

Hopkins Corridor Traffic and Placemaking Study

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1: VISIONING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Date of Meeting: October 22, 2020 | 5:30-7:15pm

City Staff Present: Beth Thomas; Farid Javandel; Ryan Murray; Eric Anderson; Dianne Yee; Matthew Cotterill; Jesus Contreras

Consultant Staff Present: Bruce Brubaker (PlaceWorks); Sarah Gronquist (PlaceWorks); Janet Chang (PlaceWorks); Patrick Golier (Parisi Transportation Consulting); Bri Adams (Parisi Transportation Consulting); Cathy Garrett (PGAdesign)

Elected Officials Present: Councilmember and Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn

Project Overview:

The Hopkins Corridor Traffic and Placemaking study will analyze traffic and safety conditions; include and balance “complete streets” improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit riders; and identify opportunities for greenery and community gathering along an approximately one-mile stretch of Hopkins Street, from Gilman Street to Sutter Street, in the heart of the North Berkeley neighborhood. This community workshop is one of three community workshops for the project.

Meeting Summary:

This first community workshop was held virtually over the Zoom platform due to the shelter-in-place orders for the coronavirus (COVID-19). About 70 people, not including project team staff, attended the virtual community workshop. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the community to the project, present an existing conditions analysis, and solicit discussion of vision, goals, and priorities for the project from community members.

Welcome and Introductions. City of Berkeley Vice Mayor and Councilmember Sophie Hahn welcomed attendees and introduced the project.

Poll: Icebreaker. The project team launched an icebreaker poll to participants to get a sense of participants’ affiliation to the project. The majority of participants identified themselves as North Berkeley residents. There were also a few North Berkeley business owners/employees and Berkeley residents who live outside of North Berkeley.

Presentation. Bruce Brubaker from PlaceWorks started the presentation. During the presentation, meeting participants were able to submit questions and comments to the project team that were later



answered during the question and answer portions of the meeting. The presentation included the following:

- Introduction of the project team and meeting agenda.
- Beth Thomas from the City presented on the project's background and purpose.
- Overview of the project scope and schedule.
- Explanation of what complete streets are, including their benefits and trade-offs.
- Review of the project's Draft Vision Statement and Goals.
- Findings from the project's Existing Conditions Assessment
 - Bruce Brubaker presented on existing land use and greening
 - Cathy Garrett presented on existing historic resources, including the North Branch Berkeley Public Library and streetcar lines
 - Patrick Golier presented on transportation findings, including collisions, traffic volumes, and existing street conditions/sections along the corridor

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS PROJECT?

- **Create a cohesive, safe, and effective multi-modal street**
- **Represent rich and diverse culture and features of the Northbrae neighborhood**
- **2017 Berkeley Bicycle Plan identified Hopkins Street as part of city's "low stress" bicycle network**
 - Considers a protected bikeway (cycle track)
 - Pending Complete Streets Corridor Study
- **Hopkins corridor is one of the city's "High Injury Streets"**
 - Disproportionate number of severe and fatal traffic collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists
- **Corridor serves as a neighborhood-scaled commercial center and a commute route for many drivers**
 - Youth and seniors use this corridor daily





HISTORIC RESOURCES

Hopkins Corridor: Historically Significant Features

- **1936 North Branch Berkeley Public Library**
 - Design by James W. Plachek, architect, in the Spanish revival style
 - Originally funded by Works Progress Administration
 - City of Berkeley Landmark designated in 2001

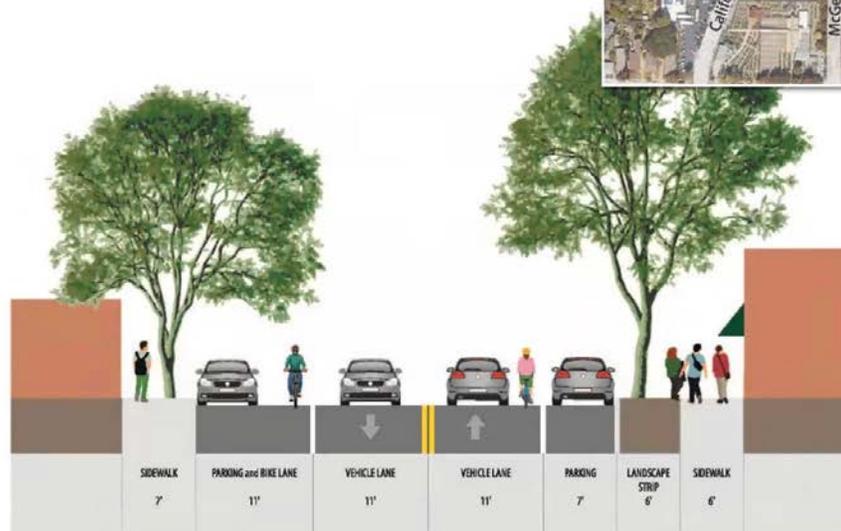
- **Streetcar lines as shapers of urban fabric**
 - Served by Southern Pacific and the Key System



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EXISTING STREET SECTIONS

SEGMENT B: HOPKINS CT. TO CARLOTTA AVE. (TYPICAL)



Total width = 59'

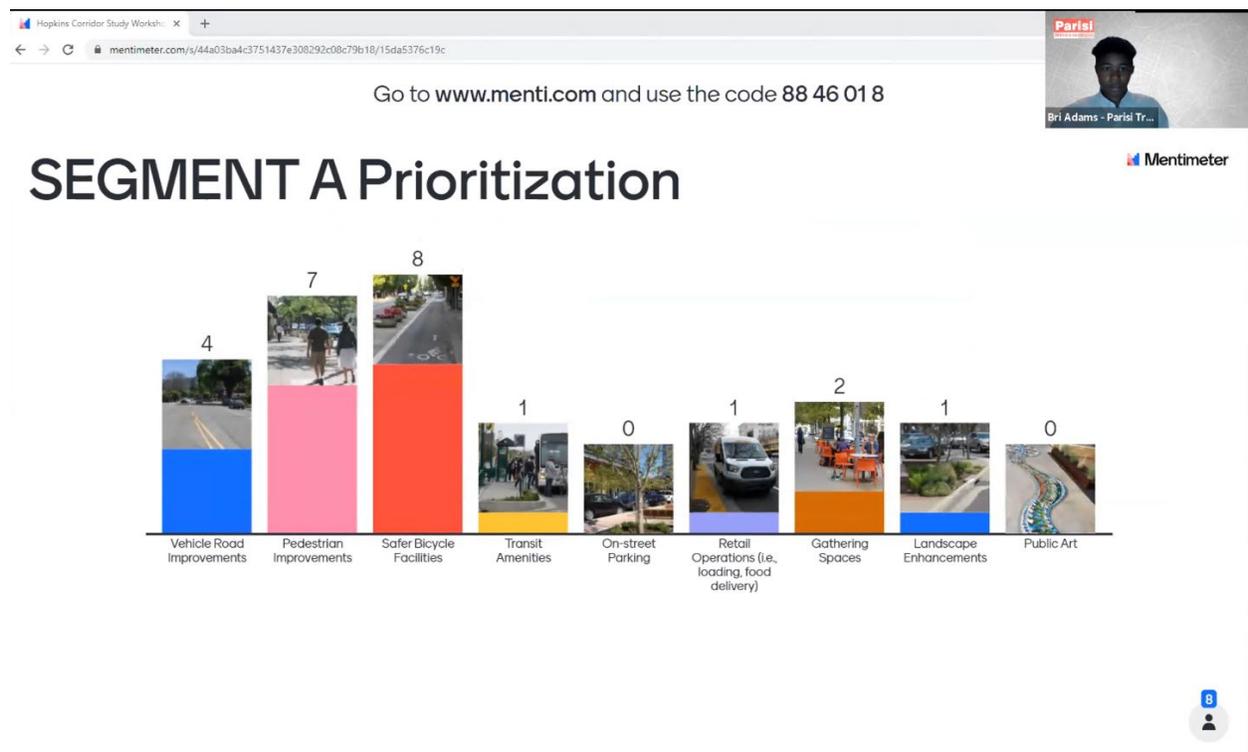
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its historic character.

Questions & Answers. Some questions were answered during the meeting, including those about traffic conditions, the relationship between this project and the City’s Pedestrian Plan, and timeline for project implementation. Project team staff including from the consultants and the City of Berkeley answered questions. All questions and comments collected during the meeting will be reviewed by the project team.

Small Groups. Meeting attendees were randomly divided into five small groups (breakout rooms) to participate in small group exercises and discussion. Each group had about 13 to 15 participants and was facilitated by project team staff. The first exercise was to solicit community input on the project’s Draft Vision Statement and Goals. For the second exercise, facilitators reviewed each of the four Hopkins corridor segments and asked participants to describe their experiences using that segment. Following the discussion for each corridor segment, facilitators asked the small group to participate in a prioritization poll (via an online tool called Mentimeter) to choose their top three complete streets improvements that should be implemented for each corridor segment. The menu of complete streets improvement options included vehicle road improvements, pedestrian improvements, safer bicycle facilities, transit amenities, on-street parking, loading areas, gathering spaces, landscape enhancements, and public art. Discussion points were recorded by City staff. Notes from each small group’s discussion are attached to this meeting summary. The results from each small group’s Mentimeter poll for the prioritization of complete streets improvements for each of the Hopkins corridor segments are provided on the following pages.

Report Back. The project team facilitator from each small group provided a brief summary of their group’s discussions and Mentimeter polling results to all meeting attendees.



Next Steps. The project team will review the community workshop input and work on preliminary design options for the Hopkins corridor. At the next community workshop, the project team will present the preliminary design options and seek feedback from the community. The workshop is anticipated to be virtual and occur in early 2021.