

## Public Meeting #2: Alcatraz/Adeline Restroom Project

Date: 02/18/2025

The public meeting contains questions from attendees regarding the Alcatraz/ Adeline Restroom Installation Project. The Key concerns raised include

1. Support for restroom installation: Expresses happiness about the long-awaited restroom project. Also mentioned presenting evidence (bottles of brown fluid) to the council years ago to highlight the issue.
2. Dog Park Request: suggests converting the campsite near BART into a dog park to prevent pets from damaging flower beds.  
ANSWER: PRW has developed conceptual designs, which include a park design and dog park. The inclusion of dog park was a strong request from neighborhood during previous community meetings.
3. Decision Status: I am learning about this restroom for the first time, has the decision already been made to install a restroom at this location, or public opinion still open for discussion?  
ANSWER: Council approved a restroom at this location in 2021 as part of T1 project approvals. During T1 phase 1, a wash study identified this site as one of the top three priority locations for public restrooms in the city. In T1 phase 2, council approved a total of nine public restrooms in the city. Public works have been working to finalize site selection in the area. In community meeting #1, the Northeast corner was the preferred location.
4. Maintaining Lorin District Progress:
  - a. Community has worked hard to clean and maintain Lorin district. What measures are in place to ensure that the restroom installation does not lead to negative consequences on the progress made?  
ANSWER: The restroom is designed to support the community's efforts to maintain cleanliness and improve hygiene in the area. It is designed with features that prioritize upkeep and sanitation, including a self-cleaning system that activates after a set number of uses. Additionally, it will be professionally serviced a minimum of three times per day to ensure it remains clean, safe, and does not interfere from the progress made.
  - b. How can you ensure that installing the restroom will not negatively impact the progress made to improving the district?  
ANSWER: Public Works is coordinating closely with Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront, as well as engaging with the local community, to ensure that the restroom supports ongoing efforts to improve the district. The focus is on enhancing hygiene and public access while maintaining the positive momentum of the area's development.
5. Site Selection
  - a. Why is this restroom being placed in a primarily residential area where homeowners already have bathrooms? Who is this restroom intended to serve?  
ANSWER: This restroom is intended for transit riders, shoppers, outdoor workers, unhoused, residents and the broader community who rely on accessible public restroom.
  - b. What were the selection criteria, and how were the sites selected?

ANSWER: The selection of this restroom was based on a comprehensive process that included community input, data analysis and council approval. It was identified as one of the most critical areas in need of public restroom access.

- c. Is this the only project of its kind in Berkeley? Will a similar project be implemented on the north side of town?

ANSWER: No, the City installed a Portland Loo public restroom on Channing Way near Telegraph Ave. Per the WASH assessment, Northwest Berkeley, Downtown, Telegraph and South Adeline are in the most need based on data collected from interviews, community meetings, discussions with homeless support organizations, and an online survey.

6. Usage Tracking and Effectiveness:

- a. What are the expectations regarding the number of people using the facility?

ANSWER: This area was identified as a high-need area through the WASH assessment, which prioritized it as one of the top three locations lacking adequate restroom access. While exact usage numbers can vary, the selection was based on data indicating a consistently high level of foot traffic and community demand, suggesting strong and regular use of the facility. We also acknowledge that some conditions in the area have changed, and we remain committed to ongoing evaluation and community feedback throughout the process.

- b. Are you keeping track of usage numbers?

ANSWER: The Exeloo is equipped with a web-based monitoring system.

- c. Is the project functioning as expected?

ANSWER: At this stage, there is not yet enough data to fully evaluate the project's performance.

7. Survey on Unhoused Population:

- a. How many times has Berkeley updated its survey on the unhoused since the study was completed?

ANSWER: Data collecting and surveying was a 10-month process.

- b. Is the existing data on the unhoused still relevant?

ANSWER: Although the encampment at this location is no longer there, the data is

8. Community Notification:

- a. Why did I never receive any notices about this bathroom project?

ANSWER: Notices are sent to residents, owners, and groups within a 500-foot radius of the site using City Geographic Information System (GIS) parcel notifier.

- b. Were there any public notices sent about the location and the decision to place the bathroom there?

ANSWER: Yes, public notices were sent for both of the community meetings.

9. Co-Creation/ Community Engagement in planning

- a. Did we engage in a co-creation process for this project?

(Did we involve residents, particularly those marginalized or historically marginalized in the early of planning?)

ANSWER: Through the WASH assessment, data was collected from interviews, community meetings, discussions with homeless support organizations, and an online survey. The City received feedback from Friends of Adeline, Homeless support organizations, and farmers market.

10. Impact on Crime and Drug Activity

- a. What concerns do the police have regarding the drugs being sold in the neighborhood, and how will this bathroom impact drug trafficking-will it increase or decrease it?

ANSWER: Public bathrooms do have the potential to be misused for illicit activities. However, it is unclear whether the installation of this restroom will lead to an increase or decrease in criminal activity in the neighborhood. The Berkeley Police Department (BPD) remains committed to serving and ensuring the safety of the community.

- b. Are public restrooms inviting crime into the community?

ANSWER: BPD has a commitment to serving the community and extra patrols of the bathroom sites will be conducted as frequently as possible.

- c. Police involvement: Are the police involved in addressing crime near this location? And what actions are being taken to keep crime down in the area?

ANSWER: The BPD is most certainly involved in addressing crime near all existing and proposed public bathroom sites. The BPD strives to address the criminal activities throughout the city at all times of the day and night.

- d. Why is the problem of drug use and crime not being addressed before adding a public restroom?

ANSWER: Ultimately, both issues, drug use and crime and the need for public restrooms should be part of a larger, coordinated approach to creating safe, healthy, and functional urban spaces. Ideally, these issues should be addressed together, but the immediate need for sanitation is important.

11. Surveillance and Safety measures: why isn't a security camera being installed alongside the restroom? Why is the city willing to install a bathroom but not a camera-or both?

ANSWER: Cameras are outside the scope of this project. The installation of security cameras falls under the jurisdiction of the Berkeley Police Department and must comply with the City of Berkeley's Surveillance Ordinance. As such, any decision to install cameras would need to be evaluated and managed by BPD.

12. Alternative Location consideration:

- a. Why is this location preferred over the one closer to transit (BART), which could provide better accessibility for larger people?

ANSWER: Ashby BART station is not on City right of way. BART is already equipped with restrooms.

- b. Given that the study is outdated, could there be another alternatives city should prioritize in South Berkeley instead of constructing this restroom?

ANSWER: It's possible. However, this restroom project is funded through the T1 bond, which was approved during Phase 2. As such, it is part of a planned initiative that has already been approved by the City Council and allocated resources for development. If the funds were reallocated, there's a risk that this neighborhood would lose out on the planned improvements, and those resources could be redirected to other T1 projects instead.

13. Project Funding: What is the Funding and total cost of the project?

ANSWER: The exact costs are currently not available.

### **Additional Questions from Comment Section**

1. It is surprising that the caller does not recognize the needs both of people using the farmers market but more particularly for those many residents who spend their days on the street in this area. They are our community members as well.
2. Serving the needs of ALL community members is important but NOT at the expense of increasing crime in the area. Having public restrooms to serve folks visiting the farmers market is a nice to have not a priority!
3. Could the link to the report be linked here please!  
<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Citywide%20Restroom%20Study%20and%20Executive%20Summary%20-%202020-10-06%20-%20Final.pdf>
4. I recall 4 groups for community residents, homeowners and the business community: one group was at the downtown library (mostly community residents, also DBA), one was on Telegraph at a restaurant (that seemed to be mostly businesses), a group in West Berkeley (mostly homeowners) and one in South Berkeley (the last of which I did not attend). Meetings were well-promoted at the time.