

The following feedback was taken from each comment card submitted during the Oct. 28th Solano Avenue Safeway Community Meeting:

Liked Most: Scale fits into neighborhood, green design elements, various departments including more food choices.

Least Favorite Feature: Only 3 handicapped parking spaces. Is it possible to include spaces on Solano?

Liked Most: More in scale with existing buildings. Much improved parking: open and "safe." Varied frontage; not monolithic. Brings the store to the front of Solano.

Least Favorite Feature: Parking would be easier if the spaces were on an angle. May have fewer spaces but ingress/out would be quicker.

All in all, great job!

Liked Most: Great design. You captured most of the suggestions and issues verbalized at prior meeting. I love the setback at the front of the store and Deco features.

Least Favorite Feature: Love it!

Liked Most: No residential, limited commercial.

Least Favorite Feature: Traffic flow biased away from Solano on to residential streets. This must change back to a Solano bias.

Liked Most: Looks fine.

Least Favorite Feature: Trucks competing with cars around corners on Curtis and Nielsen at back of building.

Liked Most: Low scale, open parking lot, walk-ability on Solano, like how it fits with architecture of the bank; like outdoor cafe.

Least Favorite Feature: Wall around outdoor care -- could be a more open feel -- sidewalk cafe, less closed in -- e.g. iron railings.

I love it!

Liked Most: Scale of building along driveway to parking.

Least Favorite Feature: Disappointed that the project is now only a Safeway and not a mixed use building. I feel the scale/height of the building could have been taller along Solano to accommodate other uses. The open parking lot is a concern for me. I prefer the way in which the new Berkeley Bowl was done where the garage could be secured. I also feel that this "neighborhood" Safeway should have less parking provided. I know the zoning asks for so many spaces but a local serving store where a large number of customers walk or bike to shop should not need so many spaces. The traffic pattern for the delivery trucks is disconcerting. Please add more bicycle parking that can accommodate bicycles with trailers, again see new Berkeley Bowl. Would it be possible to separate out the cafe from the store, again similar to the new Berkeley Bowl?

Liked Most: Green design! Especially bicycle racks right by the entrances -- superb! Bravo! Go the extra mile and cover the racks on Solano Ave. Go even further and install e-Lockers <http://bikelink.org>

Least Favorite Feature: Not much. How will the bicycles enter the garage? It would be best if they did not compete with cars. A separate entrance/ramp for bikes into the garage?

Liked Most: Bigger store -- but your displays don't show the difference in sq. ft.

Least Favorite Feature: It seems like a big big box -- area will not appear as open as it is now.

Liked Most: Overall compatibility with other new construction -- hopefully will influence future development.

Least Favorite Feature: Requirement for lower level parking -- inconvenient for people using carts

Liked Most: You got rid of "subway sandwiches". It's a little shorter.

Least Favorite Feature: Entrance to parking: access only via Curtis or Neilsen -- traffic. Underground parking -- dangerous. Store too big. We don't need pharmacy or bakery. We don't need flowerpots, teddybears, donuts in 50 flavors. TRUCKS--down Curtis to access alley will not work -- this is RESIDENTIAL!

Liked Most: Bulk reduced, delivery dock relocated. Street front consistent with area

Least Favorite Feature: The delays going on. What with residents and city process. Let's get things going!

Liked Most: OK if you want to spend the money

Least Favorite Feature: Safeway will be closed for 1-1/2 years

Liked Most: Better pace utilization and appearance. Cars park mostly out of sight. Improved look on main street (Solano) and better economic potential -- for shoppers and city tax \$

Least Favorite Feature:

Liked Most: Nothing. Looks like Walnut Creek. My position is to spruce up the present store. We don't need the "expanded vision". We don't need double the size. Do you think the expanded store will bring double the customers? Don't need huge parking.

Least Favorite Feature: What will this do to the value of my property???? I am personally very impacted by the traffic pattern -- especially truck docks as I live right across the street. The mix of cars & trucks backing up will be chaotic. If, God forbid, the plan goes thru -- Nielsen and Curtis should be blocked from through traffic.

Liked Most: 0

Least Favorite Feature: Underground parking and a mega store

Liked Most: Lower front facade. Setback, stepped profile on Curtis. The cafe seating on the NW corner. The truck dock moved away from houses on Curtis -- now across from Bank and lot, not houses.

Least Favorite Feature: Please DO NOT put a Starbucks in your store! This is a village, not a mall. Albany is the anti-mall. :)

Liked Most:

Least Favorite Feature: Parking entrance and exit next to my house. Truck driving from back of my house. More people and more incoming to back of Curtis and Nielsen Streets. More noises.

Liked Most: The curves, the brickwork, the landscaping, the public space with tables, the hidden parking; the new features (bakery, but add gluten-free!)

Least Favorite Feature: will the refrigerators be quieter than those at Andronico's? (Just thinking of the people on Curtis)

Liked Most: It's hard to say because the part I don't like would make such a profound effect on the quality of our lives that I am sick to my stomach.

Least Favorite Feature: The truck deliveries & parking lot entrance in the back is completely unacceptable. It will lower our quality of life and property values significantly. I am appalled. A danger to passing children as well.

Liked Most: More modest scale without residential. The crisp exterior architecture and finishes (no more faux Mediterranean/Mission). The windows for interior daylight (consider adding some roof monitors, skylights too). Loading dock design.

Least Favorite Feature: Bulk of Solano facade. (It would be nicer with more set-back from Solano Ave.)

Liked Most: I love it! You listed all my concerns -- setback, bike rack, sidewalk ambience -- and dealt with them nicely. Thank you

Least Favorite Feature:

Liked Most: Setback facades on Curtis St. and rear of building. Cafe & outdoor seating at Curtis & Solano/curved facade. Daylighted parking, not underground.

Least Favorite Feature: Trucks on Neilson & Curtis Sts. *Please provide a scale model at next presentation. That would be very helpful.

Liked Most: Seemed to fit very well with Solano Ave. Very Walkable/Human scale friendly. Redesigned elevation much better.

Least Favorite Feature: Handicap parking too limited. Loading zone traffic could be problematic.

Liked Most: Very nice design. Can't do it fast enough. :) Seems efficient, easily accessed. Fire Dept. with good access to all sides. A+

Least Favorite Feature: The fact you had to cut out the rooftop condos.

Liked Most: The whole design is great! I'm glad it's not as tall as I remembered. Please ASAP - during my active lifetime!

Least Favorite Feature: none

Liked Most: Single story, open sides on parking, separated walkway on front, enclosed truck parking, outside cafe seating.

Least Favorite Feature: Outside facade looks more like a suburban mall than existing Solano structures.

Liked Most: You lowered the facade & eliminated the little shops -- great! Solano has its own indigenous shops. Also, you have about 9 parking spaces right in front. These will be your night-shopping spaces (it's a 24-hour store and I am one of your late night shoppers) -- they (& I) will not park underneath the store at night no matter how well lit -- it's too isolated. I suggest a small but important rearrangement of check out counters: the manned check outs should be right behind the entrance & easily seen & heard from the night parking spaces. That is what we have

in the current store & it feels perfectly safe. Your diagram shows unmanned auto-checkouts by the entrance & leaves the eastern-most parking spaces in front out of sight of any checkout personnel.

Least Favorite Feature: Please reconsider using escalators like the ones in Albany Target store next to I-80. These let you ride up & down right next to your cart, & they are not crowded & claustrophobic like elevators always are. I use the Costco elevators in San Francisco (I think it's at 10th & Harrison) & it is unpleasant. You wait, sometimes it's too full to get on when it comes. It's claustrophobic. You have to worry about children getting crowded against the carts. There are elevators at Target too but the escalators are much nicer and less frustrating.

[Third comment. I love the Albany Safeway. It's friendly & the staff is great. I pretty much like your plan & I want to see Safeway stay here.]

Liked Most: It is inviting & pleasant.

Least Favorite Feature: I think it would have been great to have some condos incorporated in the design.

Liked Most: You are making progress on design & visage.

Least Favorite Feature: Still a bit grand for Solano Ave. Cut down traffic on Neilsen south to north by a barricade blocking off street at property line (south side)

Liked Most: Less huge than last time. Truck entrance as close to B of A & Solano as possible.

Least Favorite Feature: The entrance to the parking, and trucks on our residential street.

Please can we have a barricade after the parking entrance on Neilson so the cars have to come from Solano and not from Marin? We have small children. Please just a barricade like the one Solano Andronico's has.

Liked Most: Less imposing than your previous proposal. Please be generous about letting people use the parking lot for other than Safeway as now happens to prevent over use of street parking.

Least Favorite Feature:

Liked Most: Building pushed forward to Solano. Improved streetscape.

Least Favorite Feature: No street access to bicycle racks. No solar panels for electricity. No affordable housing.

Liked Most: Appears to make the most with limited space.

Least Favorite Feature: Front area vehicle clearance/parking.

Liked Most: Same height as existing building at street (removal of parking lot from Solano Ave.) Nice proposed landscaping, small setback from Solano is nice; make it bigger to create a real ped. plaza along front. Open cafe seating up to Solano rather than close it off.

Least Favorite Feature: Removal of previously proposed shop fronts/tenant spaces along Solano frontage that helped break up the front and made for good ped. (illegible). I worry that storefront glass will not be clear and/or will be blocked with shelving, etc., resulting in a poor ped. environment. Keep storefront clear & visible to peds on streets. Concern re: truck loading access/noise, open parking structure noise.