

Application for the Alameda CTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)



Alameda CTC invites Alameda County residents to serve on its **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**, which meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Each member is appointed for a two-year term.

Name: Ben Gould

Home Address: [REDACTED], Berkeley, CA 94704

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Phone: (home) (510) [REDACTED] (work) _____ (fax) _____

Email: [REDACTED]

Please respond to the following sections on a separate attachment:

- I. **Commission/Committee Experience:** What is your previous experience on a public agency commission or committee? Please also note if you are currently a member of any commissions or committees.
- II. ☐ **Statement of Qualifications:** Provide a brief statement indicating why you are interested in serving on ☐ BPAC and why you are qualified for this appointment.
- III. **Relevant Work or Volunteer Experience:** Please list your current employer or relevant volunteer experience including organization, address, position and dates.
- IV. ☐ **Specific Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Experience:** List any specific interest, involvement or expertise you have related to bicycle and/or pedestrian issues.

To avoid a conflict of interest:

Members may not be public agency employees responsible for bicycle and pedestrian projects and/or programs, and work for an agency that is eligible and likely to submit an application for the Countywide Discretionary Fund.

Certification: I certify that the above information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature Ben Gould Date October 26, 2021

Return the application to your appointing party for signature (see www.alamedactc.org/app_pages/view/8), or fax (510.893.6489) or mail it to Alameda CTC.

Appointing Party:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I. Commission/Committee Experience: What is your previous experience on a public agency commission or committee? Please also note if you are currently a member of any commissions or committees.

I have served on the City of Berkeley's Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) since 2014, including three terms as Chair and currently as Vice Chair. In addition, I have served as a temporary appointment on the City of Berkeley's Housing Advisory Commission, Zoning Adjustments Board, and Police Review Board.

On CEAC, I have been an effective advocate for bold and forward-thinking climate action policies, including being the first to propose that Berkeley ban the use of natural gas in new buildings (proposed in 2016, enacted in 2019; now followed by 50+ cities across California).

II. Statement of Qualifications: Provide a brief statement indicating why you are interested in serving on BPAC and why you are qualified for this appointment.

I have been navigating Berkeley and Alameda County by bike, foot, and bus/BART for over 20 years. Growing up in Berkeley, I walked to elementary school, took the bus to middle school, and by high school I was biking to friend's houses on weekends. I earned two master's degrees (in public policy and environmental engineering, both from UC Berkeley) before I got a driver's license, and to this day I have still never owned a car.

I have spent the past decade working and volunteering on sustainability and addressing the climate crisis, which has led me to a special focus on transportation and land use. Between my personal experience and professional expertise, I strongly believe that from a climate, health, and equity standpoint, it is critical that we make biking and walking safe, easy, accessible, and fun for everyone. I know this is possible to do through smart infrastructure design choices. We're fortunate that here in Alameda County we already have some great examples locally to build off of, but there's still plenty of room for improvement.

III. Relevant Work or Volunteer Experience: Please list your current employer or relevant volunteer experience including organization, address, position and dates.

I currently work as President of EcoDataLab, a Berkeley-based climate policy consulting firm co-founded by myself and Dr. Chris Jones of the CoolClimate Network at UC Berkeley (Energy & Resources Group). We work with local governments and advocacy groups across the country to develop greenhouse gas inventories, policy analyses, and climate action recommendations. I have been working at EcoDataLab since July of 2020.

I previously worked as the Sustainability Analyst at San Francisco International Airport (2018-2020), as a legislative aide to Berkeley Councilmember Lori Droste (2017), a research intern at The International Council for Clean Transportation (summer 2015), and as a research associate at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory working on air quality (2013-14).

In my spare time, I volunteer on CEAC (since 2014) and a number of other community groups. Since 2019, I have served on the steering committee of Berkeley Neighbors for Housing and Climate Action, a Berkeley-based community climate & housing advocacy group

that regularly collaborates with Walk Bike Berkeley. In 2021, I also launched the California Climate Action Coalition, a statewide lobbying organization pushing legislation that will help cities meet their greenhouse gas emission targets. Previously, I served as the Legislative Director for Fossil Free California (2020-2021). In the past, I have also been a member and supporter of Bike East Bay.

IV. Specific Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Experience: List any specific interest, involvement or expertise you have related to bicycle and/or pedestrian issues.

As a lifelong pedestrian, transit user, and cyclist, walking and biking is my bread and butter. Like many others, I purchased an e-bike during the pandemic, which has become my primary mode of transportation for virtually every trip between 0.5 and 5 miles, as well as my last-mile solution to get from BART to other destinations (I already live two blocks from a BART station).

As a policy analyst and community volunteer, I already have experience with bicycle and pedestrian planning issues. I followed the development of Berkeley's bicycle and pedestrian plans, understanding their approach and proposals, and provided input to staff during development.

I would be excited to bring my skills and background to the ACTC BPAC as the Transit representative. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, at
