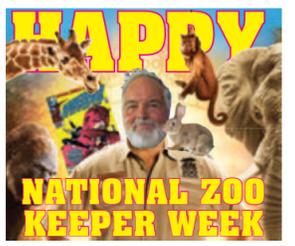


Alameda Sun

The *Official Newspaper* of the City of Alameda Vol. 21 No. 22 • July 21, 2022



The Alameda-Oakland Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge will allow bicyclists and pedestrians better connectivity between West Alameda and Oakland.

Alameda-Oakland Bridge Project Moves Forward

Nandini Sharma

On Tuesday, July 12, the City Council voted 4-1 to execute two contracts to complete the next planning phases for the Alameda-Oakland Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge. The approval of the city staff recommendation authorized two consultant firms to complete the Project Initiation Document (PID) for this project.

Earlier this year the city negotiated a contract with HNTB Consulting, a national infrastructure design firm with offices in San Jose and San Francisco, for \$1,350,000 to handle the PID phase services, according to the city staff report. The city also negotiated a \$200,000 contract with Arup, global design firm, to “further support the effort, provide specialized engineering expertise, and provide peer review services.”

Alameda’s Director of Building, Planning, and Transportation, Andrew Thomas, and the Budget Manager Rochelle Wheeler, spoke to the council about the item at the meeting. They stated

that the total amount needed for the PID, \$1.55 million, would be funded in full via a grant from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC).

According to Wheeler, this bridge will support a projected number of five to six thousand bicyclists and pedestrians each day. She also emphasized that last week CalTrans noted this project to be one of the top three in the region.

Thomas mentioned that this project “has regional support, because it has regional benefit.” He also stated that there would be opportunities for community check-ins in the future with advisory groups to take residents’ inputs into consideration. Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft supported the project’s potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the area, as well as reducing the negative health impacts on the residents in Oakland and Chinatown.

Councilmember Tony Daysog was the lone dissenting vote. He stated that he was “not sure if

it’s a wise way to spend taxpayer dollars,” indicating that the number of users mentioned for the bridge did not seem realistic. He also highlighted that the cost of the actual infrastructure may cost upwards of \$200 million, and was unsure if it was worth the price, despite the “excitement” for the project. He offered the alternative idea of creating water taxis at the estuary, which may present reduced costs and also asked for analyses on the impact of this project on the parking spaces in Alameda that may be potentially occupied by the stadium goers.

Councilmembers Trish Herrera Spencer and John Knox White voiced their support for the project, while acknowledging that the price was on the higher end. Spencer confirmed that the bridge would be accessible to disabled persons, by allowing for motorized bicycles, as well as accommodating to emergency suppliers.

White stated that this project is a “big step forward” toward

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Housing Authority to Turn Hotel into Affordable Housing Complex



Housing Authority of the City of Alameda

The Alameda Housing Authority purchased the Hawthorn Suites on Webster Street and intends to turn it into affordable housing units.

Sun Staff Reports

The Housing Authority of the City of Alameda (AHA) has negotiated a purchase and sale agreement of the Hawthorn Suites hotel at 1628 Webster Street.

AHA plans to adapt the existing Hawthorn Suites building into an affordable housing complex consisting of 50 studio apartments. The studios will serve a need for small affordable homes in a highly desirable location on the island, according to an AHA press release. A physical needs assessment has been completed by AHA.

AHA believes acquiring an existing structure instead of building a new construction is advantageous to the organization, the city and residents because it allows the Housing Authority to house low-income residents faster and more cost efficiently.

“AHA believes this is a unique opportunity to provide high quality affordable workforce housing in Alameda, we look forward to working with local businesses and the West Alameda Business Association, neighbors and local nonprofits on this project,” said Vanessa Cooper, AHA Executive Director.

AHA plans to start community outreach to local businesses and homeowners in early fall. Interested parties can sign up for email notifications at www.ahagroup.live (email list: Alameda Hotel conversion). This workforce housing development will serve

individuals with incomes between \$20,000 and \$60,000 per year, and 25% of the units will provide supportive housing with full onsite services.

The real estate acquisition is still subject to receiving state funding for the structure adaptation, which is expected to be determined by the end of the year. If the purchase is successful, AHA intends to honor existing commercial leases for the store front business located at this site.

AHA is a key member of the Webster Street neighborhood as the owner of more than 300 existing affordable homes in the adjacent community. Recently, AHA opened Rosefield Village on Buena Vista Avenue. Additionally, AHA serves as a critical ally of the City of Alameda as the city strives toward adding more housing and reaching the 2023-2031 Regional Housing Needs (RHNA) requirements.

AHA has provided housing assistance to low-income households for more than 80 years. The primary goal of the Housing Authority is to provide quality, affordable, and safe housing in the City of Alameda. AHA programs include Housing Choice Vouchers, Project-Based Vouchers, specialized housing assistance, family self-sufficiency, affordable real estate development, resident services, and management of AHA-owned property.

To learn more about AHA, visit www.alamedahsg.org.

New Infrastructure in the Pipeline at Alameda Point

Richard Bangert

Replacing the antiquated underground infrastructure at Alameda Point will be accomplished slowly through the sale of parcels owned by the city.

One major infrastructure project is now underway and is expected to take two and half years to complete. This \$31 million contract was awarded to A&B Construction in March 2022 and covers seven blocks through the heart of the former Navy base. The streets around two of the blocks will receive a deluxe upgrade to what is termed a “complete street.” This means that in addition to new underground utilities, storm water lines, and sewer lines, there will also be a natural filtration system for storm water runoff, bike lanes, transit stops, street lighting, and full landscaping. The other nearby blocks will only receive new water lines due

to lack of funding.

This project is funded by the sale of individual buildings at Alameda Point that are meant to be reused and not torn down. The exception is that buildings can be torn down as long as the replacement structure conforms to the architectural character of the historic district. To date, five properties have been sold, bringing in \$31 million, which covers this current phased infrastructure upgrade.

The need for the city to begin now with infrastructure upgrades on streets serving individual property owners was triggered by an agreement with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) for the city to replace water lines when buildings are sold, according to Public Works Director Erin Smith.

The center of construction activity this summer and into

the fall is at a two-block section of West Tower Avenue, the main thoroughfare leading to the former Navy aircraft hangars.

“The street is anticipated to be re-opened in December,” said Smith. “However, the improvements will not be complete. Once we have the underground utilities in and road paved, we can re-open the street and continue to work on the street lighting, landscaping and other finished improvements.”

The streets around the remaining blocks that will receive new water facilities as part of this contract will remain open during construction of those utilities.

“As additional funding is available, we will design and construct the remaining underground utilities and ultimately new surface improvements, including street

PIPELINE: Page 2



Richard Bangert

View of infrastructure work now underway on West Tower Avenue at Alameda Point. Businesses effected by the road closure are continuing to operate. San Francisco skyline in the background.



City of Alameda

City News Briefs

Estuary Park Receives Grant

Alameda’s Estuary Park will receive \$2.5 million under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, as part of California State Parks’ initiative to develop local parks.

Estuary Park will receive the funding to construct a new basketball court, Bankshot court (a basketball hoop system designed for all ages and people with disabilities), pickleball court, playground, dog park, picnic area, landscaping, pathway lighting, restroom and parking lot.

According to the California Department of Parks and Recreation’s press release from July 6, this recommendation was given to the National Parks

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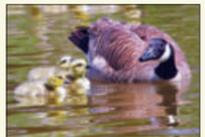
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Canadian geese; why they stick around all year.



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Lisa Coto

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July 22	6:04	20:26
July 23	6:05	20:26
July 24	6:06	20:25
July 25	6:07	20:24
July 26	6:07	20:23
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