



TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:15 pm

North Berkeley Senior Center  
1901 Hearst Avenue  
Berkeley, CA, 94709

**A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

**1. Elect meeting chair**

**6:16 pm:** Commissioner Gerhardstein nominated Commissioner Yep to serve as chair for this meeting.

**6:17 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gerhardstein / Zaro) to elect Commissioner Yep to serve as chair for this meeting.

**6:17 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Gerhardstein, Lee-Egan, Owens, Zaro, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bell (sub for Parolek), Walton

Recused: None

**6:17 pm Motion passed 5-0-0-2-0**

**2. Call to order**

**6:18 pm:** Meeting Chair Yep called the meeting to order.

**3. Roll call**

**6:18 pm:**

Commissioners Present: Sarah Bell (alternate for Karen Parolek; arrived at 6:22 pm), Chris Lee-Egan (alternate for Barnali Ghosh), Ben Gerhardstein alternate for (Adrian Leung), Darrell Owens (alternate for Liza Lutzker), Kim Walton (arrived at 6:48 pm), Ray Yep, Ren Zaro

Excused: Alison Bernstein, Barnali Ghosh, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Karen Parolek

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Ron Nevels, Hamid Mostowfi, Eric Anderson, Ken Jung, Petra Reyes, Omar Masood, Sandra Sanchez, Elaina Hargraves, Kevin Aguigui (ACTC consultant Kimley-Horn), Rachel Factor (BART), Molly Sun (BART consultant Fehr and Peers)

**4. Public comment on items not on the agenda**

**6:20 pm:** Three public comments.

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**5. Approval of minutes from May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**6:30 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Yep / Zaro) to approve the minutes.

**6:30 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Bell, Gerhardstein, Owens, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: Lee-Egan

Absent: None

Recused: None

**6:31 pm Motion passed 5-0-1-0-0**

**6. Approval and Order of Agenda**

**6:31 pm:** No changes.

**7. Update on administration and staff**

**6:31 pm:** City of Berkeley staff introduced themselves. Engineering Manager Ron Nevels gave updates and answered Commissioner questions about staffing and noted that the Engineering division is close to being fully staffed. Transportation Manager Hamid Mostowfi gave updates and answered Commissioner questions about hiring and vacancies.

**8. Announcements**

**6:35 pm:** None.

**B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) Rail Safety Enhancement Program (RSEP) – Action requested**

**6:39 pm:** Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) staff presented a program overview, discussed needs and benefits, previous engagement with the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission and other public engagement, crossing improvements in Berkeley and the county-wide program schedule.

**6:54 pm:** Public comment – Three public comments.

**7:06 pm:** Commissioners asked clarifying questions about quad gates, crosswalks and other pedestrian safety measures, medians, contributing factors to crashes and fatalities.

**7:25 pm:** ACTC consultant Kimley-Horn answered Commissioners' questions about on-street parking and driveway access. ACTC staff and City of Berkeley staff answered Commissioners' questions about prioritizing people's safety over traffic flow. City of Berkeley staff started that they will follow-up with City Council members regarding the rail quiet zone initiative.

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**7:30 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Owens / Zaro) for the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to support the ACTC Rail Safety Enhancement Program proposal with a note to look into modifying the median as alternative for a turnout only option at Hearst Avenue.

**7:30 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Bell, Lee-Egan, Gerhardstein, Owens, Walton, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Recused: None

**7:30 pm:** Commissioner Zaro left the meeting.

**7:31 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-0-0**

**2. North Berkeley BART Station Bike Access Improvements – Virginia Street Bike Boulevard – Action requested**

**7:32 pm:** City of Berkeley staff introduced the project. BART staff gave a presentation on the Virginia Street Bicycle Boulevard project, covering the requested action, engagement activities, site and policy context and other project details. BART consultant gave a presentation on the policy context, overview of the bikeway assessment, parking assessment, design standards and guidelines.

**7:46 pm:** 25 public comments.

**8:49 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gerhardstein / Owens) to extend the meeting to 9:30 pm.

**8:50 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Bell, Lee-Egan, Gerhardstein, Owens, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Recused: None

**8:51 pm Motion passed 6-0-0-1-0**

**8:52 pm:** Commissioners commented on the project.

**9:06 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Owens / Gerhardstein) to support Option A.

**9:19 pm:** Commissioner Yep proposed a friendly amendment for the City of Berkeley and BART staff to meet with community members and area residents to investigate the feasibility of developing a new Option C. This amendment failed for lack of a second.

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**9:29 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gerhardstein / Walton) to extend the meeting to 9:45 pm.

**9:29 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Bell, Gerhardstein, Lee-Egan, Owens, Walton, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Recused: None

**9:29 pm Motion passed 6-0-0-1-0**

**9:30 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Owens / Gerhardstein) to support Option A.

**9:30 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Bell, Gerhardstein, Lee-Egan, Owens, Walton

Noes: Yep

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Recused: None

**9:31 pm Motion passed 5-1-0-1-0**

### **C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Subcommittee reports & assignments: verbal reports form subcommittees**

**9:31 pm:** Commissioner Yep reported on the Watershed Management Subcommittee's meeting with Public Works staff.

**9:34 pm:** Commissioner Walton left.

### **D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**9:35 pm:** Staff announced that the comment period on the City's First Draft of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is open until July 31, 2024.

### **D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

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**E. ADJOURNMENT**

**9:40 pm:** It was Moved / Seconded (Lee-Egan / Gerhardstein) to close the meeting

**9:40 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Bell, Gerhardstein, Lee-Egan, Owens, Yep

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton, Zaro

Recused: None

**9:31 pm Motion passed 5-0-0-2-0**

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:15 pm, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709.*

Administrative Procedures

From the City of Berkeley Commissioners' Manual, 2019 Edition, page 70 regarding minutes:

Although the Brown Act does not require minutes, except for closed sessions, the Commissioners' Manual does require minutes of commission meetings but not for subcommittee meetings. When required, minutes are limited to action minutes only. Minutes are unofficial until approved by the commission. The minutes are converted to PDF and posted on the City's website.

The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the commission's proceedings and transactions. The secretary shall provide action minutes similar to those provided to the Council by the City Clerk. Action minutes list the date, time, and place of the meetings; the staff in attendance; the commissioners present and absent; and a clear and concise description of final actions taken. Approved motions are indicated by "moved, seconded, and carried" and include a breakdown of the vote. The vote breakdown includes the commissioners voting yes, no, abstain, absent, recused, and reason for recusal. Reasons for making a motion, debate, content of public comments, and audience reaction are not to be included.

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