



## **CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: December 4, 2023  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Memorandum of Understanding Between Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and City of Albany for the Jackson Street Parallel Bike Improvements

**REPORT BY:** Justin Fried, Transportation and Sustainability Manager  
Jeff Bond, Community Development Director

---

### **SUMMARY**

The action before the City Council is authorization for the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the City to lead - with reimbursement from Alameda County Transportation Commission – the preconstruction phases of the Jackson Street Bikeway Project in University Village.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-75, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and the City for the preconstruction phases of the Jackson Street Bikeway Project in University Village, identified by Alameda CTC as the Jackson Street Parallel Bike Improvements.

### **BACKGROUND**

In early 2021, University of California Berkeley staff began finalizing project plans and initial designs for graduate student housing in University Village at the corner of Jackson Street and Monroe Street. The housing project is being developed as a public-private partnership between the University and American Campus Communities (ACC), which is a private student housing development company.

Jackson Street between Buchanan Street and the Berkeley border is owned and maintained by the University - it is not a city street. Nonetheless, the City has an interest in completing active transportation connections for residents and has a history of productive collaboration with the University leading development of active transportation projects along Codornices Creek. Albany staff began working with UC staff to discuss the potential for completing segments of the active transportation network in relation to the housing project. In December 2021, Councilmembers Jordan and Nason joined with UC Berkeley campus leadership and Alameda CTC staff to visit the site and facilitated an agreement to advance the project.

Parisi Transportation Consulting was tasked with developing an alternatives analysis which was presented to UC Berkeley staff. At UC Berkeley staff's request, south of Monroe is to remain as a future phase to allow flexibility for the alignment. Concurrently, the Alameda County Transportation Commission San Pablo Corridors Project began developing concepts for parallel bicycle route improvements which include Jackson Street through University Village.

On May 25, 2023, Alameda County Transportation Commission approved the 2024 Comprehensive Investment Plan, which included preconstruction funding for this project as part of the San Pablo Avenue Multi-Modal Corridor Project. In early June, the concept received tentative agreement from the UC Berkeley Rausser College of Natural Resources (which manages the Gill Tract) to utilize some additional frontage, enabling a path alignment that allows for a parallel parking lane. On July 20, 2023, Alameda CTC approved additional funds on July 20, 2023, for a total allocation of \$900,000 toward the Preliminary Engineering/Environmental (PE/Env) and Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) phases of the project.

Upon receiving tentative agreement on the Gill Tract frontage, staff began outreach to University Village residents in coordination with UC staff, including presenting to residents at University Village Albany Safety Day on August 19. City and UC Berkeley staff have also been coordinating this effort with the graduate student housing developer, American Campus Communities.

On October 2, 2023, the City Council approved the conceptual design for the Jackson Street Bikeway and directed city staff to work with UC Berkeley on implementation.

## **DISCUSSION**

Significant state and federal grants have been awarded to the Alameda CTC San Pablo Avenue Corridor Program set of projects, one of which is the Parallel Bikeways Project.

Jackson Street is included in the scope of the Parallel Bikeways Project while it has remained separate in terms of development due to the timing of the development of the Jackson Street project and close coordination between the City and UC Berkeley. The MOU will enable the City to complete the preconstruction phases for the Jackson Street project and make it eligible for federal funding sources. The MOU designates the City as the implementing agency for the preconstruction phases and as lead agency for environmental documents and permits the City to request reimbursement for consultant expenses associated with this work.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

Environmental clearance will be part of the work performed under the Memorandum of Understanding.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Providing cycling facilities separated from vehicle traffic along the Slow Bikeways Network improves cyclist safety, helping to support cycling as a viable alternative to short motor vehicle trips.

## **SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The project improves safety for vulnerable roadway users and improves access for those without motor vehicles.

## **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES**

GOAL 3: Promote Streets that Support Safety & Transportation Mobility Options.

This project implements cycling network improvements identified in the Active Transportation Plan.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The MOU provides Alameda CTC allocated resources toward the preconstruction project phases. Coordination with Alameda County Transportation Commission, University of California Berkeley, and consultant engineers will continue to require staff time under existing department budgets.

## **Attachments:**

1. Resolution No. 2023-75
2. Draft Alameda CTC Memorandum of Understanding