

## Ballot Argument in Favor of Measure P1

One reason Albany is a great place to live is its walkability — the fact that it is so easy to get around without a car. But our sidewalks are crumbling and poorly lit, posing hazards for youth, seniors, people with disabilities, and all residents who walk, run, and roll through town. Albany's walkability is a valuable asset to the entire community that we cannot take for granted.

Broken sidewalks present dangerous, and even impassable conditions in many locations. Bryan's daughter broke her wrist scooting between her home near Albany Hill and Marin Elementary School. Ann, who uses a wheelchair to get around, can't easily visit her neighbors only a couple blocks from home because of the condition of the sidewalk. Laurie tripped and broke her elbow, requiring surgery and six months of rehab. Too many residents have stories like these.

Sidewalk maintenance is and will remain the legal responsibility of adjacent property owners, but very few are making the investment. The City Council has taken action to address this problem, and is requesting a YES vote to complete their plan. This small parcel tax, assessed based on a property's square footage, will enable the city to address the backlog of repairs over the next decade, fixing the most severe problems first. Citizens will help prioritize areas for action through public hearings.

Great sidewalks benefit our whole community with more vibrant public spaces that are safe, beautiful, and a pleasure to use. They will improve access to Albany's businesses and increase neighborhood desirability. For many residents safe sidewalks are also essential for their wellbeing and ability to get where they need to go.

By each paying a little, we can get this done together. Vote YES to save our sidewalks!

Peggy McQuaid, Vice Mayor

Ann Freeman, Albany resident

Jennifer Hansen-Romero, Albany resident and Realtor at Daniel Winkler + Assoc.

Robert del Rosario, Traffic and Safety Commission Chair

Ron Rosenbaum, President, AUSD Board of Education; former Principal of Albany High School