

The Remaking of Downtown Berkeley

As the reconfiguration of Shattuck Avenue nears completion it has become clear that the area between University Avenue and Allston Way has become less pedestrian friendly and certainly not a place of vitality and attraction, conducive for social interactions that both Berkeleyans and visitors to our city would expect to find in our downtown.

In the Corvid-19 environment there is pent-up demand and so are calls for outdoor services, restaurant seating and more space for social interactions, even while maintaining required physical distancing. There appears to be no emerging plan to accomplish any of this from our city planners.

The before and after pictures of the downtown Bart station area make-over is rather telling. Both



The old BART station Plaza – before Corvid-19

photos were taken before the Corvid-19 epidemic started.

This was a popular place for meeting friends and enjoying the outdoors.



The new Bart Plaza – before Covid-19

Instead of more traffic concentrated in the area between University Avenue and Allston Way on Shattuck Avenue we could have open space with no cars. It might even make the downtown a place Berkeley citizen would want to go to instead of avoiding.

Jurgen Aust