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**For Immediate Release**

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO BE HELD FOR ALAMEDA-OAKLAND**

**ESTUARY CROSSING STUDY**

The City of Alameda, in conjunction with the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), Caltrans, the City of Oakland, and other local groups, will hold two community meetings on Thursday, April 10 in Oakland and on Saturday, April 12 in Alameda to help identify potential alternatives for a bicycle/pedestrian estuary crossing. Currently, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between the West End of Alameda and Oakland's downtown and transit stations must use either a bus or a narrow sidewalk in the Posey Tube with two-way pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Estuary Crossing Study is a yearlong project that began in January 2008 to identify and evaluate alternatives to the Posey Tube sidewalk. The estuary crossing is also on the San Francisco Bay Trail alignment.

Significant destinations along the estuary include the College of Alameda, the Webster Street Business District, Marina Village, Jack London Square, transit hubs such as BART, Amtrak and bus stops, Oakland Chinatown, and the new Alameda Landing project currently under development. The future redevelopment of Alameda Point may also create new bicycle and pedestrian trips. With the growing number of residences and employment sites in this corridor, auto congestion at the Tubes is expected to grow, as is demand for bicycling and walking facilities near the estuary.

(more)

At the April meetings, community members will help to assess project opportunities and challenges and weigh in on some of the alternatives being considered. The two meetings will have identical content. At a second round of meetings to be held in May, community members can review specific proposed alternatives and help staff and consultants identify benefits and concerns about each alternative. A final round of community meetings will be held in Fall 2008 to recommend a final alternative.

Possible projects include a range of alternatives, from a new tube to a bridge to a ferry. Options might also include amphibious vehicles or a bus barge. The study boundaries are between the Marina Village Shopping Center and the Main Street Ferry Terminal on the Alameda side and the Estuary Park and the Oakland Ferry Terminal on the Oakland side.

The April community meetings will be held in Oakland on April 10, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Asian Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, No. 290 (between Franklin St and Webster St), and in Alameda on April 12, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Pasta Pelican Restaurant at 2455 Mariner Square Drive (near Marina Village Parkway and on the estuary). Refreshments will be served at both meetings, and Cantonese interpreters will be available at the Oakland meeting. Interpreter services for other non-English speakers or for community members requiring special accommodations are available upon request.

Further information about this project may be found on the City of Alameda's website at: [http://www.ci.alameda.ca.us/publicworks/0801\\_estuarycrossing\\_feasibility.html](http://www.ci.alameda.ca.us/publicworks/0801_estuarycrossing_feasibility.html). Questions, comments, and requests for special accommodations may be directed to Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator, by phone at (510) 749-5918, by fax at (510) 749-5867, or by email at [gpayne@ci.alameda.ca.us](mailto:gpayne@ci.alameda.ca.us).

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