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July 13, 2023

RE: Item 7-C: Grand Street Safety Improvement Project and Allocation of Funds

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Daysog, and Members of the City Council,

Grand Street is a vital corridor in Alameda, and we're very eager to see it improved for all users as soon as possible. We share the preference of staff and the Transportation Commission for Alternative 1 — the raised, continuous 2-way bikeway on the east side of the street — for both Segments B and C. The design's bike signals, dedicated bike signal phasing, and raised crossings go a long way in addressing our concerns about intersection safety for bicyclists. And we're reassured to hear about plans for maintenance of this facility, since path maintenance is currently a big issue elsewhere in Alameda.

We also strongly support staff's funding recommendation, because it will reduce the implementation time of this important and already-delayed project by several years at least. Our climate and street safety emergencies are not waiting for us, and we feel it's imperative to get infrastructure that allows people to make greener and safer transportation choices built as quickly as possible. Grand, and specifically Segment B, is a critical piece of the Low Stress Backbone Network defined in our recently-adopted Active Transportation Plan, and the sooner it's in place, the sooner we'll all benefit. Every day matters.

Staffing, contractor, and process enhancements other cities have adopted could speed implementation further. We urge you to work with the City Manager to explore and implement those strategies. We have a backlog of other delayed transportation projects around Alameda that could benefit from these changes as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bike Walk Alameda