



TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, November 21st, 2024, 6:15 pm

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

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to order

6:18 pm: Chair Zaro called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call

6:18 pm:

Commissioners Present: Barnali Ghosh, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Julia Moss, Karen Parolek, Kim Walton, Ren Zaro

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Ron Nevels, Noah Budnick, Elliott Schwimmer

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:19 pm: 9 public comments.

6:20 pm: Eleven members of the public present.

4. Approval of minutes from October 10th, 2024

6:42 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Ghosh) to approve the minutes with a friendly amendment to change “Commissioner” Parolek to “Vice Chair” Parolek.

6:42 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: Leung

Absent: None

Excused: None

Recused: None

6:42 pm Motion passed 6-0-1-0-0-0

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:42 pm: No changes.

6. Update on administration and staff

6:43 pm: Deputy Director Wahid Amiri provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Transportation Division’s staffing and vacancies, including interviews for the Supervising Transportation Engineer, offers accepted for Senior Planner and

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Assistant Transportation Engineer, offer tendered for Associate Planner and the resignation of one Associate Planner.

6:47 pm: Fourteen members of the public present.

6:48 pm: Engineering Division Manager Ron Nevels provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Engineering Division's hiring and recruitment efforts, four vacancies out of thirty-eight staff, the internal hire of an Assistant Public Works Engineer, the need to backfill for a Junior Public Works Engineer, interviewing for the Associate Civil Engineer and starting the recruiting process for a Chief of Party.

Vice Chair Parolek asked if Public Works is looking at adding resources to support the passage of Measure FF. Commissioner Lutzker requested a future update on Measure FF. Commissioner Walton asked to see staff roles and responsibilities. Vice Chair Parolek asked for an update on this year's paving project (FY24). Commissioner Lutzker asked about the sidewalk repairs in her neighborhood and about when the traffic signals for the Southside Complete Streets project will be turned on. Commissioner Ghosh stated that there are high expectations for Measure FF and that Berkeley is not making progress fast enough.

7. Announcements

6:57 pm: Chair Zaro announced the death of longtime Berkeley resident Ben Brown, who was struck by a driver as he walked across the intersection of Rose and Josephine streets, on November 14, 2024. They called for a moment of silence to honor Mr. Brown.

B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. Informational briefing on UC Berkeley Bancroft Student Housing project

7:01 pm: Staff from UC Berkeley Capital Strategies staff gave a presentation on the Bancroft-Fulton Student Housing Project.

7:05 pm: Six members of the public present.

7:16 pm: Commissioner asked questions and made comments on their appreciate for more student housing; including sufficient bike parking; what design stage the project is in; sidewalk design and width; pedestrian volumes; prioritizing people walking, biking and taking transit over people driving; keeping bike lanes, the sidewalk and the street clear during construction; closing Bancroft to traffic during construction; continuing the protected bike lane on Oxford along the west side of campus; raised mid-block crosswalks; separating the bike lanes from the sidewalk; pedestrianizing Fulton Street.

2. Informational Briefing on AC Transit's Transit-Supportive Design Guidelines

7:36 pm: AC Transit staff gave a presentation on AC Transit's Transit-Supportive Design Guidelines.

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7:36 pm: Two members of the public present.

7:50 pm: One public comment.

7:54 pm: Commissioners asked questions and made comments on whether these guidelines are requirements or recommendations; if AC Transit will tell municipalities that they must do certain things; the importance of differentiating between the bare minimum for safety and what AC Transit wants to do to optimize efficiency; the process for additional review of these guidelines; that these guidelines are about bus operations and are not multi-modal; the guidelines should include benches.

8:05 pm: One member of the public present.

8:05 pm: Commissioners continued to ask questions and make comments on automobile drivers causing buses to run late, not bikes; the need for the guidelines to address specific problems; the need to recognize that congestion makes bus riders suffer and to remove car lanes; making bus stops beautiful community places that children can enjoy; bus stops should have railings for standing and benches for sitting; people waiting for the bus get passed by bus drivers regularly; AC Transit should reach out to Berkeley's Commission on Disabilities; the need to convert car lanes to bus lanes; AC Transit should not talk about parallel bike routes in these guidelines; the need for the guidelines to clarify what's required versus what's recommended; that the guidelines talk about conflicts with people walking and biking but not with people driving.

3. Informational briefing on draft daylighting policy

8:26 pm: Public Works staff gave a presentation on how Berkeley will benefit from the new state Daylighting Law (Assembly Bill 413) and how the City of Berkeley will implement and enforce it.

8:26 pm: One member of the public present.

8:31 pm: One public comment.

8:32 pm: Commissioners asked questions and made comments about why traffic and parking fines are higher on game days; using daylight space for painting, bike parking, shared mobility stations; red curb isn't noticeable enough to drivers; use enforcement where there are problems; the need for more robust communications and going to community-based organizations and City Councilmembers; talking about daylighting as a lifesaving technology that's proven to reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes everywhere it's been implemented; fines should go to supporting walking and biking; hosting a day to paint daylighting.

8:44 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Parolek / Walton) to extend the meeting to 9 pm.

8:44 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

Recused: None

8:44 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-0-0-0

8:45 pm: Commissioners continued to ask questions and make comments about how to prioritize implementation; red paint doesn't always work to deter drivers from parking; need to install self-enforcing infrastructure and get more enforcement. Commissioners applauded the daylighting program.

4. 2025 Transportation and Infrastructure Commission meeting schedule

8:47 pm: Commissioners discussed the 2025 commission meeting schedule.

8:48 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Parolek) for the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to meet on the third Thursday of the month at the North Berkeley Senior Center at 6:15 pm, except in July and December 2025 and to address holidays accordingly.

8:48 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

Recused: None

8:48 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-0-0-0

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8:49 pm: Commissioners discussed the need for a new BART liaison; Commissioner Lutzker reported that the Bike Plan Update ad hoc subcommittee met twice (once with Public Works' staff); Vice Chair Parolek announced that the Paving Policy ad hoc subcommittee needs one more member; Vice Chair Parolek stated that the Commission should start a new work plan in January.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

8:54 pm: Chair Zaro stated that construction on Bancroft is blocking the bike lane, sidewalk, traffic and busses everyday; Commissioner Lutzker said that the construction work needs enforcement everyday; Commissioner Walton said that no turn on red enforcement is

needed at Sacramento and Delaware. Commissioner Ghosh stated that this is her last meeting.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8:57 pm: Vice Chair Parolek asked for a future presentation on Measure FF.

F. ADJOURNMENT

8:58 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Lutzker) to adjourn the meeting.

8:58 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

Recused: None

8:58 pm Motion passed 7-0-0-0-0

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th, 2025 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

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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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