to expire
- Encourage all businesses using permit to apply for individual use permit, or group permit in one business area

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Citywide use permit: Why

- Businesses want to continue use
- Allows for site specific requirements to be evaluated and addressed

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Recommendation



Review and comment on City staff's 5 recommendations on 5 components of the Commercial Streets program

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Up next



Recommendations coming

- TC in September
- Council in October

