



Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition
P.O.Box 13357
Berkeley, CA 94712-4357
Main Office: 510-549-7433
Bikestation: 510-548-7433
www.bfbc.org

March 23, 2004

Mr. Alan Gatzke
Senior Planner
Berkeley Planning Department
2120 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Proposed West Berkeley Bowl Project

Dear Mr. Gatzke:

The Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition is extremely concerned over plans for a new 92,105 sq.ft. Berkeley Bowl supermarket and warehouse. While we support a new neighborhood supermarket for West Berkeley, we understand that the proposed Berkeley Bowl would usurp much of the planned right-of-way for the Ninth St. Bicycle Boulevard, as well as place a lot of traffic onto the planned bikeway.

As you know, Ninth St. in Berkeley is designated a bicycle boulevard in the City's adopted Bicycle Plan (2000), and its planned completion includes a multi use pathway along the abandoned railroad right-of-way across Ashby Ave., connecting with Doyle St. in Emeryville. The City is considering a plan to jog the boulevard west to the actual short 9th St. segment at Ashby where a new traffic signal has been installed. We also have serious concerns about this jog proposal and question whether it is necessary.

The Berkeley Bowl Project proposes to turn a portion of the Ninth St. Bicycle Boulevard into part of its parking lot where there will be diagonal parking. In addition, this segment of Ninth St. is proposed be one of the main entrances into the Bowl. Also, the main parking lot of the Bowl would take over the planned jogged route of the boulevard. All of these types of proposals create huge issues for bicyclists, and appear to have been made with complete disregard for the planned bicycle boulevard.

Policy 1.3 of the City's adopted Bicycle Plan states:

Ensure that all traffic impact studies, analyses of proposed street changes, and development projects address impacts on bicycling and bicycling facilities. Specifically, the following should be considered:

- *Consistency with General Plan and Bicycle Plan policies;*
- *Impact on the existing Bikeway Network;*
- *Degree to which bicycle travel patterns are altered or restricted due to the projects; and*
- *Safety of future bicycle operations (based on project conformity to accepted design guidelines and standards).*

The Berkeley Bowl project, as proposed, has not fully considered all four of these important policies of the Bicycle Plan.

We are also aware of the Ashby Lofts housing project planned immediately adjacent to the Berkeley Bowl and the Ninth St. Bicycle Boulevard. This project will have approximately 55 housing units and 31 parking spaces. It too can have an impact on bicycle access and safety along the planned Ninth St. Bicycle Boulevard.

We want to see the bicycle boulevard completed so that there is safe and convenient bicycle access along Ninth St. and connecting with Doyle St. We also would like to see West Berkeley gain a needed neighborhood supermarket and for the Ashby Lofts housing project to move forward and work well with the planned bicycle boulevard. For this, we look forward to working with your department, the developer, other city staff and the City Council to make that both our bicycle boulevard and a new supermarket can happen.

Please keep us noticed for all public meetings regarding this project.

Please feel free to give me call anytime at 510-701-5971 to discuss this matter.

Cordially yours,

Dave Campbell
President

cc: Peter Hillier, Office of Transportation
Heath Maddox, Office of Transportation