

Albany Active Transportation Plan

April 2012, as amended November 2014, September 2019



Prepared for: City of Albany



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FEHR & PEERS



6.

Adams Street Bicycling Route

The City recognizes the importance of regional north-south bike routes paralleling San Pablo Avenue. Adams Street parallels San Pablo Avenue one block to the west, offering a potential alternative to bicycling on San Pablo Avenue while providing access to all destinations along the west side of San Pablo Avenue. With the addition of a bridge over Cerrito Creek, Adams would link to Carlson Boulevard, a signalized access to the El Cerrito Plaza shopping center and a route to El Cerrito and Richmond. A path along the north side of Cerrito Creek extends west from Adams to El Cerrito's Creekside Park, and the Ranch 99 Shopping Center, which is located in Richmond. However, the street's current one-way-northbound configuration prevents its use as a two-way bikeway.

Background

Adams Street is a low-volume residential street between Buchanan Street and Cerrito Creek. The block north of Clay Street dead-ends at the Orientation Center for the Blind. No bridge is currently provided over Cerrito Creek. A one-block stub of Adams Street north of the Creek ends at Carlson Boulevard, which connects across San Pablo Avenue to the El Cerrito Plaza shopping center at a signal, and is a bicycling route through El Cerrito to Richmond. A narrow path on the north side of the Creek connects to the Ranch 99 Shopping Center parking lot. To block southbound cut-through vehicle traffic from San Pablo Avenue, Adams Street is one-way northbound south of Clay Street.

This project would convert all blocks to two-way but add southbound half-closures at the north ends of each block, creating a two-way street that continues to prevent multi-block southbound motor vehicle trips. It would add a walking-bicycling bridge across Cerrito Creek to access the El Cerrito and Richmond destinations. It would substitute YIELD-controlled traffic circles for existing STOPs at several intersections, or shift STOPs to cross streets, to enable continuous bicycle travel.

The resulting convenient and comfortable route would enable a wide range of bicyclists with origins west of San Pablo Avenue to access every block of San Pablo Avenue, in addition to reaching El Cerrito west of San Pablo Avenue, the Ranch 99 Shopping Center, and northeastern Albany via Brighton Avenue.

Issues and Opportunities

- Two-way bicycle travel is needed to make Adams Street an alternative to San Pablo Avenue.
- Southbound motorists on San Pablo Avenue must continue to be prohibited from using Adams Street as a reliever route.
- Stop signs at every cross street slow bicyclists.
- A walking-bicycling bridge over Cerrito Creek is needed to connect to Carlson Boulevard and to the path along the north side of Cerrito Creek to the Ranch 99 Shopping Center.

Detail of Proposed Improvements

- Enable two-way bicycle travel while continuing to block southbound cut-through traffic [1]
 - Add bicycling-permeable half-closures on the southbound entries at Washington Street, Castro Street, and Clay Street; sign them “DO NOT ENTER – EXCEPT BICYCLES”

See Kains Avenue and Adam Street Bikeway and Traffic Calming plans prepared by Parisi Transportation Consulting and presented to the City Council on September 16, 2019 for additional details of proposed improvements.



From top: Existing Adams Street Cross Section; Sample
DO NOT ENTER – BIKES EXCEPTED signage



- For bicyclist safety, prohibit parking immediately downstream (south) on the side of the half-closures;
- Remove One-Way signs
- Implement a right in/right out only at the intersection of Adams and Buchanan streets.
- Enable continuous bicycle travel at the Washington Avenue, Castro Street, and Clay Street intersections [Stage 1]
 - Replace two-way stops at these intersections with neighborhood traffic circles and all-way Yield control, or
 - Replace two-way stops at these intersections with two-way stops on the cross streets;
- Connect through the Orientation Center and across Cerrito Creek into El Cerrito [Stage 2]
 - Construct a walking-bicycling bridge across the creek, ideally with walking separation to aid blind users;
 - Optionally, create a bypass path along the east edge of the Orientation Center parking lot;
- Create access between Adams Street and Brighton Avenue [Stage 3]
 - Negotiate access through private parking lot to Brighton Avenue/ San Pablo Avenue signal;
 - Construct a publicly accessible fence opening and walking route through parking lot to Brighton Avenue signal;
 - Replace speed bumps in parking lot with speed humps, to enable comfortable bicycling and bicycle trailer use;
 - Modify Brighton Avenue's east leg to create a right turn only lane, a through bicycling lane, and a through-and-left lane.
- Improve connections to Carlson Boulevard and along the creek to Pierce Street (working with El Cerrito and Richmond)
 - Work with El Cerrito to improve the safety of bicycling left turns at the Adams Street/ Carlson Boulevard intersection. A median refuge on Carlson Boulevard would enable left turns from Adams Street or Carlson Boulevard to be made in two steps. (A median refuge at Adams Street would also enable pedestrians to cross more easily there, but Lassen Street and San Pablo Avenue are close enough that this should not be necessary.)
 - Work with El Cerrito to widen the Cerrito Creek path west of Adams Street for use by bicyclists and pedestrians.
 - Work with El Cerrito, Richmond, and the Ranch 99 Shopping Center to extend the path to Pierce Street along the south edge of the shopping center parking lot.

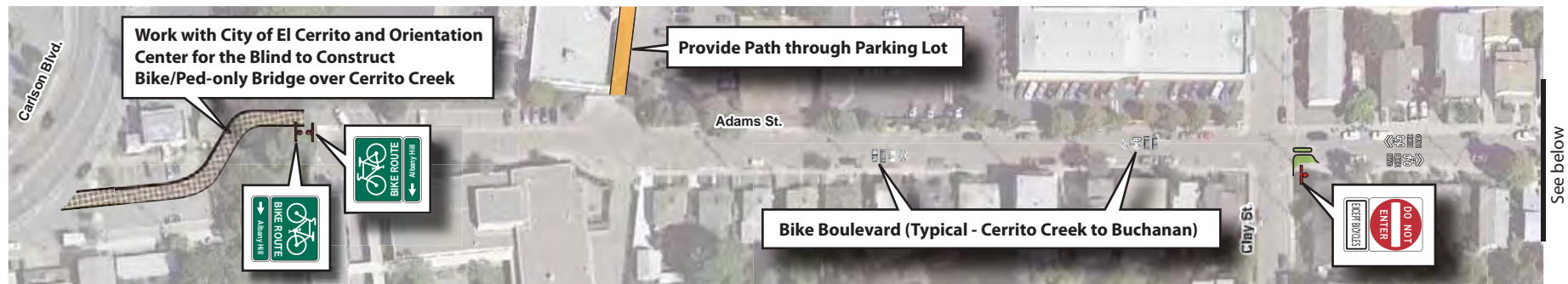
Cost	Without Bridge: \$ 190,000
	With Bridge: \$ 360,000



Partial closure on 15th Avenue, north of Lake Street, San Francisco, California



Detail of proposed partial closures on Adams.



See below



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