



TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 15th, 2025, 6:15 pm

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

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS — 6:15 pm

1. Call to order

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

2. Roll call

6:15 pm:

Commissioners Present: Arsh Singh Hothi, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker,
Holly Scheider (arrived at 7:12 pm), Ren Zaro

Excused: Julia Moss (out sick), Kim Walton (granted leave of absence)

Staff Present: Ron Nevels, Peni Basalusalu, Noah Budnick, John Hurtado,
Tucker Brofft, CiCi Corrales

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

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:16 pm: Five public comments.

4. Approval of minutes from April 17th, 2025 meeting

6:26 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker / Hothi) to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2025 commission meeting.

6:26 pm: Two members of the public present.

6:27 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Moss, Walton

Recused: None

6:27 pm: Motion passed 5-0-0-0-2-0

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:28 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker/ Hothi) to agendize a vote at the next commission meeting to amend standing agenda item C1 to include to create or dissolve subcommittee.

6:32 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Moss, Walton

Recused: None

6:32 pm: Motion passed 5-0-0-0-2-0

6. Update on administration and staff

6:33 pm: Engineering Manager Ron Nevels provided updates and answered Commissioner questions about Engineering Division staff vacancy rates: one inspector resigned, and one inspector is going out on parental leave; and, provided an update from the Transportation Division on the Bay Wheels Bike Share Expansion.

Commissioners asked follow-up questions and commented on the following topics: Stormwater Management Plan update, including the status of the contract and a request to agendize a presentation on it; Daniel Ellsberg street naming recommendation – signs at Kittredge and Shattuck are currently non-compliant and suggested a replacement of those along with the Daniel Ellsberg signs; Derby Street one-way conversation; May 17, 2025 Public Works Day.

7. Announcements

6:41 pm: Commissioner Zaro announced today is Bike to Wherever Day, emphasized the City's staff participation in today's event, including the City's Manager, and stressed the continual work needed to improve street safety for people who ride bikes.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS — 6:44 pm

1. Mechanical Street Sweeping Opt-In Request: 2900 block of Regent Street – Action requested — 6:44 pm

6:44 pm: Two members of the public.

6:44 pm: Public Works Deputy Director Basalusalu and Maintenance Superintendent Hurtado presented a petition from the residents on the 2900 block of Regent Street to request that the City recommence mechanical street sweeping on their block. Staff presented that restarting street sweeping will require implementing alternate side of the street parking regulations and new signage that will cost approximately \$1,700.

6:52 pm: Commissioners asked follow-up questions on the following topics: the meaning of the words "industrial" and "commercial" on the street sweeping map; whether that

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removes or changes anything about the physical streetscape; why this wasn't done previously.

6:55 pm:
Public comments: One public comment.

6:56 pm:
Commissioners commented on the following topics: interest in developing a comprehensive street sweeping plan; questions and comments regarding the bike lane street sweeper; dumping occurring in the Milvia Street bike lane and bicycle boulevard; exploring ways the City can educate people and discourage dumping on Milvia.

7:00 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Leung / Hothi) to recommend to City Council to approve reinstating the 2900 block of Regent Street, between Russell Street and Webster Street, to the Mechanical Sweeping Route, to implement alternate side of the street parking regulations two days per month to facilitate reinstating the Mechanical Street Sweeping here and to allocate funding if needed for sign production and installation.

7:01 pm: Vote:
Ayes: Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Zaro
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Excused: Moss, Walton
Recused: None

7:01 pm: Motion passed 5-0-0-0-2-0

2. Informational Presentation on UC Berkeley's Berkeley Innovation Zone Project —

7:02 pm: UC Berkeley staff and consultants presented the university's Business Innovation Zone (BIZ): North Building project on Oxford Street at University Avenue. This is the parcel where University Hall currently is being demolished, across University Ave from Anchor House. The project (approximately 159,000 gross square feet) would be a donor development project and would provide laboratories and office space for campus faculty, researchers, and campus-affiliated entrepreneurs and their collaborators in life sciences, genomics, and affiliated disciplines.

7:02 pm: One member of the public.

7:10 pm:
Commissioner asked a clarifying question and inquired whether the bike share will be relocated, and not removed.

7:11 pm:
Public comments: One public comment.

7:13 pm: Commissioners asked follow-up questions and commented on the following topics: the dangerous conditions created from construction spilling out onto the street

on University and Oxford; best practices for machinery operation - should be on the Addison-side, not Oxford; building's availability to accommodate classroom space; public accessibility options; best options for utilization of commercial space - high pedestrian traffic exists during the day - not at night; functionality of the pocket park; incorporating elements to activate the area to make it more pedestrian-friendly; the Oxford Complete Streets proposal alignment with this project; ensuring pedestrian access is maintained throughout construction; possible lane closures; the importance of open access for walking and ADA accessibility; a parklet design addressing accessibility and attractiveness concerns; closure of Center Street restaurants due to construction and the usefulness of adding food trucks; dumpster management plans; the lab's energy backup plans; non-existence of energy net-neutrality; available bike parking; installing bike racks in the park space that are accessible after parklet closes; a policy for providing bike parking for non-standard bikes and electric bicycle charging; the potential to park multiple cargo bikes in the building's bike room; investigating the development seismic detail and requirements for bike share stations – i.e. minimum anchorage for bolting the station to the ground; working closely with the City about potential changes to Oxford Street; keeping the bike share station; exploring ground floor activation – e.g. Salesforce Park, street vendors, food vendors, pop ups, once a week, Sunset Dunes Park in San Francisco.

A. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS — 7:42 pm

7:42 pm: Commissioner Lutzker reported that staff presented the bike share expansion update to the Bike Plan Update ad hoc committee; wants staff to utilize Veo scooter share data to plan bike share expansion; Bike Plan update ad hoc committee did not meet this week because agency technical advisory committee has more comments; stop sign warrant policy change includes putting stop signs at intersections of bike boulevards and major streets.

Commissioner Scheider asked follow-up questions on the status of safety improvements at the intersection of California and Ada.

7:42 pm: One member of the public.

B. COMMUNICATIONS — 7:48 pm

7:48 pm: – None.

C. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS — 7:48 pm

7:48 pm: Commissioner's suggested the following topics for future meeting agenda items: overview of Stormwater Management Plan update; a presentation from the Berkeley Police Department on collision reporting, as three children have been hit by drivers near Longfellow Middle School, and the police report no records of two of the three collisions; the school has records for all three crashes

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D. ADJOURNMENT 7:54 pm

7:54 pm: Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker/ Scheider) to adjourn the meeting.

7:55 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Moss, Walton

Recused: None

7:55 pm: Motion passed 5-0-0-0-2-0

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th, 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.

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



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
May 1, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, Interim City Manager
Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works
Subject: Derby Street Land Vacation and Exchange with Berkeley Unified School District

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt:

1. A resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration previously adopted by the Berkeley Unified School District and all required findings under the California Environmental Quality; and
2. The first reading of an Ordinance:
 - a. Vacating a portion of the public right-of-way of Derby Street; and
 - b. Conveying the City's interests in the vacated property to Berkeley Unified School District; and
 - c. Accepting, in exchange, an offer of street dedication of fee interest at 1925 Derby Street from Berkeley Unified School District for public right-of-way purposes.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) has paid the appropriate fees (approximately \$15,000) related to the processing of this land exchange. As BUSD is exempt from paying property taxes and they will fund the construction work, there is no fiscal impact from this land exchange.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Derby Street, between Milvia Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, is a 2-way street approximately 42 feet in width from curb-to-curb, with sidewalk on both sides of the street. There is parallel parking on the north side and parallel and angled parking on the south side. During Tuesday afternoons this portion of Derby is reserved for the Berkeley Farmers' Market, where vendors erect tents on both sides of the street and pedestrians walk down the center of the street to access vendors. During work on Derby Street, BUSD will relocate the Farmers' Market to what is currently the western side of the field.

On the south side of Derby are the Berkeley Technology Academy and the King Child Development Center, both operated by BUSD.

On the north side of Derby is a grass sports field owned by BUSD and bounded by Carleton Street to the north, Milvia Street to the east, Derby Street to the south, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to the west. A chain link fence surrounds the sports field, with access provided via a turnstile at the northeast corner of the field. There is no permanently fixed sports infrastructure located on the field.

Due to the rectangular shape of the sports field, usage has mostly been for sports such as football, soccer, rugby, frisbee and lacrosse. Baseball and softball practices are also conducted on this field. BUSD is proposing to redevelop the field to accommodate a baseball/softball field, a basketball court, and a multi-purpose field. This requires the widening of the existing rectangular field.

As BUSD owns property on both sides of Derby Street, they are requesting the City vacate a portion of Derby Street in exchange for an equivalent portion of BUSD property on the south side of Derby Street (see accompanying letter from BUSD). This exchange of land results in Derby Street being realigned with a curve portion (see accompanying map and legal description). In addition, BUSD is currently working with the utility companies and obtaining approvals as it relates to the street realignment.

BACKGROUND

The Derby Street athletic field has been in discussion between the City and BUSD for many years. On October 2005, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved endorsing BUSD's request to work together to create a multi-purpose field.

On December 6, 2005 Resolution No. 63,135-N.S. was passed, which recommended, among other things, the City inform BUSD regarding the process for street vacation and BUSD proceed with options for a closed and open Derby Street scenario.

On March 7, 2012, BUSD's Board of Education passed Resolution No. 12-38 approving a land swap with the City to provide for a baseball field at the Derby Street athletic field (see accompanying BUSD Resolution).

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

By vacating a portion of Derby Street in exchange for equivalent BUSD land, the Derby Street athletic field will accommodate a greater variety of activities for BUSD students, including baseball, softball and basketball. The general public will also benefit as the field will be available during non-school hours and when not in use by Berkeley High or Berkeley Technology Academy. In addition, Derby Street will maintain the same curb-to-curb width after realignment.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Permanently closing Derby Street was considered an option to realigning Derby Street, but the cost for the closed option is considerably greater than the open option. Therefore closing Derby Street was not considered to be a viable alternative.

CONTACT PERSON

Jeffrey L. Egeberg, Manager of Engineering, Public Works, 981-6400

Lorin Jensen, Supervising Civil Engineer, Public Works, 981-6411

Vincent Chen, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works, 981-6409

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Exhibit A: BUSD Resolution 10-64

2. Ordinance

Exhibit A-1: Legal Description of Land to be Vacated by the City

Exhibit A-2: Legal Description of Land to be Dedicated to the City

Exhibit B: Map of Land to be Exchanged Between the City and BUSD

3. Letter from BUSD

4. BUSD Resolution 12-38

5. Index to Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and response to Comments

6. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and response to Comments

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ADOPTING MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING
AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR PARTIAL VACATION AND REALIGNMENT OF
DERBY STREET

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2010, the Berkeley Unified School District (“BUSD”) released for public review an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (“IS/MND”) on the “East Campus Sports Fields Project” (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, on June 2010, BUSD issued a “Response to Comments Document” which addressed comments received on the IS/MND; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2010, the BUSD Board of Directors adopted the IS/MND and approved the Project; and

WHEREAS, completion of the Project requires that the City of Berkeley (“City”) adopt an ordinance partially vacating and realigning Derby Street between Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Milvia Street; and

WHEREAS, the City is therefore a “responsible agency” for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered the IS/MND and Response to Comments Document prepared by BUSD; and

WHEREAS, the IS/MND states that construction activities related to the Project could have potentially significant impacts on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, soils and water quality, and could expose the public and environment to hazardous materials and the public to excessive construction noise; and

WHEREAS, the IS/MND concludes that all of these potentially significant impacts can be mitigated to a level such that they are not significant through the adoption of the mitigation measures specified in the IS/MND; and

WHEREAS, in adopting the IS/MND BUSD also adopted the mitigation measures set forth therein and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (“MMRP”), which is attached as Appendix A to its resolution Number 10-64; and

WHEREAS, all construction activities related to the partial vacation and realignment of Derby Street will be undertaken and carried out by BUSD and its construction contractors, who will be responsible for complying with and implementing the MMRP.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that, on the basis of the whole record before it, the Council hereby finds that potentially

significant effects related to the partial vacation and realignment of Derby Street were identified in the IS/MND, but mitigation measures were identified that would avoid or reduce the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those mitigation measures applicable to construction activities that were identified in the IS/MND and adopted by BUSD by Resolution Number 10-64 on June 30, 2010, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, are hereby adopted by reference with respect to any construction activities necessary to partially vacate and realign Derby Street.

Exhibit:

A: Berkeley Unified School District Resolution Number 10-64

ORDINANCE NO. #####-N.S.

VACATING A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF DERBY STREET, CONVEYING THE CITY'S INTERESTS IN THE VACATED PROPERTY TO BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ACCEPTING, IN EXCHANGE, AN OFFER OF STREET DEDICATION OF FEE INTEREST AT 1925 DERBY STREET FROM BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY PURPOSES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. Vacation of Portion of Right of Way at Derby Street

That pursuant to Streets and Highway Code Section 8320 et seq., the City of Berkeley hereby vacates the following portion of the public right-of-way on Derby Street, more specifically shown in Exhibit B and described in Exhibits A and A-2, on the basis of the following findings:

- a. That California Government Code Section 65402 does not apply as this street alignment is of a minor nature,
- b. That the public right-of-way described above is acquired to construct and maintain a sports field and related hardscape and landscape features,
- c. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this ordinance of vacation, attested by him under seal, to be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, and
- d. The vacation approved by this Ordinance is contingent upon the receipt by the City of an irrevocable offer of street dedication at 1925 Derby Street, for public use, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

Section 2. Acceptance of Street Dedication of Fee Interest

That the City Manager is authorized and directed to accept dedication of fee interest of land for public right-of-way purposes from Berkeley Unified School District more specifically shown in Exhibit B and described in Exhibits A and A-2.

Section 3. Conveyance of Property

That the City Manager and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a quitclaim deed conveying the City's interests in the portion of the right-of-way shown and described in Exhibits A, A-2 and B to the affected property owner, and that the City Clerk is authorized and directed to cause the executed quitclaim deed to be recorded in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder of Alameda county, California.

Section 4. Posting

Copies of this Bill shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of Old City Hall, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within fifteen days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

City of Berkeley
Transportation and Infrastructure Commission
Ren Zaro, Chair

RE: Action Item B1, Mechanical Street Sweeping Opt-In Request, to be presented at the
May 15, 2025 Meeting of the Commission

May 13, 2025

Honorable Chair and Commissioners:

I am submitting written comments in support of reinstating mechanical street sweeping on the 2900 block of Regent Street.

We have owned our home on this block since 1995. I have been making attempts to reinstate mechanical street sweeping since 1998. My connection to Berkeley dates back to 1990-1991, when I received my Master's degree in Public Health from UC Berkeley.

More than 30 years ago, previous residents who no longer reside on this block opted out of street sweeping. The vast majority of current residents on our block now support mechanical street sweeping and have signed a petition in favor of reinstatement.

We live next to a very busy street (Ashby) and get a considerable amount of through-traffic that contributes to road dust, which may contain heavy metals such as lead and hydrocarbons as well as other pollutants. Accumulated dust and trash may cause harmful effects on human health and the environment. These hazards can be mitigated by mechanical street sweeping.

The inconvenience of monthly parking restrictions is minor compared to the public health benefits that will be gained by mechanical street sweeping. Moreover, our taxes already support street sanitation.

I urge the Commission to approve the petition for mechanical street sweeping on the 2900 block of Regent Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Rupali Das, MD, MPH
2917 Regent Street

From: Caroline Kessler <carolinehkessler@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 4:08 PM

To: transportation <transportation@berkeleyca.gov>

Cc: Budnick, Noah <NBudnick@berkeleyca.gov>

Subject: Comments for Transportation and Infrastructure Commission Meeting on May 15 -- re 2900 Regent Street Sweeping

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Noah and the Commission,

I live at 2921 Regent Street, Apt. A in Berkeley. I'm writing to submit my comments for the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission Meeting on May 15 as I am unable to attend in person but still want to share my thoughts on the proposed mechanical street sweeping parking enforcement.

I have lived on Regent Street for the past three years, and in the East Bay since 2015. I'm very grateful to my neighbor and friend Rebecca Lueck, who brought this issue to my attention and has advocated for street sweeping on our block. Over the past several years, I've noticed a lot of dust, dirt, and debris on our street because of the lack of street sweeping. She shared very compelling research with me that indicates we are at an increased risk for lung/respiratory issues because of the lack of street cleaning, and children on our block are even more at-risk.

Additionally, because we are so close to Alta Bates Hospital and there is a dentistry practice on our street, I've noticed a lot of cars parking on our street and being moved frequently--perhaps more so than surrounding blocks although that's anecdotal. Anyway, it leads me to think there is likely even more debris and a need for sweeping on our block and I'm glad you are considering this request.

Even though street sweeping can be inconvenient, my concern for the safety and health of our block's residents far outweighs any minor nuisance of having to move my car twice a month for a few hours.

Please distribute these comments to the Commissioners and Commission Secretary and include them in the meeting minutes if possible. I appreciate your time and energy on this issue!

Best,
Caroline Kessler

carokess.com | 443.465.9705