

Supplemental Communications (1)

(The following are communications received
after packet was published on **August 27**
by noon, **September 1.**)

Communication

From: Friends of Adeline <friendsofadeline@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 7:45 AM

To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: Friends of Adeline Planning Commission 9/1 meeting comment letter on Item 9: City-BART Joint Vision and Priorities Document for BART

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear members of the Planning Commission,

Please see attached for a letter from the Friends of Adeline about the City-BART Joint Vision and Priorities Document for the Ashby and North Berkeley BART stations.

Thank you.

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Friends of Adeline

friendsofadeline@gmail.com

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510-338-7843

Friends of Adeline
An organization of residents and neighbors in South Berkeley
(510) 338-7843 ✉ friendsofadeline@gmail.com

August 31, 2021

Dear members of the Berkeley Planning Commission,

Friends of Adeline remains committed to the vision created by our South Berkeley community that reverses the displacement of African Americans and supports development that truly serves the needs of this community.

Friends of Adeline came together more than six years ago to fight for the needs of our South Berkeley community – for renters, low-income people, unhoused neighbors, Black and Indigenous communities and all people of color. We fight for policies and investments that meet our needs and improve our lives, not enrich the pockets of outside speculators and developers. Together, as a community, we have fought for what we deserve. We have won city funding for critical services for our community, sanitation facilities and human-based response for those who are unhoused, investment in the African American Holistic Resource Center and our Black churches, businesses, services, and cultural institutions. We have worked with residents to save the homes of African American families that the city is trying to displace.

When the city announced its plans to develop the Adeline Corridor to “colonize” our community, we organized for a vision of new development that truly serves the needs of our community: **Low-income housing** that those of us who live here can actually afford; **a right to return** for those who’ve been displaced or are at risk of being pushed out; **support for our local businesses** and community services; **local good-paying jobs** so that the economic benefits of development stay in our community. Hundreds of people attended community meetings, wrote letters, and spoke up to the city. Last year, the Planning Commission and the City Council approved an Adeline Corridor plan that included many of the things that were demanded. For the Ashby BART site, the council approved the following language: *“The City and BART should strive for a goal of 100% deed restricted affordable housing, prioritizing Extremely Low and Very Low affordable housing, that could be accomplished through multiple phases of development.”*

Now we are extremely concerned to see the city and consultant’s proposed draft vision and priorities statement that is being presented to the Planning Commission. This new draft – which has not been presented to the CAG – waters down the vision that was developed with the community in the Adeline corridor plan. This is unacceptable.

The CAG, meeting attendees, and consultant team are not representative of our South Berkeley community, particularly of the African American community here, and yet they would reduce the goals for desperately-needed affordable housing for our community without consulting us. African American residents and elders recognize this as a part of a long pattern of the city ignoring the voice of low-income people and people of color in our community. White technocrats, city bureaucrats, and residents from wealthier parts of Berkeley continue this pattern dating back to urban renewal, redevelopment, and even the original plan for BART, which was going to be elevated through South Berkeley until African American residents organized and forced the tracks underground to prevent them from dividing our community.

Friends of Adeline
An organization of residents and neighbors in South Berkeley
(510) 338-7843 ✉ friendsofadeline@gmail.com

We urge you, the members of the Planning Commission, to stand with us and create a vision and priorities document that reflects the needs of our community. Specifically, we demand the following changes be made to the vision document:

- Affordable Housing:
 - o Assert that the goal is to strive for 100% affordable housing, prioritizing extremely low- and very-low income housing, for both BART sites, with a required minimum of 50% affordable. **All public land**, in both North and South Berkeley, should be used for public good and providing affordable housing.
 - o We want low-income housing in our community as quickly as possible. This is why Friends of Adeline has fought hard to support funding and zoning changes for two African American churches in our community (Ephesian and St Paul AME) to build low-income housing, and against the city's attempts to delay the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. However, **time constraints cannot be the excuse for not doing what is necessary for our community**. The vision document should state that the city, BART, and development team will commit to raise the funds to realize the community's vision for 100% affordable housing at both stations. But if they fail to reach that goal within the desired 10 year period, then the timeline must be extended to meet the community's affordable housing goals and needs.
- Public and Civic Space:
 - o For the Flea Market, it is not enough to say that we'll provide a permanent home and facilities. The vision document should make a clear commitment to continue to maintain the Flea Market's home at the Ashby BART station, guaranteeing their future at the site.
- Building Form:
 - o Add language that the buildings should be designed in a way that creates light filled hallways and homes. They should have residential community open spaces for residents to come together (privately from public spaces) and create connection.
- Add to this document a section on Economic Opportunities and add a goal to provide good-paying jobs for local residents, including job training programs, both during construction and in final build out. Our community needs not just homes and gathering spaces, but good-paying jobs.

Finally, we strongly support the language for Inclusive Housing Design and providing housing for people with physical and mental disabilities and people who are unhoused, as well as the preference for people facing displacement or who have been displaced, and that any development at the Ashby BART site should be a hub for African American life.

Sincerely,

Friends of Adeline

Communication

From: Forest Kaser <forestkaser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 7:07 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!

I would like to express my support for:

- Building as much housing as possible without delay.
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,
Forest Kaser
South Berkeley Resident

Communication

From: Tyson Miklebost <miklebos@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:17 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

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Dear Planning Commissioners:
Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!
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- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,

Berkeley resident

Communication

From: Jane Scantlebury <jscantlebury@lmi.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 6:37 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Let's create places to call home for all who need it. We also look forward to a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!

I would like to express my support for:

- Building as much housing as possible without delay.
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,
Jane Scantlebury
South Berkeley resident

Communication

From: Laura Stevens <laura4300@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:20 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I strongly support the creation of housing at Ashby BART. The need is obvious, the location is ideal. Our community needs this urgently. Approve the proposal now! Thank you, Laura Stevens, 2201 Ward St.

Communication

From: Ann Finkelstein <akfinkel7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

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Dear Planning Commissioners:

Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!

I would like to express my support for:

- Building as much housing as possible without delay.
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive

I live right next to Ashby Bart in South Berkeley, and this issue is very important to me.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,
Ann Finkelstein
2926 Otis Street

Communication

From: Daniel Killian <daniel.killian@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: North Berkeley BART Development

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm writing in to voice my support for maximizing the total number of units at the North Berkeley BART Station. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a transit oriented project with hundreds of below market rate units. We need to maximize the total number of units in order to maximize the number of below market rate units.

I grew up two blocks away from the North Berkeley BART station and have seen my neighborhood evolve into one that is exclusively white and wealthy. This project will be an important step towards making North Berkeley a more diverse and equitable place.

Thank you,

Daniel

Communication

From: Serena Lim <sernecat@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

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Dear Planning Commissioners:

Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!

I am writing to express my support for:

- Building as much housing as possible without delay.
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents; engage local organizations that work with houseless and low-income people in our area on a regular basis and get their feedback regarding what is needed to support recovery for so many individuals who have lost their jobs and homes.
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents; reducing vehicle lanes and improving safe bike and pedestrian street infrastructure while investing in the BART lot is exactly what cities should be doing to reduce the impact of vehicular noise and pollution on the community and planet. Creating a park-like bike and pedestrian path along Adeline (similar to the Ohlone Greenway) that strengthens the connection between downtown and the Ashby neighborhoods would be fantastic.
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive; provide a public plaza and park that can accommodate the market on weekends and provide active outdoor space with a commercial edge for tenants and commuters to enjoy during weekdays.
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits. This can be achieved by building commercial spaces that are smaller than usual, with straightforward, rectangular footprints and partition walls that can easily be removed or remodeled to add or reduce square footage according to tenants' needs.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Thanks you sincerely,
Serena Lim
Berkeley resident

Communication

-----Original Message-----

From: Elliot Parrish <ElliotSig96@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

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Dear Planning Commissioners:
Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!
I would like to express my support for:
- Building as much housing as possible without delay.
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,

Berkeley resident

Sent from my iPhone

Communication

-----Original Message-----

From: Theo Posselt <tposselt.sf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I'm writing you as a North Berkeley resident who strongly supports the desperate need for housing at all income levels in Berkeley. The proposed projects at Ashby and North Berkeley BARTs represent a unique chance to build significant amounts of affordable (below market) and market-rate housing, both of which will be critical in preparing for our rapidly changing future.

Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!

I would like to express my support for:

- Building as much housing as possible without delay;
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents; -Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive -Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,
Theo Posselt
North Berkeley resident & BNHCA Steering Committee member

Communication

From: Betsy Thagard <betsythagard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Please keep the BART parking lot redevelopment process moving along as quickly as possible.
We need housing NOW!

I would like to express my support for:

- Building as much housing FOR ALL INCOME LEVELS as quickly as possible without delay.
- Creating a viable development plan with as many affordable housing units as are FEASIBLE financially, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and REDUCING THE NUMBER OF LANES ON ADELIN STREET to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a PERMANENT HOME FOR THE FLEA MARKET that allows it to thrive.

THANK YOU,

Betsy Thagard
1937 Carleton Street Unit D
Berkeley 94704

Communication

From: Matthew Wadlund <mwadlund@wdsplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

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Dear Planning Commissioners

I would like to express my support for:

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- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,

Berkeley resident

Matthew Wadlund
[WADLUND+](#) Design Studio