



Albany Strollers and Rollers
524 Talbot Avenue
Albany, CA 94706

9 February 2017

Alameda County Transportation Commission

Re: proposed I-80 overpass at Gilman Avenue

Dear Commissioners,

Albany Strollers and Rollers (AS&R) appreciates that neither CalTrans nor MTC chose to fund ACTC's application to Cycle 3 of the California Active Transportation Program for over \$8 million to build a proposed active transportation overpass of I-80 at Gilman Avenue in Berkeley. As evidenced by the attached letter sent to you previously, there is broad community opposition to the overpass design ACTC proposed.

AS&R has learned of an active transportation overpass with an instructive design history just eight km (five mi.) north of Gilman Avenue. Reconstruction of the interchange of San Pablo Dam Road and I-80 necessitated replacing the existing active transportation overpass. The responsible agency engaged with the community regarding the design of the new overpass. The community requested the overpass extend over the frontage road rather than touching down between that road and the freeway, as did the old overpass. The agency listened and the new overpass has been so completed (<http://www.ccta.net/uploads/532c98af164ec.pdf>).

In contrast, ACTC did not engage the community in the design of the overpass at Gilman, and applied for substantial funding to build an overpass whose entrance was between the frontage road and the freeway. This threatened to make the same mistake that was just corrected at San Pablo Dam Road and I-80 a short distance to the north. Placing the active transportation overpass north of Gilman and extending it over the Eastshore Highway instead would allow younger people to bike and walk between University Village, the nearby athletic fields, and the waterfront without crossing Gilman or Eastshore Highway.

AS&R asks that you, our representatives, direct ACTC to pursue a community process for design of the proposed overpass. AS&R understands that such a process may not result in all the community's desires being met, but if a genuine process is engaged it will result in a design more likely to garner community support and serve the community well. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to reach me at pdjordan@lbl.gov or 510 418-9660.

Respectfully,

Preston Jordan
Co-founder
Albany Strollers and Rollers

AS&R is a service and advocacy group founded in 2004 to support active transportation in Albany. It has 650 member households.