



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

Agenda Date: October 21, 2024
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Pierce Street Path Segment II – Phase 2 (Cleveland Avenue Bikeway)
Authorization to Submit Application to the Alameda County
Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) 2026 Comprehensive
Investment Plan Call for Projects

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SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit the Cleveland Avenue Bikeway portion of the Pierce Street Path Segment II for grant funding from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) 2026 Comprehensive Investment Plan Call for Projects. Segment II of the Pierce Street Path closes the gap to the Bay Trail and Buchanan Bikeway by connecting the existing segment of the Pierce Street Path along the 500 of Pierce Street, extending the path through Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park and Cleveland Avenue, to the Buchanan Bikeway to the south.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That the Council authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application for the Pierce Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project to the Alameda CTC 2026 Comprehensive Investment Plan (2026 CIP) Call for Projects and enter into a funding agreement with the Alameda CTC upon award of grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution 2024-74, authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application for the Cleveland Avenue Bikeway Project to the Alameda CTC 2026 Comprehensive Investment Plan (2026 CIP) Call for Projects and enter into a funding agreement with Alameda CTC upon award of grant, and authorize grant funds awarded for expenditure on the project.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The Cleveland Avenue Bikeway Project, a phase of the Pierce Street Path Segment II, is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 “Existing Facilities” and Section 15333 “Minor Alterations to Land” of the CEQA Guidelines, which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing use.

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.

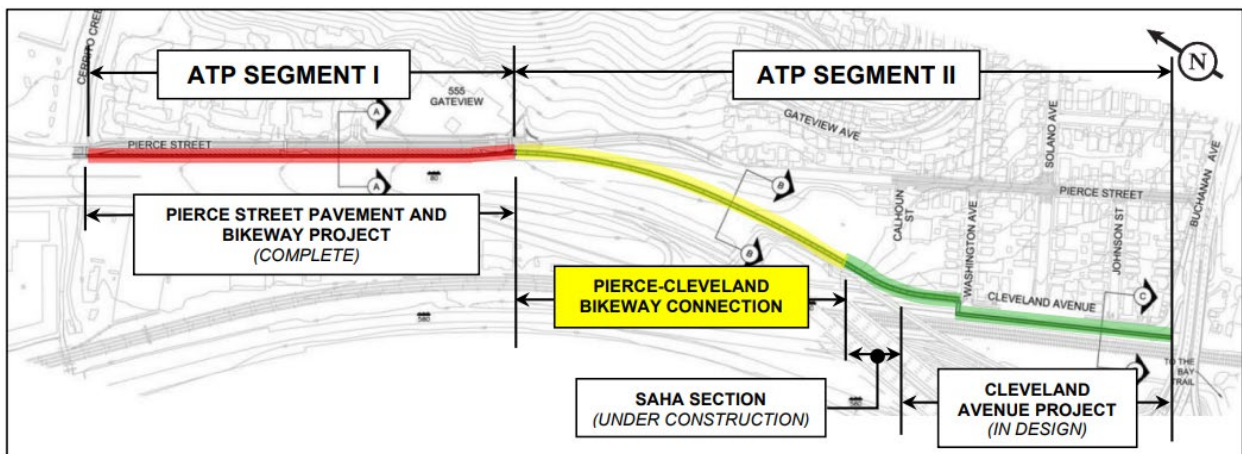


Figure 1. Potential Pierce Street Path Alignment, Kimley-Horn & Associates (2009), amended to including ATP Project Segments and Project Names

The ATP “Pierce Street Path” was divided into two segments during preparation of the Active Transportation Plan, and further subdivided into various phases for implementation within each segment as described below:

- **Pierce Street Path - Segment I** is a Class I Bicycle/Pedestrian Path 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 I was completed in 2012 under the “Pierce Street Pavement and Bikeway Project.”
- **Pierce Street Path - Segment II** is the portion of the Pierce Street Path 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. This segment is subdivided into three phases:
 - Phase 1 (SAHA Bikeway) is a Class I Bicycle/Pedestrian path completed in partnership with the SAHA (Satellite Affordable Housing Associates) affordable Albany Family Housing development. Work is substantially complete as of October 2024.
 - Phase 2 (Cleveland Bikeway Section) is in design under the City’s “Cleveland Avenue Bikeway, Storm Drain, and Paving Project,” which includes the construction of a Class IV Separated Bikeway on the west side of Cleveland Avenue. This segment completes the path between the Phase 1 (SAHA) limits and the existing bikeway on Buchanan Street. Construction of the Cleveland Avenue Project is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.
 - Phase 3 (Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection) is a Class I Bicycle/Pedestrian path connecting the ATP Segment II to the Phase 1 (SAHA limits) to the south. This is the final stretch of ATP Segment II needed to complete the bikeway facility. Preliminary design efforts are underway for rough grading and estimating purposes.

On June 17, 2024, the Albany City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-50, authorizing the establishment of the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project, appropriating \$50,000 from Measure BB Bicycle & Pedestrian funding to the Project for conceptual design, and 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 Project.

On September 26, 2024, the Transportation Commission discussed the Alameda CTC 2026 CIP Call for Projects and unanimously recommended the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project. At the time of the meeting, this was the staff recommendation. Since that meeting staff has revised the funding plan with respect to which phase to submit for the Alameda CTC Call for Projects. While the new recommendation is for a different phase, it supports completion of the Pierce Street Path Segment II which was the overall project presented as the priority to the Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION

With approximately half of the ATP Pierce Street Path Segment II limits under construction or in design, staff is assembling funding to cover the construction phase of the Cleveland Avenue segment and the planning, design and construction phases of the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection segment (shown in green and yellow respectively in Figure 1 above). Staff recently submitted an application for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s

(MTC) Safe Routes to Transit & Bay Trail Program (SR2TBT) grant to cover a portion of the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connection Project’s design and construction phase funding.

Staff seeks to apply for Alameda CTC’s 2026 CIP Grant Program to cover bikeway construction costs for the Cleveland Avenue Project. This presents a project for Alameda CTC consideration that is ready for construction sooner than the Pierce-Cleveland Bikeway Connector. Given Alameda CTC’s smaller amount of available funding and focus on construction-ready projects, staff recommends submitting the Cleveland Avenue Bikeway for funding from Alameda CTC.

Staff recommends the City of Albany apply for the 2026 CIP grant program for the Cleveland Avenue Bikeway Project due to the Project's strong alignment with the grant program’s funding priorities. The bikeway is part of the Bay Trail Gap Closure Implementation Plan, identifying its regional significance. It will enhance connectivity on Alameda CTC’s Countywide Bicycle Network and it will benefit MTC-designated Equity Priority Communities in and around the City of Albany – all explicit priorities of the grant program. The Project will greatly improve cycling access at the new SAHA affordable Albany Family Housing project at 755 Cleveland Avenue. The Project in conjunction with Phase 3 will also greatly improve multi-modal access to Albany residents along Pierce Street, where elevation, railway, freeway, and creeks create multiple barriers. This Project in conjunction with the Buchanan Bikeway will connect residents to schools, transit, commercial areas, and recreational opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

The Cleveland Avenue Bikeway Project, a phase of the Pierce Street Path Segment II, is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 “Existing Facilities” and Section 15333 “Minor Alterations to Land” of the CEQA Guidelines, which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing use.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

To achieve bicycle mode share goals and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in the Active Transportation Plan 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.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Project improves safety for vulnerable roadway users and improves access in an area of Albany with significant infrastructure and topographic barriers. The area also complements the adjacent site of the new affordable housing development.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

- GOAL 3: Promote Streets that Support Safety & Transportation Mobility Options – This Project implements an Active Transportation Plan project to provide a separated bicycle and walking facility adjacent to Pierce Street.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Staff time to prepare a grant application for the Project is within existing capacity. 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 October 31, 2024. Notification of grant recommendations are expected in May 2025.

Attachment

1. Resolution No. 2024-74

1 II as identified in the Albany Active Transportation Plan) will close a facility gap connecting
2 Pierce Street from the Richmond border to Buchanan Street; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, as the Project Sponsor, Applicant has the legal authority to apply for
5 funding for Project and plans to submit a 2026 CIP application (“Application”) to Alameda
6 CTC for \$515,000; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, there are no legal impediments to Applicant applying for funding and
9 there is no active, pending or threatened litigation that may adversely affect the proposed
10 Project or the ability of Applicant to deliver such Project; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Applicant authorizes its City Manager or designee to execute and file an
13 application with Alameda CTC for discretionary Alameda CTC Administered Funds for the
14 Project as referenced in this Resolution; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, as part of the requirements to apply and receive Alameda CTC
17 Administered Funds, Alameda CTC requires a resolution adopted by the responsible
18 implementing agency stating the following:

- 19
20 1. Applicant will implement the Project as described in the Application; and
21 2. Applicant will have adequate staffing resources to deliver and complete the Project
22 within the time period identified in the Application; and
23 3. Applicant understands it will enter into a Project Funding Agreement
24 (“Agreement”) with Alameda CTC, and will comply with the Agreement’s
25 requirements, including adherence to the agreed upon project scope, project
26 delivery milestones, funding deadlines, project reporting and deliverable deadlines;
27 and

- 1 4. Applicant is committed to deliver the Project consistently with the Commission
2 approved CIP Programming Guidelines and CIP policies, as they may change, for
3 the funds awarded by the Commission to the Project; and
- 4 5. Applicant is committed to secure matching funds as proposed in the Application
5 required for awarded Alameda CTC Administered Funds, by phase; and
- 6 6. Applicant is committed to provide any additional funding that may be required
7 beyond the original proposed Application match amount to deliver the phase of the
8 Project that is awarded with Alameda CTC Administered Funds; and
- 9 7. Applicant understands that Alameda CTC Administered Funds awarded to the
10 Project is limited to the Commission approved programmed amount by phase, and
11 therefore any cost increases or unexpected funding shortfalls cannot be expected to
12 be funded by shifting funds between phases, or by requesting additional Alameda
13 CTC Administered Funds; and
- 14 8. Applicant understands that any cost savings in the Alameda CTC-funded phase(s)
15 will be shared proportionally between Applicant and Alameda CTC; and
- 16 9. Applicant is committed to comply with the applicable requirements set forth in
17 Alameda CTC’s Local Business Contract Equity (“LBCE”) Program and related
18 exhibits, as applicable, for professional services and construction contracts funded
19 with Measure B, Measure BB, and/or VRF funds, such as including LBCE Program
20 goal(s) and provisions in applicable solicitations and resulting contracts, providing
21 timely notification to Alameda CTC of applicable solicitations prior to
22 advertisement, and adhering to reporting requirements.

23
24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Applicant is authorized to file an
25 Application to Alameda CTC for funding for the Project; and

26
27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Applicant hereby confirms that there is no
28 pending or threatened litigation that might in any way adversely affect Applicant’s ability to
29 implement and deliver the proposed Project; and

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2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Applicant authorizes its City Manager or
3 designee to execute the funding Agreement with Alameda CTC; and
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5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Applicant shall provide Alameda CTC with a
6 fully-executed copy of this Resolution concurrently with submittal of the Application; and
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8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council of Applicant, by
9 adopting this Resolution, hereby confirms that:
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- 11 1. Applicant will commit to implementing the Project as described in the Application;
12 and
- 13 2. Applicant will have adequate staffing resources to deliver and complete the Project
14 within the time period identified in the application; and
- 15 3. Applicant understands it will enter into an Agreement with Alameda CTC, and will
16 comply with the Agreement's requirements, including adherence to the completion
17 of the agreed upon project scope, project delivery milestones, funding deadlines,
18 project reporting and deliverable deadlines; and
- 19 4. Applicant commits to delivering the Project consistently with the Commission
20 approved CIP Programming Guidelines and CIP policies, as they may change, for
21 the funds awarded by the Commission to the Project; and
- 22 5. Applicant will commit matching funds as proposed in the Application against the
23 awarded Alameda CTC Administered Funds by phase in the amount(s) of \$0 per
24 the Alameda CTC's Small Cities Program Policy which waives the minimum local
25 matching requirement for the City of Albany; and
- 26 6. Applicant will provide any additional funding that may be required beyond the
27 original proposed Application match amount to deliver the phase of the Project that
28 is awarded with Alameda CTC Administered Funds; and
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- 7. Applicant understands that Alameda CTC Administered Funds awarded to the Project are limited to the Commission approved programmed amount by phase, and therefore any cost increases or unexpected funding shortfalls cannot be expected to be funded by shifting funds between phases, or by requesting additional Alameda CTC Administered Funds; and
- 8. Applicant understands that any cost savings in the Alameda CTC-funded phase(s) will be shared proportionally between Applicant and Alameda CTC; and
- 9. Applicant will comply with the applicable requirements set forth in Alameda CTC’s Local Business Contract Equity (“LBCE”) Program and related exhibits, as applicable, for professional services and construction contracts funded with Measure B, Measure BB, and/or VRF funds, such as including LBCE Program goal(s) and provisions in applicable solicitations and resulting contracts, providing timely notification to Alameda CTC of applicable solicitations prior to advertisement, and adhering to reporting requirements.

JOHN MIKI, MAYOR