BWA: 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?

Mayoral Candidates:

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft:
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.

Frank Matarrese:
I want the City to identify cases where these failures have happened and find out why the project could proceed or be allowed occupancy without delivering the required feature (whether bike or pedestrian) or failure to meet a standard. I want corrective action that includes installing the feature and making process changes to prevent re-occurrence.

I welcome review and feedback from Bike/Walk Alameda so that we achieve the best results possible.

Trish Spencer:
Some of these issues are the result of insufficient staff or current staff not having sufficient resources to address these issues. Our City Charter provides that City Council hires the City Manager and the City Manager in turn hires the people working in Public Works, Community Development, etc., and Council’s role is to make policy that staff then implements. I am hopeful that our new Interim City Manager, Dave Rudat, who has nearly 40 years of increasingly responsible leadership and management experience in local and county government, including City Manager and Public Works Director, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a Master of Public Administration, working with staff, will address these concerns.