

## MEMORANDUM

DATE November 17, 2015  
 TO Yvetteh Ortiz  
 Public Works Director/ City of El Cerrito  
 FROM Cynthia Greenberg  
 SUBJECT Community Workshop #2 Summary

This memorandum summarizes the final community workshop for the Ohlone Greenway BART Station Area Access, Safety, and Placemaking Improvements Project on November 11th, 2015. This workshop was the last of several outreach efforts to engage the public in the process of improving the Ohlone Greenway at the El Cerrito del Norte and El Cerrito Plaza BART stations.

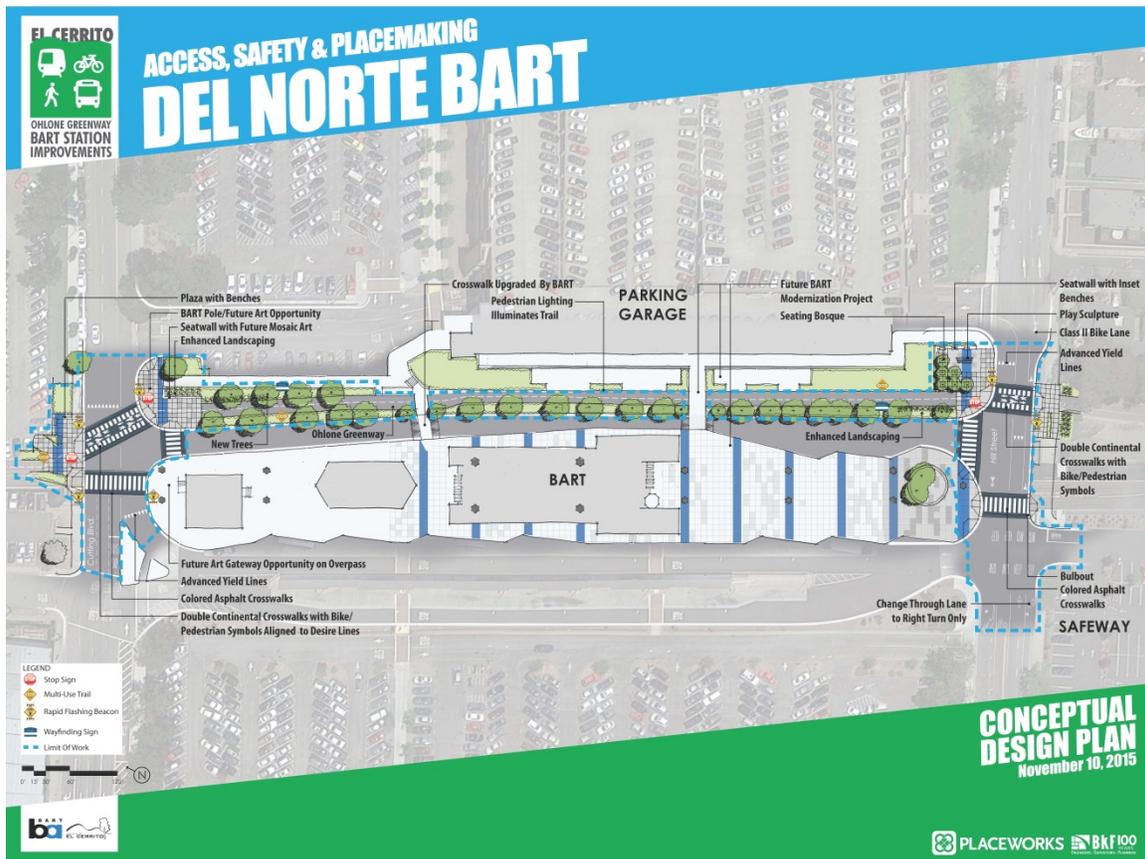
The first community workshop was held June 18, 2015 to share the conceptual design plan and materials palette with the community. The community was asked to vote on preferred palette materials and provided feedback on the conceptual plans.

The boards were also presented at the July 4<sup>th</sup> WorldOne Festival as well as at each of the BART stations on July 8<sup>th</sup>. A survey was also distributed at both of these events and provided online and distributed via email using the City's contact database. The survey received 142 participants which helped to guide concepts, materials and priorities for the design.

The design team revised the project design based on community input and presented the preferred design to the community on the November 11<sup>th</sup> workshop. Approximately 15 community members as well as the following City/ BART/ project staff were in attendance:

Yvetteh Ortiz, Project Manager, Public Works Director/ City Engineer, City of El Cerrito	Matthew McCreary, Landscape Designer, PlaceWorks
April Malvino, Engineer, Project Manager, BKF	Gerardo Avila, Avila Project Management
Sarah Sutton, Principal, Landscape Architect, Placeworks	Val Menotti Chief Planning and Development Officer, BART
Cynthia Greenberg, Landscape Architect, Project Manager, PlaceWorks	Zakhary Mallett, BART Director

To kick off the community meeting, Yvetteh Ortiz from the City of El Cerrito provided an overview of the project history and grant funding. Sarah Sutton of PlaceWorks summarized the project's current status, the project overview, goals, community outreach and upcoming deadlines. Sarah Sutton and Cynthia Greenberg then presented concepts and palettes for the El Cerrito del Norte and El Cerrito Plaza BART stations. Plan view boards were displayed for each station as well as actual samples of the colored concrete and asphalt chosen for the designs.





Following the presentation, community members were encouraged to provide feedback on the design. The following summarizes key comments and questions and answers.

- How will an increased need for bike parking at El Cerrito Plaza Bart be handled?
  - This is outside of our project scope. We will coordinate with BART.
- Homeless encampment in raingarden. Please make sure height of bushes is low to deter sleeping.
  - All bushes are under 3' tall.
- Will new cameras be installed?
  - Yes
- Fairmount is a dangerous crossing, especially at night. Lots of blind people using this intersection.
  - Flashing beacons will be installed.
  - We will install truncated domes for blind users.
- Paving upheaval on greenway from tree roots – How to rectify?

- We will make sure our pavement profile addresses upheaval in the future.
- What are you doing to address bike vs. pedestrian conflicts
  - We are widening the trail as much as possible while keeping as many trees. Also we are creating special paving areas so that both bikes and pedestrians are aware of congested mixing areas.
- Are the advanced bike detection loops working? Also look at timing of these devices and their location.
  - We will look into this.
- Are the plants friendly to butterflies and bees?
  - Yes the design includes many habitat plants.
- How will project enhance development? What development is proposed surrounding the project?
  - Yvette Ortiz provided a summary of opportunity sites at each site.
- Will design accommodate Cutting as a 2-way street?
  - Yes, it will accommodate a two-way street in the future.
- There needs to be pedestrian access to Safeway.
  - Safeway will add this as part of a separate project. This will be installed before this project is.
- What is the lighting situation? Frequency, intensity, only along BART section?
  - Lighting will be installed in entire project area to light entire greenway and plazas.
- Are the lights on sensors, or on during set hours?
  - Lights will come on at night.
- What is the function of a bulbout?
  - Slow traffic and create shorter walking distances for pedestrians.
- Are the Rapid Flashing Beacons working?
  - We will look into this.
- What trees are you installing? I see only small arbutus trees.
  - We are installing large pines, oaks and Brisbane box trees as well as columnar ginkgo trees.
- Will there be traffic calming north of the El Cerrito Plaza Bart?
  - This is outside of our limit of work.
- How practical is coffee cart next to a transit option that prohibits food or drink?
  - BART has a coffee cart inside the Berkeley station.