

Memo

To: City Commissions/Committees
From: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner
CC: Jeff Bond, Community Development Director, Ray Chan, City Engineer/Public Works Director
Date: 11/21/2012
Re: Feedback requested for the development of the City's Complete Streets Planning process

Background

The Complete Streets concept takes into consideration the needs of all the users of the street and includes design solutions that will bring the physical environment of San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street to a “human scale” level, making it easier for non-motorized users of the street to navigate and to feel comfortable and safe when traveling by foot, bike, or wheelchair. In 2011, the City of Albany obtained a Planning Grant from Caltrans for public process and for the development of concept plans (35% PS&E) for a Complete Streets project for two streets in the City: San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street. Both of these streets are important gateways to the City, however, they mostly serve the needs of motorized users.

For this project, the City is partnering with the Local Government Commission for the planning effort, and with Nelson Nygaard and WRT Design for the design of the concept plans. The process entails hosting a Charette, which is a process involving a series of events to obtain public input about the needs of all users of the streets. Renowned Walkable Communities expert, Dan Burden will lead the public events. In addition, the process includes 7 focus group meetings during the day on December 6 and 7 and three public events with the following schedule:

- ❖ Kickoff Community Meeting—December 6, 2012 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Residents and stakeholders will discuss their visions for the future and participate in activities to identify common values and leading issues to consider in the design development process.

- ❖ Community Walk and Design Workshop—December 8 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Community members will have a chance to provide design input in the studio. Dan Burden will provide a training presentation on design tools and strategies to consider, and then break into

small groups around table maps to develop ideas for improvements. Walking tours of San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street will start off in the morning with members of the project consultant team

- ❖ Presentation of Plan Concepts—Wednesday, December 12, 2012 7:00 to 8:30 pm
The consultant team will present the design concepts for feedback and discussion

These three events will be held at Ocean View Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 1000 Jackson Street (at Buchanan) in Albany. I encourage you to attend any or the three events in order to provide your personal input to the consultants.

Discussion

In light of this process, I am inviting your input in regard to the vision your Commission/Committee has for the City in general, and for these two streets in particular. For instance, some members of the Traffic and Safety Commission are concerned about safe pedestrian crossings on these streets. Others are concerned about bicycle access on San Pablo Avenue. Your Commission could be concerned about landscaping, parking management, ADA accessibility, land use that is conducive to emissions reduction, etc. Please discuss the goals or vision your Commission/Committee has for these two streets and provide your input to your staff liaison as he or she will represent your group on the focus group meeting.

Next Steps

The Consultant team will refine the concepts developed during this public process and will present the results to the Traffic and Safety Commission in a public hearing for a recommendation to the City Council. The goal is to produce concept plans for grant applications for 100% design, environmental work, and construction. It is expected that this project will be finalized by December, 2013.

.If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (510) 528-5759 or by email at achavez@albanyca.org .