

Supplemental Communications (2)

(The following are communications received after noon and before 4pm on **September 1.**)

Communication

From: Bereket Abraham <babraham42@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:27 PM

To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: New housing near BART stations

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I'm submitting a public comment about the recent plan to add more housing near BART stations in Berkeley. As a resident of North Oakland, I can attest to the importance of affordable housing near public transit. These points summarize my beliefs:

- The Bay Area faces a severe housing shortage, and it is incumbent upon all of us to create the new homes we need to create equity and affordability.
- Housing people is more important than community character. We cannot exempt communities from doing their part in creating housing to protect their exclusionary past.
- Housing near transit is a key to achieving our shared climate goals. As the state's portion of carbon emissions increasingly come from cars, we must put homes near transit to encourage transit use.

Thank you!

Bereket Abraham

Communication

From: Lee Bishop <bishoplm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: BART housing comment for planning comission

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I cannot attend tonight's planning meeting, but want to send my comment. I am very excited about the new housing proposed at the BART stations. I live a half mile from N Berkeley BART and am especially excited about that development.

I hope the planing prioritizes building the maximum number of new homes possible. If a lot fo those can be permanently affordable, that would be great, but we're at an incredible shortage of all kinds of homes, even market rate. So more market rate homes would be great. I'm excited about those homes being near public transit so that the development doesn't have to include parking spaces. I would love to densify our neighborhood to make public transit options more viable and commonly used (i.e. more and more frequent bus lines around the neighborhood).

Thank you,
Lee

Communication

From: Dan Brown <dan.brown5@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Planning Commission comments

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm a Berkeley resident and homeowner and I'm writing to voice my support for allowing more development and housing across Berkeley. The reasons why are:

- The Bay Area faces a severe housing shortage, and it is incumbent upon all of us to create the new homes we need to create equitable and affordable neighborhoods.
- Housing people is more important than so-called "community character." We cannot continue to let communities maintain the status quo of exclusionary zoning.
- Creating new homes near transit is key to achieving our shared climate goals. As the state's portion of carbon emissions increasingly come from cars, we must build homes near transit to encourage transit use.

Thank you,
Dan Brown

Communication

From: Kevin Burke <kevin@burke.dev>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Support maximum possible density at North Berkeley BART

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

It is hard to imagine a location for people to live that has lower emissions than right on top of a BART station. I have friends who live in Berkeley and who are looking to buy their first home and I personally would love to live there in the future. More housing will help make things affordable for them and for us.

Honestly I think the city should consider density of 200 apartments per acre on this site with no parking but short of that the plans being proposed are great.

Kevin

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Kevin Burke
phone: 925-271-7005 | kevin.burke.dev

Communication

-----Original Message-----

From: Jordan Burns <jordanpburns13@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:41 PM

To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: Please maximize housing near Bart stations

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a Bay Area resident who works in Berkeley but cannot afford to live there. I fully support maximizing housing on the Berkeley BART stations. The housing shortage in the Bay Area is making life very difficult for a lot of folks. I hear excuse after excuse why we can't build more housing, whether it's complaints about views or community character, and honestly it's time to stop making excuses. It's time to build the much needed housing people need. Building dense housing near transit is the best thing we could be doing right now. It lessens our housing crisis, it lets folks move into and area where they can live car free if they choose, and it creates more ridership for our transit systems. Please do everything possible to maximize the number of homes built near BART.

Thank you,

Jordan Burns

Communication

From: Janet Byron <janetlesliebyron@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Planning Commission meeting tonight - We need to maximize housing at transit stations!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm writing to strongly support the maximum number of housing units possible at Berkeley BART stations. The areas around our stations are currently dead zones, surrounded by acres of parking. Who loves a parking lot? Not me! Let's make them places for people to live, work, and shop, rather than places for 3-ton vehicles to park.

Sincerely,
Janet Byron (car-free home owner 1/2 mile from North Berkeley BART)

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Janet Byron
1435 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-495-4999

The second edition of [Berkeley Walks](#) is here!

Communication

From: Travis Close <travis.close@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: Vanessa Böhm <boehmvanessa@gmail.com>
Subject: More Housing of All Types Needed at North Berkeley BART Station

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Berkeley Planning Commission,

I am a Berkeley resident who lives within walking and biking distances of the North Berkeley BART Station (NBB). I am urging Berkeley and BART to support more housing at NBB. Specifically, NBB should be developed to at least eight stories with as little parking as possible, such as a unit-to-parking ratio of 5:1 or less.

We are currently in a housing crisis and climate crisis. One proven way to address *both of these crises simultaneously* is by building more housing in areas well-served by transit. In Berkeley we are a welcoming community, but unfortunately we haven't built enough housing for all the jobs created in our area. As a result, the vast majority of us who are unable to afford a \$1.4 million home do not have many housing options. The rest of us are left competing for the few rental units that do exist. We now have the opportunity to welcome more neighbors to Berkeley by maximizing the amount of units of all types at NBB, including both affordable and market-rate units.

Fires, hurricanes, flooding -- our world is seeing the effects of climate change, but this is only the beginning. To meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions we must reduce the largest contributor to GHGs in the US: private automobiles. A proven way to reduce driving is by building more housing near transit, where residents do not need to own a vehicle to get around. Furthermore, we must also take steps to reduce our energy and water use to conserve future scarce resources in California. We know that apartment units use significantly less energy and water per capita than single family homes, which will go a long way to making our community more resilient to climate change.

For all these reasons I am urging you to support more housing at North Berkeley BART, including development to at least eight stories while minimizing the amount of parking built.

Sincerely,
Travis Close

Communication

From: Ariella Granett <granett.ariella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Pearson, Alene
Cc: All Council
Subject: BART Housing-Planning Commission Item 9

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

We are facing hard times with wildfires burning across the state. It's clear we will need more housing for people displaced by climate change, in addition to the shortages we already face. Dense housing at transit is a key climate solution. Let's get going on this!

Let's create places to call home for all who need it and a safe, thriving new hub of activity in the heart of our neighborhood!

I would like to express my support for:

- Building as much housing as possible without Nobody!
- Creating a viable development with as many affordable housing units as feasible, and a right to return for displaced residents;
- Calming traffic and reducing the number of lanes on Adeline St. to ensure a safe environment for all South Berkeley Residents;
- Ensuring a permanent home for the Flea Market that allows it to thrive
- Including affordable ground space for local businesses and non-profits.

Please keep this process moving. We need housing NOW!

Sincerely,
Ariella Granett
District 3 resident

Communication

From: Andrea Horbinski <andrea.horbinski@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:25 PM

To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: Comment in support of BART housing

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to take the time to voice my support for building housing at North Berkeley and Ashby BART. I'm a renter who's lived in the area for 10+ years and calling people like me "transients" is a deliberate insult to everyone who isn't a homeowner. Housing should be for homes, not for investment properties.

In particular, I strongly urge you to support:

- Eight story developments or the legal maximum at both sites
- people, not parking. We need space for as many homes as possible, not for private automobile storage, especially at a transit-oriented development. NO parking at these sites!
- maximizing homes at a transit-oriented development site fights climate change by contributing to infill housing and driving up density.
- increased density means more neighbors and a stronger, more vibrant community!
- Mixed income developments, as these should be, means greater diversity and inclusion in our community and means that people who already live in Berkeley can afford to live there (also combatting climate change by cutting down on commuting). I've had very different income levels over the years but changes in my tax bracket do not have any bearing on whether I or anyone else deserve to have housing or make a good neighbor. Housing is a human right and we want more neighbors in Berkeley!

In conclusion, thank you again for your support of mixed-income, dense development with no parking at these sites. Our community and our planet need these homes.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horbinski, PhD

Communication

From: Eileen Hughes <jnyahsgrandma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Fwd: Housing at NB BART: Planning Commission meeting tomorrow (Wed) 7 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please note that I strongly support the approach described in Tony's email (below).

I am unable to attend the meeting this evening. I hope this opinion can be forwarded to the PC .

Thx
Eileen Hughes
1721 Sacramento Street

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: North Berkeley Neighborhood Alliance <nbneighborhoodalliance@gmail.com>
Date: September 1, 2021 at 10:28:58 AM PDT
To: Eileen Hughes <jnyahsgrandma@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Housing at NB BART: Planning Commission meeting tomorrow (Wed) 7 PM

Hi Eileen! [Click here](#) for details about email to the PC. Thanks for speaking up; time is getting short for us!

On Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 9:51 AM Eileen Hughes <jnyahsgrandma@gmail.com> wrote:

Tony,

If we cannot attend, so should we email with our concerns?

Thx
Eileen

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 31, 2021, at 11:22 AM, North Berkeley Neighborhood Alliance
<nbneighborhoodalliance@gmail.com> wrote:

[Agenda](#) and [Zoom link](#)

This is a briefing, and the Planning Commission will make its zoning recommendation at the next meeting, which has yet to be scheduled. There will be time for public comment. If you can attend and comment:

Ask the Commission to recommend that the minimums imposed by AB2923 are also the maximums. A 7- to 11-story envelope for a mostly market-rate rental development at BART stations is already at odds with the surrounding neighborhood, so let's not make it bigger!

BART's current intent is to create 1200 units of housing at each station. For reference, the MacArthur Tower is about 400 units.

Remember that the majority of the units are market rate rentals, with a target of 35% affordable. The City would benefit far more if the development were as close to 100% affordable as possible.

Also note: this land was once covered with family-owned homes, enabling families to build equity and pass it along to the next generation, and building community. What will replace them are "units," corporate-owned rentals with no path to ownership, generating shareholder profits if the project succeeds, with a more transient population. The argument that these are homes is specious.

Please come and speak if you can. This is the last phase before the City zones the sites at the end of next month (September). After zoning, BART holds most of the cards, and any developer it chooses has a vested right to build to the zoning; the City will have no recourse for challenging a compliant but undesirable project! The pro-development folks *want* towers on the site, so neighbors must continue to speak up for a sanely scaled project at North Berkeley BART!

All the best from your neighbor,

Tony

Communication

From: Celeste Kamiya <celeste.kamiya96@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Public comment for tonight's Planning Committee meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

Here is my written public comment for tonight's meeting:

My name is Celeste Kamiya, and my family has lived in the Bay Area for generations. I've lived in Berkeley for 3 years, near my grandmother, Dorothy Walker, who has spent most of her life trying to make housing more accessible in Berkeley. The issue was incredibly important to her and my family — in 1950, she married my grandfather, a Japanese man, and the two were forced to look for housing only in the western half of the city, because people of color and interracial families like mine were not allowed to reside east of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (then Grove Street). Now, even though explicit racial redlining has been illegal for more than 50 years, it's easy to see that subtler, less obvious forms of discriminatory housing restrictions have kept the status quo largely intact. I live in Southwest Berkeley, and when I walk east or north, it is painfully obvious that Berkeley's history of zoning laws has kept certain areas rich and white, and certain areas poor and diverse.

My grandmother broke racial and gender barriers in her career-long effort to make Berkeley's housing denser, more affordable, and more diverse. Recently, when I went to her house for dinner, she remarked that "Everything I've devoted my life to doing has come to nothing." She, and I, continue to be appalled and disappointed that the citizens of Berkeley, one of the most progressive cities in the U.S., aren't just NIMBYs, they're BANANAs: Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone. We are in the middle of a profound, deadly serious housing shortage. If we want Berkeley to become an elite, mostly-white, unaffordable gated community, then there's no reason to change. But my guess is that most Berkeley-ites choose to live here because of our city's radical history and culture of equality and inclusion. That culture will cease to exist unless we build denser, more affordable housing. You don't get to call yourself a progressive and be against more housing for more people. The two don't go together.

For those of you who are worried about increased housing changing the "character" of the neighborhood, I would urge you to consider this: the City of Berkeley prohibited people of color from living east of MLK for decades precisely because integration would drastically change the "character" of the neighborhood. It was a closed-minded, prejudiced excuse then, and it isn't any better now.

Late Communications
Planning Commission
September 1, 2021

I feel passionately about seeing Berkeley actively combat the housing crisis, if not in my grandmother's lifetime, then in mine. These plans for affordable housing at Berkeley's transit centers are a fantastic start, and I look forward to seeing (and pushing for) more like this in the future.

Thank you very much for your time,

Celeste Kamiya

--

Celeste Kamiya

YMTC Casting Director/Outreach Coordinator

(415) 940-3623

she/her

Communication

From: Sidharth Kapur <sidharthkapur1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: In support of 8 stories at North Berkeley and Ashby BART!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I'm an Oakland resident and volunteer with East Bay YIMBY and East Bay for Everyone, and I'm writing in **strong support** of the BART TOD projects at North Berkeley and Ashby stations. Please do everything you can to maximize the number of units and number of affordable units that can be built. The project should be 8 stories as planned.

Projects like this are the solution for our region's housing shortage. In a region with significant transportation problems, building housing near transit stations can ensure that new residents will have a good commute and will be able to live their lives without causing more traffic or emissions. By taking cars off the street, and adding families and children to a senescent Berkeley neighborhood, this project will help preserve neighborhood character. Other cities in the East Bay have built transit-oriented housing near their BART stations, and it's only fair that Berkeley, one of the richest cities in the area, also contributes.

Thanks,
Sidharth

Communication

From: Elana Naftalin-Kelman <elanank@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>; Kesarwani, Rashi <RKesarwani@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: building at north berkeley BART

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Planners:

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City and BART says:

"...the Berkeley City Council acknowledges the unique neighborhood characteristics of each BART station and expresses its intent to incorporate a station-specific design that is sensitive to the existing single-family (R-1) and two-family (R-2) residential zoning directly adjacent to the North Berkeley BART station." (p 23)

And:

"The site should create a visual and physical connection with the neighborhood through its architectural design, height, and scale. In particular, we seek a development that considers the character and context of the neighborhood and steps down in height around the perimeter of the station (with consideration for the varying width of streets around the station) in order to blend in visually and physically with the residential neighborhood. Such a design honors a common theme of many of the designs submitted as part of the October 2018 visioning event. We also seek reasonable spacing between buildings, setbacks, and plantings at the perimeter of the station." (p 25)

I urge you to make sure that this language, originated by District 1 City Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, is preserved in the Joint Visions and Priorities document currently being finalized. The City must keep its commitment to the community that any development fits the scale of the surrounding neighborhood.

Thank you,

Elana Naftalin-Kelman (1680 Short St.)

Lapira, Katrina

From: yonatan landau <ylandau1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: North Berkeley BART resident - MORE HOUSING NOW

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello - I live on Cedar and California and want to see more housing near North Berkeley BART. There are fantastic parks for me and my young daughter and it's a wonderful community. More people should get to enjoy it with us.

Thank you.

--

Yoni Landau

Founder

[Contest Every Race](#)

CEO

[Movement Labs](#)

c. 5102073850

Is this email about getting on the phone? Schedule me here: www.calendly.com/theyni

Communication

From: Betsy Porter <betsyhartporter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support housing near BART stations

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

The East Bay (and especially Berkeley) is an extremely attractive place to live! It attracts plenty of high-status, high-income people!

And where they are, many others follow: health care workers, food service workers, construction workers, transportation workers, school teachers, fire fighters and police. All of us in the East Bay depend on these people! But many have difficulty finding housing in the local market, and many cannot afford cars.

Housing at transit centers will provide convenient and relatively affordable homes for our essential service workers. Don't let the NIMBY's prevent it!

Elizabeth H. Porter
401 Santa Clara Ave, Oakland, CA 94610

Communication

From: Matthew Solomon <matthew.solomon1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Pearson, Alene
Subject: Comments on North Berkeley / Ashby BART Housing Proposal

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Berkeley Planning Commission,

I am writing regarding tonight's commission hearing on the North Berkeley / Ashby BART housing proposals. I have provided input before at the CAG and previous planning commission meetings, and want to advocate for the following as it relates to these proposals:

- The priority should be maximizing this space as much as possible - this means that we should **maximize the number of affordable housing units**, not the percentage. This is one of Berkeley's best opportunities to build new housing in one go without the neighborhood disruption that so many fear - we should take advantage of that as much as possible.
- My preferred path to get there would be a **mixed income development** - I love the diversity of Berkeley and this is the best way to make sure that the city builds density sustainably and fairly. In addition, the market-rate units will help pay for more affordable units, which is the whole point of building more housing! This means both different levels of affordability and market-rate, but also different sizes and types of apartments, access for differently abled folks, space for adults and kids to be outside and play, etc.
- The building should be as tall as is feasible - again, this is going to be one of the cheapest opportunities Berkeley has to increase its housing stock, and we should take full advantage now so that we're not stuck getting caught up to our RHNA allocation later. This means **at least 8 stories**, but the more the better!
- In order to achieve this density, the development should have **as little parking as possible**. The housing will be directly next to a BART stop, and for both Ashby and North Berkeley within easy walking/biking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, shops, etc. Reducing the parking as much as possible - even to zero - will make it easier and cheaper to include more units (including affordable), reduce traffic in the rest of Berkeley, and thereby reduce Berkeley's climate impact.
 - More transit and bike access to these developments will be crucial and has a substantially lower environmental impact than driving.
 - The extra money gained by adding housing units instead of parking can go to building out this infrastructure and funding other crucial city services.

I appreciate all of your hard work in getting community input.

Best,
Matthew Solomon

Communication

From: Joan Starr <joanbstarr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: Joan Starr gmail <joanbstarr@gmail.com>
Subject: Public Comment regarding Housing at North Berkeley BART

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Pearson,
I am submitting the following as a public comment:

The Bay Area faces a severe housing shortage. In fact, many of the people who work here--teachers, first responders, service workers--can't afford to live here. This shameful situation can only be addressed by the creation of as many new affordable homes as possible, with equitable access baked in. I've lived in Berkeley for a long time, and I know that, from time to time, Berkeley gets out front on an issue. Let's do that again.

Regards,
Joan Starr
1635 California St.

Communication

From: Jordan Harrison <jordanjeanine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: YES to housing on BART lots

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Berkeley Planning Commission:

I am adding my agreement with other YIMBY neighbors to support housing and growth on the BART lots. As you know:

- The Bay Area faces a severe housing shortage, and it is incumbent upon all of us to create the new homes we need to create equity and affordability.
- Housing people is more important than community character. We cannot exempt communities from doing their part in creating housing to protect their exclusionary past.
- Housing near transit is a key to achieving our shared climate goals. As the state's portion of carbon emissions increasingly come from cars, we must put homes near transit to encourage transit use.

Please don't cave to the exclusionary anti change people!

Jordan Harrison

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Communication

From: Vicki <vickisommer@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 3:29 PM

To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>; Shen, Alisa <AShen@cityofberkeley.info>; Kesarwani, Rashi <RKesarwani@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: Written public comment for tonight's planning commission meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I live in North Berkeley and I agree that housing at the North Berkeley BART station is a good idea. I also have attended many if not most of the public meetings pertaining to this project. To cut to the chase, this development can serve the greater community and the North Berkeley Neighborhood by making the required (by AB2923) minimums, the zoned maximums.

This would be a compromise for both sides, as the minimum zoning is 7 stories. . We in the neighborhood have consistently voiced our need for this development to not exceed 4-5 stories. A taller development will negatively impact our lives with increased traffic, inability to park our own cars on our own street, reduced privacy, shading of surrounding homes, removal the view enjoyed by everyone walking west or recreating in Ohlone park - just to name a few of the issues.

BART's current intent is to create 1200 units of housing at each station. For reference, the MacArthur Tower is about 400 units.

BART is planning to build only 35% of the units as "affordable". Berkeley does not need any more market rate apartments.

The City would benefit far more if the development were as close to 100% affordable as possible, with a wide range of affordability.

Also note: this land was once covered with family-owned homes, enabling families to build equity and pass it along to the next generation, and building community. What will replace them are "units," corporate-owned rentals with no path to ownership, generating shareholder profits if the project succeeds.

We need city officials to act and zone in a manner that will prevent BART from simply monetizing our neighborhood and erecting an out of context/out of scale money-maker for BART.

Sincerely,

V.Sommer

94703

Communication

From: Warren Wells <warrenjwells@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Comment on Item #9 of 9/1/2021 Planning Commission

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Warren Wells and I am renter in District 3 of the City of Berkeley. My home station is Ashby BART, which I use at least once a week for both work and other travel (I do not own a car).

I am writing in strong support of as many units as possible at Ashby BART. Housing for people is more important than parking for cars, and I urge the commission to minimize parking and maximize new neighbors!

Research shows that allowing people to live in dense, transit-supportive environments (like Ashby BART!) leads to low per capita GHG footprints. Berkeley is a perfect place to welcome people, including those whose families have been priced out and have only been able to find housing in Antioch or the Central Valley.

That all being said, I have no opposition to tall buildings (8 stories seems like the minimum we should have overtop of a train station) and I do not oppose including market rate units in the building. People of all income levels should be able to live next to one another.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration

--

Warren J. Wells, AICP
Cell: 410-703-9898
Email: warrenjwells@gmail.com