DUE: Candidate Questionnaire: Bike Walk Alameda
Hello Council or Mayoral Candidate,
Bike Walk Alameda is providing you, a City Council or Mayoral candidate with the opportunity to share your views on active transportation issues facing our city. We would like to hear and share with our members your thoughts on what you will do, if elected, to encourage biking and walking in Alameda. Please note that only responses provided by end of business on Friday, August 24, will be included in the published responses. Your responses will be unedited and published in their entirety on the Bike Walk Alameda public website. If you are participating in our Council candidate forum on 9/27 or the Mayoral candidate forum on 10/1, we may be asking you follow-up or clarifying questions during that event.
Please send your responses to info@bikewalkalameda.org
Thank you very much for not only your time in completing this questionnaire, but also for your willingness to serve our community as a Council Member or Mayor. We look forward to hearing from your views!
Thank you,
Bike Walk Alameda

2018 City Council and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate's name: MARILYN EZZY ASHCRAFT

Candidate's contact (email and phone): marilyn@marilyn4alameda.org, 510-523-3138

Campaign consultant’s name: Doug Linney

Campaign consultant’s contact (email and phone): dlinney@nextgeneration.org, 510-444-4710

A better estuary crossing is a top priority project in the city’s Bike Plan, and a west-end bicycle and pedestrian bridge is a top tier project in the Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan. Are you supportive of a west-end bicycle and pedestrian bridge? If so, what have you done to date to support its development? What will you do, as a council member to support it?

As a strong, vocal supporter of this project, I have communicated my support to City staff, at City Council meetings, and with an Alameda Magazine reporter for a story about a bicycle-pedestrian bridge. I also had a productive meeting with USCG officials to discuss their concerns about a bridge in this area, learn what features would satisfy their concerns, and encourage them to work with Alameda, a Coast Guard City, to help address our traffic challenges.

As Mayor, finding funding to build a bicycle-pedestrian bridge would be one of my top priorities. We must give commuters viable alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles. A bicycle-pedestrian bridge is an exciting, innovative way to reduce automobile traffic, especially through the Tube.

The transportation element of the city’s General Plan envisions streets for all users. In order to achieve that mix, tradeoffs sometimes need to be made. Are you willing to take back space from cars and reallocate it to people who walk, bike, and take transit?

Yes.

A major bicycle and pedestrian safety improvement project is the redesign of Central Ave. from Sherman St. to Alameda Point. The one section without final approved design is the section from Washington Park to Paden Elementary School, which includes the Webster St. intersection. Do you
support — and will you vote to approve — a physically separated, two way, bike lane (similar to Fernside) for this section?

I support the concept of a separated, two-way, bike lane (similar to Fernside Blvd.) for this section of Central Avenue. But I need to see the proposed design, hear from staff and the public, including BikeWalk Alameda, and discuss the proposal with my City Council colleagues before voting.

The updates to the city’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans are past due. How will you, as a council member, ensure there is sufficient funding and staff resources (Planning, Engineering, Public Works, etc...) to update these plans? What would you like to see in the updates to this plan?

As Mayor, I will work to assure there are sufficient General Fund revenues to provide funding and staff resources for Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan items, in order of their priority designation. I will also encourage pursuing all available funding sources, including grants.

My highest priority is safety for bicyclists. There have been too many accidents where cyclists were hit by automobiles. We need safer bicycle infrastructure, especially along Clement Avenue, and on Main Street, approaching the ferry terminal. I also want to see completion of the Central Avenue project, as well as the Cross Alameda Trail. And I would consult with BikeWalk Alameda regarding what plan updates they feel are needed.

When new development or infrastructure changes are in progress, key components such as bike parking, sidewalk widths, etc.. that were approved in the plans are sometimes either not implemented, or implemented in a substandard manner. It has been a challenge to fix errors during implementation, even when the city is made aware of those shortfalls. What process improvements would you champion to address these shortcomings?

I would advocate developing a system, working with our IT, Planning and Public Works Departments, to track relevant approved conditions, their necessary sequencing, when the item is due, when completed, etc. It is costly and inefficient to correct these oversights in the field or after the fact, but it should not be difficult to devise a remedy to prevent these occurrences.

What transportation choices do you personally make in order to reduce your carbon footprint?

I ride my bike, drive an EV, take public transportation and walk.

Please use the table below to list your tenure on any public boards and commissions. Please list any other relevant projects that you’ve worked on.

**Board or Commission** - Planning Board  
**Dates (from / to)** - 2006 to 2012

**Relevant Projects** - Working with Lucy Gigli and Audrey Lord-Hausman, persuaded owners of South Shore Center, a private property, to provide pedestrian walkways to connect all areas of the shopping center and, eventually, add sidewalks on both sides of the roadway leading past the post office to Shoreline Drive.  
During my six years on the Planning Board, I always advocated for and supported bicycle and pedestrian-friendly policies and projects, but don’t recall them all.
As an avid cyclist - since my UC Davis undergraduate days! - I am grateful for the important and effective advocacy of BikeWalk Alameda. I would be honored to receive your endorsement for Mayor. Thank you.