



March 24, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Armando Lopez Jr.  
City of Sacramento, Community Development Department  
300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Arden Gateway Phase 2 (DR22-031)

Dear Armando Lopez Jr:

Thank you for routing the Arden Gateway Phase 2 project to Civic Thread (formerly WALKSacramento). After reviewing the proposed plan for Phase 2, we appreciate the integration of past recommendations made by our organization between 2018-2019, addressing pedestrian and travel circulation. The addition of the **Pedestrian Path of Travel & Vehicular Circulation** diagram has been helpful for our team to identify if the proposed circulation is protective and accessible to active transportation users. We see Phase 2 plans may address our previous concerns regarding sidewalks connecting buildings entrances to sidewalks and entrances/exits to the site. Although it is not clear which areas of the site plan have sidewalks, we are under the assumption that the green line for pedestrian paths represents ADA accessible walking paths and/or sidewalk infrastructure.

The recent move of the Certified Farmers Market to the west lot of Arden Fair Mall will serve as a great opportunity for future tenants' fresh food access through the connection of Spine Road/Royale Road. Elevating previous comments made by Civic Thread, we continue to highly recommend a collaboration between the applicant and Arden Fair Mall to develop protective walkways connecting to the two sites, prioritizing access to the location of the Farmer's Market. Additional sidewalk and bicycle supportive infrastructure should be of focus to improve connectivity for tenants to access the Arden Fair Mall Bus Terminals.

Acknowledging that current infrastructure causes a barrier for active transportation travel off Arden Way, this places more emphasis on ensuring destinations to the east of

the project site have protective infrastructure improvements to support safe active transportation. As one of the leading organizations in the SACOG region consulting on Safe Routes to School, Parks, and Healthy Retail projects, we identify DW Babcock Elementary School and Babcock Park as the nearest important destinations to the proposed site accessible through Royale Road and Cormorant Way. To support future tenants and their young children who will attend the elementary school, as well as pedestrians and bicyclists looking to access the park, we recommend the continued markings of a Class III Shared Bike Lane (sharrow) all the way down Royale Road and continuing onto Cormorant Way to increase driver awareness to share the road as well as serve as an indicator of where and which direction bicyclists should be traveling.

Within the project site, the proposed club house space will benefit tenants by offering opportunities for healthy recreation such as swimming and socializing, and will serve as an incentive to get outside.

Development projects that lead to more walking and active travel are critical to our community's future. Human beings need moderate exercise, such as walking, for about 30 minutes a day to promote physical health and well-being. Only 30% of the population in the Sacramento region is active at this minimal level, often due to limitations placed by a built environment not suited to walking and other types of physically active travel. A 30-minute walk is about one and a half miles. If more people could obtain regular exercise by walking and bicycling to their regular destinations, in lieu of driving, it could yield significant health improvements to the resident population of this area. Reduced driving would also decrease vehicle emissions and the prevalence of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other air pollution-related conditions. More trips by walking and bicycling could help reduce the current expensive burden on the health care system of providing medical care to more and more people with chronic conditions due to inactivity and poor air quality.

Civic Thread is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved public health and physical fitness, better air quality, a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in neighborhoods, and more sustainable communities and local economies.

Please notify Civic Thread of future routings or notices for this project.

Sincerely,

*Pristina Zhang*

Pristina Zhang, MPH  
Project Manager