



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 12, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Arreguín

Subject: Budget Referral: BART Station Environmental Planning

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the budget process \$250,000 for BART station planning. This budget allocation will allow the initiation of environmental review required as part of developing and adopting zoning for the Ashby and North Berkeley BART Stations that is in conformance with Assembly Bill 2923.

BACKGROUND

Based on the requirements of State law, the City is considering determining zoning and site parameters for both the Ashby and North Berkeley BART Stations [see the May 2019 Public Review Draft of the Adeline Corridor Specific Plan; Chapter 2 (2-22) and Policy 3.7 (3-22)¹, and the North Berkeley BART Development Goals and Objectives²], in conformance with AB 2923³.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), environmental review is necessary for zoning changes and the establishment of new zoning. Initiating environmental review early in the process helps the City incorporate environmental concerns and opportunities.

The total cost for environmental review of planning and zoning for the Ashby and North Berkeley Stations will exceed the allocation put forward in this item. City staff is pursuing various funding sources such as state grants. This allocation will allow Staff to move forward with environmental planning while seeking additional sources of funding.

¹ [Adeline Corridor Specific Plan, Public Review Draft, May 2019](#) [PDF]

² [North Berkeley BART Development Goals and Objectives](#)

³ [Text of AB 2923, Chiu. San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District: transit-oriented development](#)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$250,000

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The large surface parking lots at the Ashby and North Berkeley BART Stations currently prioritize vehicle parking which is not an optimal environmental use of scarce, transit-adjacent land. By re-zoning these sites to allow for housing and improved multimodal access, the City Council is acting on its goals to address the Climate Emergency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle miles traveled.

CONTACT

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