



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

Agenda Date: June 17, 2024
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project (CIP No. 25016) – Establish Project and Authorize Grant Application for Submission to the Safe Routes to Transit & Bay Trail Program

REPORT BY: James Cirelli, Associate Engineer
Allison Carrillo, CIP Manager
Devora Zauderer, Public Works Program Manager
Mark Hurley, Public Works Director

SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is to consider adopting a resolution establishing the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project, appropriating Measure BB Bicycle & Pedestrian funds for development of project costs, and authorizing the City Manager to submit the project for a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Safe Routes to Transit & Bay Trail Program (SR2TBT). The Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project would connect the existing segment of the Pierce Street Path along the 500 block of Pierce Street through Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park to the Cleveland Avenue bikeway, closing the gap to the Bay Trail and Buchanan Bikeway.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-50:

1. Authorizing establishment of the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project (CIP No. 25016); and
2. Appropriating \$50,000 from Measure BB Bicycle & Pedestrian funding to the project for conceptual design; and
3. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Safe Routes to Transit & Bay Trail Program for the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project, enter into a funding agreement with MTC upon award of grant, and authorize grant funds awarded for expenditure on the project.

BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2012, the City adopted the Albany Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which included an update to the Bicycle Master Plan and the development of the City's first

Pedestrian Master Plan. One of the proposed bicycle projects, the “Pierce Street Path,” involved the creation of a shared-use path connecting Pierce Street from the Albany-Richmond City limit to the Bay Trail and the Buchanan Bikeway (at the Pierce/Buchanan intersection). The ATP “Pierce Street Path” was divided into two segments:

- ATP Segment I is a Class I bikeway along the west side of the 500 block of Pierce Street, starting at the north City limit and terminating just south of the 555 Pierce (Gateview) complex.
- ATP Segment II is a Class I bikeway from the southern terminus of Segment I, continuing south toward Washington Avenue, connecting to a bikeway along Cleveland Avenue, and ultimately connecting to the Bay Trail and Buchanan Bikeway at Buchanan Street.

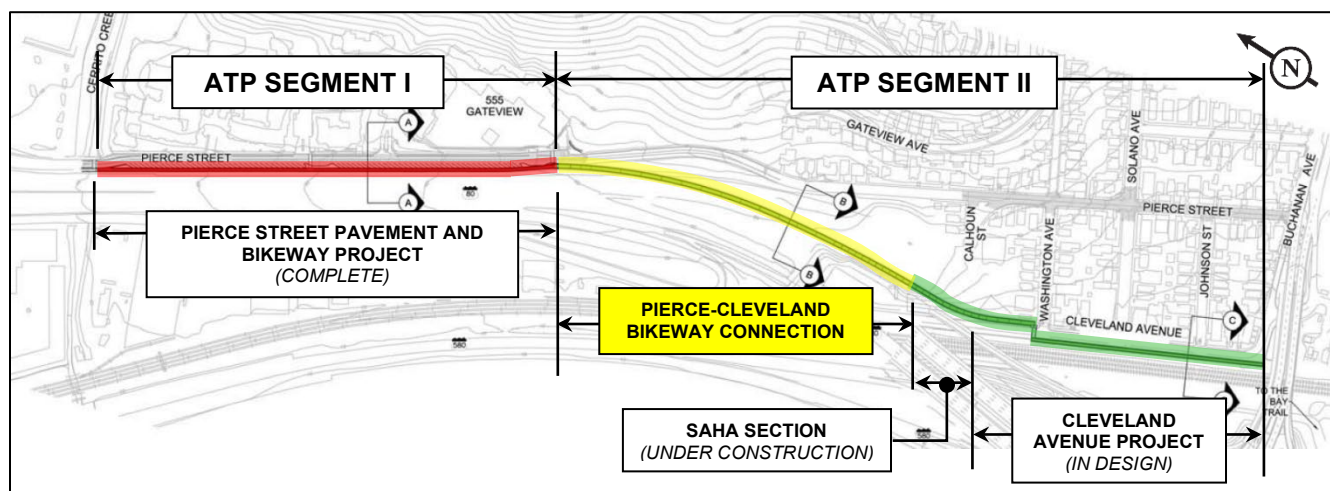


Figure 1. Potential Pierce Street Path Alignment, Kimley-Horn & Associates (2009), amended to include ATP Project Segments and Project Names

Portions of the Pierce Street Path ATP Project have been incorporated under various construction projects:

- In 2012, Segment I was completed under the “Pierce Street Pavement and Bikeway Project.”
- In 2019, the City approved a 62-unit affordable housing project ([Albany Family Housing](#)) by Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA) adjacent to the Cleveland/Washington intersection. Construction of this “SAHA Section” is in progress, with completion tentatively expected by end of 2024.
- The City is currently in the design phase of the “Cleveland Avenue Paving, Storm Drain, and Bikeway Project” (Cleveland Avenue Project). Plans include construction of a Class IV bikeway on the west side of Cleveland Avenue, connecting to the SAHA section of Segment II and continuing south to Buchanan Street. Construction of the Cleveland Avenue Project is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2025.

DISCUSSION

With approximately half of the ATP Pierce Street Path Segment II limits under construction or in design, Staff propose to establish a CIP project for the purposes of applying to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Safe Routes to Transit & Bay Trail Program (SR2TBT) for grant funding to cover design and construction phases. This section will be established under a new CIP project for the "Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project" (Project), as identified in yellow in Figure 1 above.

Contrasting with recent bikeway costs on areas with flat topography where the primary driver of costs are transportation elements, the costs and path alignment of this section of the path are highly dependent on the costs of mass grading and soil movement/disposal at the two points of connection (Albany Family Housing parcel and Pierce Street Right-of-Way) where major changes in elevation occur. Due to this unique topography, staff identified the need for detailed site surveying and a preliminary grading plan as a necessary step in development of a feasible bikeway path alignment and to support preparation of a competitive and properly estimated grant application.

Site surveying will include a portion of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way between the terminus of the Pierce Street Pavement and Bikeway Project path and the northern extent of the Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park following the original alignment proposed in 2009. As this alignment would require acquisition of right-of-way agreements with Caltrans, survey work and grading design will also include an alternative route directly to Pierce Street from within the parcel containing Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

The environmental clearance process is contingent upon the final alignment of the Project. Staff will follow the required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines prior to implementation of the project.

SUSTAINABILITY

To achieve bicycle mode share goals and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in the ATP and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, a network of cycling facilities has been in development throughout the City. This Project supports these goals by providing safer bicycle facilities along Pierce Street and a safer connection to existing bikeways, including the Buchanan Bikeway and the Bay Trail.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

This Project supports Goal 1 and Goal 3 of the City Council's Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Advance Climate Action & Adaptation

The City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan serves as an instructional plan that identifies programs and projects that are intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as measures to adapt to climate change impacts. Transportation is identified as the highest source

of greenhouse gas emissions in Albany and increasing active transportation, such as bicycling, is a priority. This Project will implement a new, separated bikeway and connect to Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park and existing Class I shared-use paths (the Buchanan Bikeway and the Bay Trail), which enhances the active transportation network in the City.

Goal 3: Promote Streets that Support Safety & Transportation Mobility Options

The City’s Local Roadway Safety Plan in connectivity with the ATP help guide transportation and mobility enhancement projects within the City. The ATP identified the Pierce Street Path as a priority project and this CIP Project will complete the last portion of the envisioned Pierce Street Path.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Staff recommends creation of CIP Project No. 25016 and an appropriation of funds to the Project in order to develop conceptual designs as noted above. The Project will be incorporated into future CIP reporting and into the next CIP update.

Project Expenditure	Cost
Conceptual Design Development	\$50,000
Total	\$50,000

Staff are recommending a budget appropriation to CIP Project No. 25016 as follows:

Funding Source	Budget
Measure BB Bicycle & Pedestrian DLD Revenues (Fund 1202)	\$50,000
Total Appropriation	\$50,000

The funding source is appropriate to the scope of the project and can support the required allocation. Further budget appropriations for the Project will be recommended as appropriate, contingent on grant award.

Grant funds, if awarded, will be allocated to the City on a reimbursement basis for expenditures incurred.

NEXT STEPS

Grant applications are due on September 30, 2024. MTC is expected to release SR2TBT recommendations in early 2025.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2024-50

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council does hereby
2 authorize establishment of the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project (CIP No.
3 25016); and

4
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council does hereby appropriate
6 \$50,000 from Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) Measure BB
7 Bicycle & Pedestrian Direct Local Distributions funds to the project for conceptual design and
8 preparation of cost estimates for grant application; and

9
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council does hereby authorize
11 the City Manager to submit a grant application to the MTC Safe Routes to Transit & Bay Trail
12 Program for the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project, enter into a funding agreement
13 with MTC upon award of grant, and authorize grant funds awarded for expenditure on the
14 project.

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18 JOHN MIKI, MAYOR
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