

September 23, 2019

Oakland City Council
Public Works Committee
Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza,
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Transit Priority Lanes on Broadway

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express SPUR's support for the proposed transit priority lanes on Broadway between 11th and 20th street. SPUR strongly believes that Downtown Oakland has the right conditions to create a world-class surface transportation network for buses, bikes, pedestrians and other vehicles. As we noted in our report, *A Downtown for Everyone*, roads and streets in Downtown Oakland are not congested today, which means the surplus space should be used for dedicated bus lanes, laying the transportation foundation to support future population and job growth without the need for a personal car.

Today more buses run on Broadway than on any other street in Oakland. Bus lanes on Broadway would improve bus travel times by up to 30% and improve bus reliability by up to 20%. The bus service on Broadway connects to all part of the AC Transit system. This means that this simple investment will improve travel time and reliability for transit riders throughout the city. As the majority of AC Transit's riders have household incomes less than \$35,000, bus lanes on Broadway are a strong way the City of Oakland can advance equity and improve transportation for those who need it the most.

When buses get priority, people prioritize the bus. If buses are stuck in traffic on Broadway, it will undermine the city's tremendous investment in International Boulevard BRT. As business that operates on the corridor, we further support the bus-only lanes as it will make it easier for people to access SPUR and create an active public realm that is welcoming for people on foot, bike or bus.

A strong set of policies and the right investments can make downtown Oakland an economic engine that serves all of Oakland and a place where people from all over the city — and all over the Bay Area — come to spend time. We strongly believe that bus-only lanes on Broadway are the right policy and investment for Broadway and we encourage you to adopt the resolution.

Sincerely,



Robert S Ogilvie
Oakland Director