

Supplemental Communications (3)

(The following are communications received
after noon on **December 2.**)

Lapira, Katrina

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

From: John Hitchen [mailto:johnhitchen@outlook.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Environmental Impact of Housing at North Berkeley BART

WARNING: This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.
DO NOT CLICK ON links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Alene,

I have lived in Berkeley for nearly 50 years, lived in North Berkeley for nearly 40 years, and have been a homeowner here for 35 years.

Before the Pandemic, my wife and I used this Station fairly frequently; and due to nearly always full parking lots, had to walk an average of six blocks to find non-resident parking.

This is one of the quietest, and perhaps the least dense of all Berkeley neighborhoods. People bought their homes here because of the open skies and uncrowded character of the nearby neighborhood.

The impact of anything even close to 1200 units of housing will destroy the peaceful suburban feel.

Furthermore, unless the quantity of existing parkings spaces is maintained, my wife and I will probably never again be able use BART without driving an outlying station with more parking.

BART was not approved by voters so that it could go into the housing business, and to destroy every neighborhood unfortunate enough to have hi-rise mega apartment complexes built at its BART station.

Living near BART used to be a good thing-now it will turn quiet neighborhoods into urban hubs for the benefit only of people who don't currently live here.

Finally, with the current housing trend of people leaving large urban areas, and the reduction in service industries catering to their needs; this housing may prove to not even be needed. It is not close enough to the University to be useful for most students or employees.

I am somewhat reserved to the idea that there being some housing built here, but 500 or 600 units would overwhelm the area so completely, and building multi-story parking garages similar to Del Norte Station would allow Seniors, the Disabled, and others to continue to use this station.

North Berkeley BART is not a logical place to build a huge housing complex. At least pare it down to a large housing complex-perhaps constructing one building at a time.

A Deeply Concerned Citizen,

John Hitchen
845 Oxford Street

Lapira, Katrina

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

From: Cece Littlepage [mailto:cecelittlepage@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Environmental study for NB BART development

WARNING: This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.
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Dear Planning Commission-

As a neighbor of the NB BART station, I have many concerns about the proposed development, some of them environmental. Let me explain.

Solar considerations. Depending upon the architectural design, at least some sun will be blocked from adjacent houses at 7 stories, at 11 stories the effect will be enough to affect nearby solar installations. For neighbors having to live in the shadow of a high-rise, both quality of life and property values will be negatively impacted.

Vehicle pollution. Although the developers want to limit available off street parking, they are also pushing the city to provide RPPs for the development's residents. If both are approved, our streets will be flooded with additional cars spewing pollution. There will potentially be hundreds of cars added to our existing load of neighborhood vehicles. This is no joke, more cars = more pollution = more health problems for neighbors. This is both a health and a quality of life issue.

Noise pollution. The bigger the development, the bigger the additional noise in the neighborhood ,and the bigger the impact on the well-being of neighbors. Presently our neighborhood is remarkably quiet, which improves the quality of life for residents and positively affects real estate values. Noise pollution is serious business. Besides affecting human health, it also has a significant impact on our native wildlife.

I prevail upon you to include quality of life and health considerations in your environmental study. The future of our neighborhood is at stake!

Sincerely,
Cecelia Littlepage
1618 Acton St, Berk

Lapira, Katrina

From: Andrew Livsey <alivsey51@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: North Berkeley BART: 1200 Units

WARNING: This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.
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Ms. Pearson,

Ms. Shen,

My understanding is that the City is considering approving the construction of 1,200 housing units at the North Berkeley BART site.

Have you ever visited this neighborhood, Ms. Pearson? I've lived here since 1982, and it seems to me that the addition of so many people (and a building large enough to house them) would create an incredible amount of congestion, and change a neighborhood that's been here for nearly 100 years into something unrecognizable.

Everywhere I go now in or around the downtown area, 3 and 4- story buildings are being torn down and replaced by large apartment buildings. What is this mania? And what's the deal with the enormous hotel at Center and Shattuck? Are so many people really clamoring to come to Berkeley? Has the City government lost it's collective mind?

There have been many meetings about this BART station, and I've attended a lot of them. Yet now as we approach the beginning of the end (or end of the beginning) of this process of consultations between the people of Berkeley and the City, and between the City and BART, I and many of my neighbors still do not feel heard. And that's because this "process" is feeling like a sham. Since AB 2923 was passed the writing has been on the wall: Transit Oriented Development is the appointed order— the feelings of long-time residents be damned.

Still, if you haven't done so (and perhaps you have, I'd like to believe), you should come spend some time here— walk around the block facing the station, and see and hear the peace that's about to be lost in this process.

Sincerely,

Andrew Livsey
1724 Acton Street

Lapira, Katrina

From: PERETZ WOLF-PRUSAN <wolfprusan@mac.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11:25 AM

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

Subject: North Berkeley BART Project

WARNING: This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.

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On March 15th 2018 our North Berkeley Community was invited to a Town Hall meeting "about the suitability of the main North Berkeley BART lot as a site for housing". It was hosted by Mayor Arreguin, then Dist 1 rep Linda Maio, and BART Board reps Rebecca Saltzman and Val Minatti.

The presentation's power point displayed 2-5 story developments.

The community, appreciating the need for housing, and being unaware of BART's 2017 TOD Guidelines, and being influenced by the visuals in BART's presentation, did not overwhelmingly oppose providing housing at this site.

Did Rebecca Saltzman and Val Minatti intentionally withheld the 2017 BART TOD Guidelines from the community that night. Was Mayor Arreguin aware of them?

The 2017 BART TOD Guidelines were only made public after they were codified into law by AB2923. A law written by BART.

Now we hear the City is looking at 1200 units. We strongly oppose this proposal.

b and p

Becki and Peretz Wolf-Prusan
1360 Francisco Street
Berkeley, CA 94702

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