



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

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

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

**A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

**1. Call to order**

**6:15 pm:** Acting Chair Parolek called the meeting to order.

12 members of the public present in person.

1 member of the public present via Zoom due to accommodation request.

**2. Roll call**

**6:17 pm:**

Commissioners Present: Barnali Ghosh, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker (arrived at 6:20 pm), Julia Moss, Karen Parolek, Kim Walton, Ray Yep, Ren Zaro

Excused: None

Commissioners Absent: Alison Bernstein

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Hamid Mostowfi, Ron Nevels, Noah Budnick, Eric Anderson, Dani Dynes, Matthew Bomberg (ACTC), Colin Dentel-Post (ACTC)

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

**6:18 pm:** Four public comments.

**4. Approval of minutes from June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**6:28 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Yep / Ghosh) to approve the minutes with a friendly amendment to make Chris Lee-Egan's last name consistent throughout the minutes as "Lee-Egan."

**6:30 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Ghosh, Leung, Moss, Parolek, Walton, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: Lutzker

Absent: Bernstein

Recused: None

**6:21 pm Motion passed 7-0-1-1-0**

**5. Approval and Order of Agenda**

**6:31 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Lutzker) to move agenda item C1 (Subcommittee reports & assignments) to before item B3 (Chair nominations).

**6:31 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Parolek, Walton, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein

Recused: None

**6:31 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-1-0**

**6. Update on administration and staff**

**6:32 pm:** Engineering Manager Ron Nevels provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Engineering Division's staffing and vacancies. Transportation Manager Hamid Mostowfi provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Transportation Division's hiring and recruitment efforts.

**7. Announcements**

**6:38 pm:** Commissioner Lutzker announced that the Street Trauma Prevention position, which Disaster and Fire Safety Commissioner Mike Wilson presented to this commission for support, was funded by the City Council. She stated that this was a good step on the City's Vision Zero work.

**B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**1. ATP Cycle 7 Grant Applications MTC Complete Streets Checklist Review – Action Requested**

**6:40 pm:** Public Works staff gave a presentation on and requested the Commission's approval of the City's Complete Streets Checklist and grant application for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Program Cycle 7 grant program. The grant application is for the Southwest Berkeley Bicycle Boulevards project.

**6:51 pm:** Two public comments.

**6:54 pm:** Commissioners asked questions and commented on disability access and equity, street design on specific road segments, how the proposal relates to the update of the City's Bike Plan and how the City's Pedestrian Plan will be incorporated into the project.

**7:07 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Zaro / Leung) to support the City Manager and Department of Public Works' statement of compliance that the Southwest Berkeley Bike Boulevards project meets the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Complete Streets Policy (MTC adopted Resolution 4493) for the Caltrans Active

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Transportation Program (ATP), in the Commission's capacity as the City of Berkeley Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

**7:08 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Parolek, Walton, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein

Recused: None

**7:08 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-1-0**

**2. Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) San Pablo Avenue Corridor Bus and Bike Lanes Project presentation**

**7:08 pm:** ACTC staff presented an update on the San Pablo Avenue Corridor Bus and Bike Lane Project and requested feedback from the Commission on the bicycle, pedestrian and transit safety improvements proposed for it, particularly the segment in Berkeley.

**7:29 pm:** One public comment via Zoom; nine public comments in person.

**7:56 pm:** Commissioners asked questions and made comments on bike lane and sidewalk design, bus route changes, bus bunching, their enthusiasm for the project, feedback from door-to-door outreach, supporting local businesses, connections in the bike network, bus lane and bike lane merge zones, trash pick, paratransit service, appreciation for the project, taxi ramps for disabled passengers, traffic signal preemption for buses, pedestrian countdown timers, public education, the importance of new projects that speed up transit service and improve road safety, history of work to improve San Pablo Avenue, support for the project, building in flexibility in the design, incorporating goBerkeley demand-responsive parking pricing, loading zones, improving the pedestrian experience, sidewalk lighting, building more housing, and that this project will support crime prevention.

**8:33 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Zaro) to extend the meeting until 9 pm.

**8:33 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Parolek, Walton, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein

Recused: None

**8:33 pm Motion passed 8-0-0-1-0**

**8:34 pm:** Commissioners asked questions and made comments on the work on this project that's happened over many years, that this design is the compromise option on

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that work, this project will support local businesses and make a much more pleasant pedestrian environment, adding more curb bulb outs, and bike lane crossing for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs.

**3. Chair nominations**

**8:42 pm:** Commissioners discussed chair nominations.

**8:43 pm:** Commissioner Walton left the meeting.

**8:44 pm:** Commissioner Zaro nominated themselves to be chair. Commissioner Ghosh seconded the nomination.

No public comments.

The commission will vote on chair at their next meeting.

**C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**8:46 pm:** Commissioner Lutzker reported that the Bike Plan Update subcommittee met with staff and that the Bike Plan Update will come to the Commission at least twice in addition to updates for the subcommittee.

Commissioner Yep reported that the Watershed Management subcommittee met with staff in June about the Watershed Management Plan project scope and gave staff feedback. Commissioner Yep reported that there is interest in the project from Friends of Five Creeks and the Sierra Club about impacts on Aquatic Park. Staff will provide an update at the Commission's September meeting.

**D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**8:57 pm:** Acting Chair Parolek brought the Berkeley Scanner's article about the Fire Department's Street Trauma Prevention program to the Commission's attention.

**D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**8:58 pm:** Future agenda items mentioned include: introducing Commissioner Moss, chair election, subcommittee assignments, goBerkeley update, Watershed Management Plan update, UC Berkeley development updates, Vision 2050, BerkDOT, introducing Public Works' new director, Terrance Davis.

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**E. ADJOURNMENT**

**9:00 pm:** It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Moss) to close the meeting

**9:01 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Ghosh, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Parolek, Yep, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bernstein, Walton

Recused: None

**8:33 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-2-0**

One member of the public present.

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 19<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.

Commission Secretary: Wahid Amiri, Deputy Director, Engineering and Transportation  
Divisions, Public Works

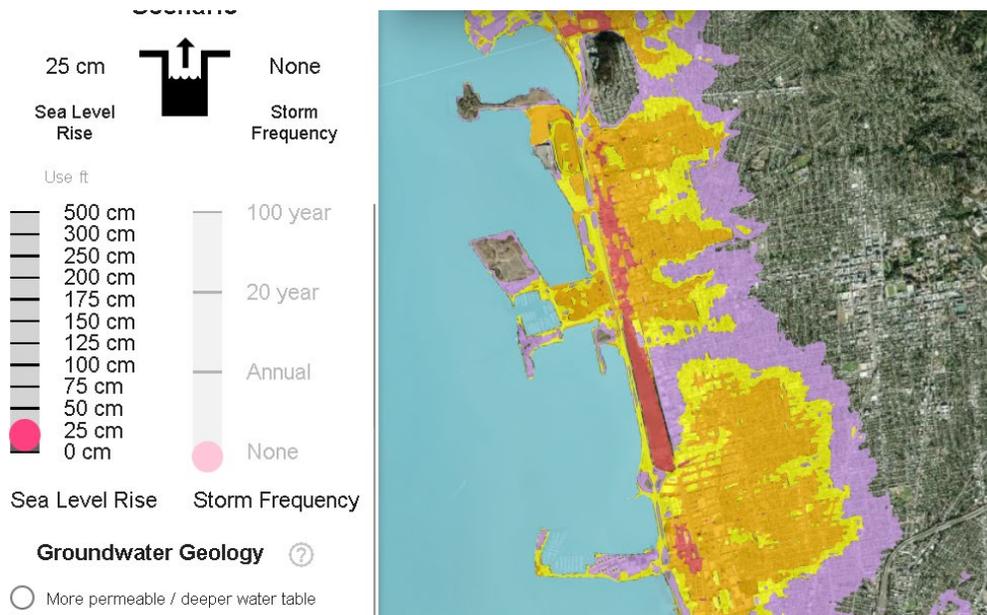
1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704

Telephone (510) 981-7061 / Fax: (510) 981-7060 / TDD: (510) 981-6903

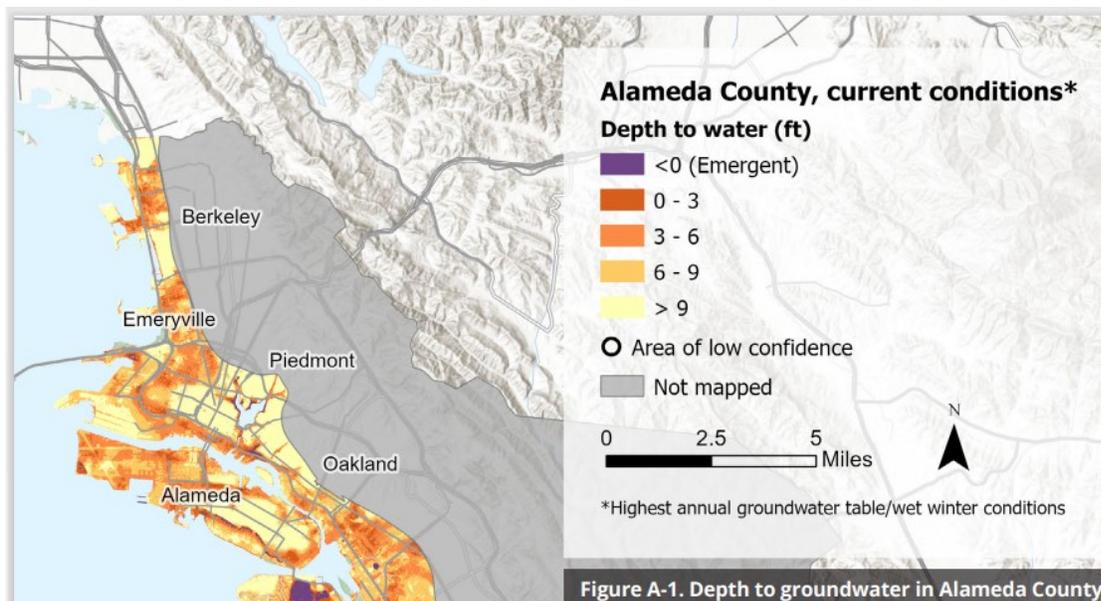
Email: wamiri@berkeleyca.gov

## Why Rising Groundwater Levels, Salt Intrusion, and Aquatic Park are critical to managing Berkeley's urban runoff as we face sea-level rise and larger storms

The two maps below begin to show where rising groundwater threatens West Berkeley. The hazard map below, from the US Geological Survey and Point Blue's [Our Coast Our Future](#), shows in red and orange areas where rising groundwater and accompanying salt might cause flooding and serious damage to buildings and infrastructure with 25 cm of sea-level rise. It is best used as a screening tool.



The more cautious map below, from ongoing research from the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Pathways Climate Institute, shows what was reliably known about groundwater depths in 2022. Orange or red indicate very shallow groundwater. The gray areas are being addressed in ongoing studies.



Aquatic Park is vital to runoff because it receives Bay water at high tides and freshwater runoff during storms from the city's two largest storm-drain lines, which together drain well over half of Berkeley. Without these outlets to Aquatic Park, many homes and businesses in low-lying West Berkeley would flood. The small middle lagoon/Model Yacht Basin is especially important because it appears to be rapidly filling in with sediment. The challenges are explained in more detail [at aquaticpark.org](http://aquaticpark.org).

### Aquatic Park main tide tubes and storm drains, 2024



Re-drawn from Balance Hydrologics, Inc., 2011

