



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

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6:15 pm

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

**A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

**1. Call to order**

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

6:15 pm: Two members of the public present.

**2. Roll call**

**6:15 pm:**

Commissioners Present: Ben Gerhardstein (substitute for Karen Parolek), Arsh Singh  
Hothi, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Julia Moss, Ren Zaro

Excused: Kim Walton

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Ron Nevels, Noah Budnick, Elliott Schwimmer,  
Dani Dynes, Elaine Hargraves, Charmine Solla (consultant),  
Christopher Kidd (consultant)

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

No public comments.

**4. Approval of minutes from November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 meeting**

**6:16 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Moss / Lutzker) to approve the minutes with the following changes:

- Under agenda item A7, Announcements, Commissioner Lutzker asked that the minutes state that Ben Brown was struck at the intersection of Josephine and Rose streets; and,
- Under agenda item B3, Commissioner Lutzker asked that “Commissioner applauded...” be changed to “Commissioners applauded...”

**6:16 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: Gerhardstein

Absent: None

Excused: Walton

Recused: None

**6:16 pm Motion passed 5-0-1-0-1-0**

**5. Approval and Order of Agenda**

**6:18 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Zaro / Lutzker) to move chair and vice chair nominations to the first item on the Discussion/Action section of the agenda.

**6:18 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Gerhardstein, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Walton

Recused: None

**6:18 pm Motion passed 6-0-0-0-1-0**

**6. Update on administration and staff**

**6:18 pm:** Deputy Director Wahid Amiri provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Transportation Division's staffing and vacancies, including recruiting for a Parking Services Manager, working with a firm to recruit engineers and non-engineers to hire a Transportation Division Manager and on on-boarding a new Senior Transportation Planner for Vision Zero, Associate Transportation Planner for transit and an Assistant Traffic Engineer for traffic calming.

Engineering Division Manager Ron Nevels provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about the Engineering Division's hiring and recruitment efforts, six vacancies out of thirty-eight staff, including Engineering Inspector, Chief of Party, Associate Engineer and Supervising Civil Engineer.

**7. Announcements**

**6:25 pm:** None.

**B. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Chair and Vice Chair nominations**

**6:25 pm:** Commissioners discussed new people to serve as Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

**6:26 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker / Zaro) to nominate Commissioner Leung to serve as vice chair.

**6:26 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Gerhardstein, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Walton

Recused: None

**6:26 pm Motion passed 6-0-0-0-1-0**

**6:27 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gerhardstein / Lutzker) to nominate Commissioner Zari to serve as chair.

**6:27 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Gerhardstein, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Walton

Recused: None

**6:27 pm Motion passed 6-0-0-0-1-0**

**2. MTC grant review: San Pablo Ave/Ashby Ave and 7th Street/Anthony intersections**

**6:27 pm:** Public Works staff presented on the MTC Complete Streets Checklists for the Housing Incentive Pool grant applications for the San Pablo Avenue/Ashby Avenue Intersection Improvements Project and the 7th Street/Anthony Street Complete Intersection Project. Staff requested that the Commission, in its capacity as the City of Berkeley's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, support the project.

6:34 pm: Four members of the public present.

6:37 pm: Five members of the public present.

6:38 pm: Six members of the public present.

**6:41 pm:** Commissioners asked clarifying questions about whether or not the City gathered information about bicycle and pedestrian volumes at the two intersections and if there's already a protected left turn signal for southbound turns at San Pablo and Ashby.

**6:43 pm:** Members of the public commented on whether or not the lane markings will shift.

**6:43 pm:** Commissioners commented on having protected turns in both directions, strong support for a protected left turn for northbound traffic on Ashby, reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians at 7<sup>th</sup> and Anthony, desire for more pedestrian and bicyclist safety measures at 7<sup>th</sup> and Anthony and that a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) isn't a bicyclist safety improvement.

**6:50 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Zaro / Moss) to support the City Manager and Department of Public Works' statement of compliance that the San Pablo Ave. and Ashby Ave. Intersection Improvements Project and the 7th and Anthony Complete Intersections Project both meet the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Complete Streets Policy (MTC adopted Resolution 4493) for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Housing Incentive Pool program, in the Commission's capacity as the City of Berkeley Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)..

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**6:51 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Gerhardstein, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Walton

Recused: None

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

**3. Informational presentation on daylighting implementation, outreach and enforcement**

**6:52 pm:** Public Works staff updated the Commission on the City's progress implementing California's new Daylighting Law (AB 413). Staff briefed commissioners on work since the November 21, 2024 Transportation and Infrastructure Commission meeting (when staff last briefed the Commission on daylighting). Staff also presented on daylighting-related communications, enforcement and implementation plans.

6:55 pm: Seven members of the public present.

**6:57 pm:** Commissioners asked clarifying questions about the number of warnings that have been issued.

No public comments.

**6:58 pm:** Commissioners commented on and asked questions about public participation in implementing daylighting, partnering with the community to address scarce resources, putting objects in daylighting areas such as San Francisco's use of boulders, appreciation for the community messaging and warnings, how the community can help the City identify areas that need more robust daylighting treatments, using SeeClickFix to collect data on repeated illegal parking, adding bikeways and areas near parks as secondary priority locations for daylighting, changing the messaging from "one car length" to "one and a half car lengths," deploying parking enforcement offices to schools at drop off times, giving warnings to delivery drivers, translating the materials into multiple languages, coordinating with the Planning department to get developers to install on-street bike parking in daylighting areas, the schedule for repainting red curbs, the budget referral on the January 21 City Council meeting agenda, appreciation for daylighting safety improvements and related communications, the need to educate the public about why parking is being removed, putting up signs to this effect during implementation with a blurb or QR code, the timing of painting priority areas, the City Council's action in December 2024 to issue tickets starting on April 1 regardless of whether or not red curbs are painted, the need for the City Manager to communicate about how enforcement saves lives, the process for implementing more robust daylighting treatments, examples of community engagement from Portland and Oakland and Berkeley's community-based traffic circle maintenance and storm drain clean up programs.

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**4. Informational presentation on the process to update the Bike Plan**

**7:29 pm:** Public Works staff and their consultant provided an informational presentation on the status of the citywide bike plan update, shared the update schedule, process and progress to date. Staff also shared material to be presented to the public as part of winter/spring 2025 public outreach activities and informed the Commission and the public about these upcoming outreach events and other opportunities to provide input on the plan.

**7:51 pm:** Commissioners invited commissioners and the public to send letters with robust thoughts on the content of the Bike Plan update, stating that they should send super-detailed comments to staff to disseminate to the entire commission.

**7:54 pm:** Members of the public commented on and asked questions about how feedback will be incorporated into the plan, appreciation, the desire to have as many in-person events as possible, hosting hybrid virtual and in-person workshops, concerns about fewer traffic circle recommendations because traffic circles help make left hand turns safer, how listening sessions will be advertised, encouraging neighbors to participate, reaching out to UC Berkeley and King Middle School, collecting data on where people are biking and taking alternate routes to bike boulevards, how bike lane progress is measured.

**8:03 pm:** Commissioners commented and asked questions about how the City is incorporating Berkeley's changing political climate into the Bike Plan update; communicating that Berkeley has very high bicycle use; showing who bicycles in Berkeley, the different types of bicycles that people use, including mothers and older people; showing pictures of who bikes to set the stage for public engagement sessions; people bike and driver on different streets, so drivers don't always see the large number of people who bike; mixing map slides with photo slides; maps are overwhelming; biking to school is about proximity to schools and routes to schools; listening session advertising should be inclusive; whether or not accommodations are required; getting information to City Councilmembers about the Bike Plan update and ask them to include it in their newsletters; excitement that the Bike Plan update is moving forward; create a map that highlights changes to the bike network as compared to the 2017 Bike Plan; confusion around traffic calming recommendations and bike boulevard designs; the end of the Bike Plan update process is on a tight timeline since the City Council needs materials so far in advance; students are excited about the Bike Plan update.

**C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8:17 pm:** The Bike Plan subcommittee reported that the public and commissioners should send detailed comments to the subcommittee via Public Works' staff.

**D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**8:18 pm:** None.

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## **E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**8:18 pm:** Measure FF update; daylighting update after the red curb funding is in place.

## **F. ADJOURNMENT**

**8:19 pm:** Chair Zaro adjourned the meeting.

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 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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