



**TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, October 16th, 2025, 6:15 pm

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

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to order

6:16 pm: Chair Zaro called the meeting to order.

6:16 pm: Two members of the public present.

2. Roll call

6:16 pm:

Commissioners Present: Naveen Gattu, Arsh Singh Hothi (arrived at 6:18 pm)
Barry Fike, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Julia Moss,
Holly Scheider (arrived at 7:18 pm), Kim Walton
(arrived at 6:20 pm), Ren Zaro

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Mark Helmbrecht, Ron Nevels, Noah
Budnick

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:17 pm: Two public comments.

6:17 pm: Two members of the public present.

4. Approval of minutes from the September 18th, 2025 meeting

6:23 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Moss / Hothi) to approve the minutes
from the September 18, 2025 commission meeting.

6:23 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Gattu, Hothi, Fike, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Walton, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

6:23 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-1-0

6:23 pm: Zero members of the public present.

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:24 pm Action: Motion to move Commissioner's Lutzker's presentation after the information items and subcommittee reports. It was Moved / Seconded (Zaro / Lutzker) to accept this proposal and approve the agenda.

6:24 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Gattu, Hothi, Fike, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Walton, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

6:25 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-1-0

6:25 pm: One member of the public present.

6. Update on administration and staff

6:25 pm: Manager of Transportation, Mark Helmbrecht, provided an update on division hiring efforts: recruitment is still in progress for the Supervising Transportation Engineer; the Electric Mobility Coordinator will be returning from parental leave next week, working part-time until Thanksgiving and then full-time afterwards.

Manager of Engineering, Ron Nevels, provided an update on staffing: Recruitment is still underway for the Supervisor Civil Engineer vacancy; an offer was rejected for the Associate Civil Engineer; a new candidate is scheduled to be interviewed for the Associate Civil Engineer; an offer has been made for the Junior Public Works Engineer; recruitment for Engineering Inspector closes on Monday – currently there are three inspector vacancies to fill; the Chief of Party position is still vacant.

Deputy Director, Wahid Amiri, provided an update on the daylighting program, reporting 73-percent of intersections citywide are daylight with red curb. Commissioners asked clarifying questions about the hiring process: Why was the offer for the Associate Civil Engineer rejected; are salaries comparable to similar Bay Area positions; how long does it take between hiring staff and when they come up to speed; can Measure FF funds be used for hiring; who previously held the Supervising Transportation Engineer role?

Commissioners asked clarifying questions about the Woolsey-Fulton project and the shared micromobility program: What project is being completed at the Ashby BART Station on MLK Jr. Way; what is the plan for implementing physical barriers at daylight intersections; have micromobility companies been responsive to keeping scooters out of the public right of way?

Commissioners made the following comments: utilizing UC Berkeley Parking and Transportation interns could be beneficial; micromobility companies are extractive: they have no incentive to kick customers off the system, they rarely follow up with the users, people lock scooters to light posts and block pedestrian pushbuttons and companies need to be fined directly for misparked scooters. Commissioners asked the following clarifying questions: Are there consequences in the contract for the micromobility companies; why reduce the number of scooters versus fining the companies; what happened to the Bay Wheels bikes located at Telegraph and Haste which disappeared two weeks ago? It was a well-used location.

7. Announcements

6:54 pm: The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission announced the appointment of its newest Commissioner, Barry Fike, and welcomed him.

6:56 pm: Commissioner Walton requested an update on the status of obtaining turkey crossing signs for installation on Dwight Way.

7:00 pm: Two members of the public present.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Jeronimus Alley street naming

7:02 pm: Commissioners discussed naming the alleyway running parallel between 5th and 6th streets from Camelia to Virginia street in honor of Wayne Jeronimus. Mr. Jeronimus worked for the City of Berkeley Housing Department from 1976 to 2000, where he was part of a team working to provide affordable housing within city limits. The Commission heard a request for this street naming from the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association at its September 21, 2023 meeting. Though the Commission voted unanimously in support then, staff clarified that the Berkeley City Council Rules of Procedure and Order require that the hearing and the vote occur at two separate meetings. Thus, staff requested that the Commission vote again.

7:02 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Leung / Moss) to recommend to the City Council that they approve the name change of “5-1/2 Street” to Jeronimus Alley for the alleyway running parallel between 5th and 6th streets from Camelia to Virginia street.

7:05 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Gattu, Hothi, Fike, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Walton, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

7:05 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-1-0

2. Daniel Ellsberg honorary street naming

7:05 pm: Commissioners discussed installing three ceremonial street name signs on Kittredge Street at Milvia Street, Shattuck Avenue and Fulton Street in honor of journalist Daniel Ellsberg. Mr. Ellsberg was a Berkeley journalist, professor and dean of the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism; he leaked the “Pentagon Papers,” which contributed to the end of the Vietnam War, and was a peace activist who spoke out against nuclear weapons. The Commission heard a request for this street naming from the Western States Legal Foundation at its April 17, 2025 meeting. Though the Commission voted unanimously in support then, staff clarified the Berkeley City Council Rules of Procedure and Order require that the hearing and the vote occur at two separate meetings. Thus, staff requested that the Commission vote again.

7:07 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi / Fike) to recommend to the City Council to install three ceremonial street name signs in honor of Daniel Ellsberg on Kittredge Street at Milvia Street, Shattuck Avenue and Fulton Street in consultation with community members about the specific locations at each intersection.

7:07 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Gattu, Hothi, Fike, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Walton, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

7:07 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-1-0

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Temporary Ad Hoc Committee verbal reports, assignments, creation or dissolution

7:08 pm: Five Year Street Rehabilitation Plan Temporary Ad Hoc Committee – Commissioner Hothi reported that the committee met with City staff and received an update on the Five Year Street Rehabilitation Plan and update process. Commissioners asked clarifying questions asking how Measure FF will affect the plan.

7:08 pm: Four members of the public present.

7:20 pm: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission liaison – Commissioner Lutzker stated that she plans to attend the October 29th Disaster and Fire Safety Commission meeting, when the Commission will discuss sending a letter to the City Council concerning the Fire Department studies in the Bike Plan.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS CON'T

3. Informational presentation on the U.S. Safe System Academy Training

7:22 pm: Commissioner Liza Lutzker set up her presentation.

7:25 pm: Five members of the public present.

7:26 pm: Commissioner Liza Lutzker gave a presentation on the U.S. Safe System Academy training that she attended in June 2025. The training was sponsored by Johns Hopkins University, Trafikverket (the Swedish Transport Administration), the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the FIA Foundation and the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

7:50 pm: Four members of the public present.

8:07 pm: Commissioner's comments included the following: the presentation on the U.S Safe System Academy training should be presented to the City Council; SafeTREC is piloting a Safe System Training for California cities with Safe Streets and Roads for All grants; recommendations made for all commissioners to email their Councilmembers about the presentation.

8:10 pm: One public comment.

8:13 pm: Commissioners discussed the presentation. Chair Zaro was pleased to see Nashville, Tennessee mentioned in the U.S. Safe System Academy training.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS CON'T

2. Transportation & Infrastructure Commission Work Plan
3. Transportation & Infrastructure Commission Mission Statement (enclosed)
4. Council Summary Actions 2024*
5. Link to City Council and Committee and Minutes

8:18 pm: No updates.

8:18 pm: Two members of the public present.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

8:18 pm: Commission Secretary Helmbrecht called Commissioners' attention to Caltrans District 4 I-580 Truck Access Study (TAS) flyer in the agenda packet.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8:19 pm: Commissioners discussed future agenda items, including, but not limited to, the state's red light violation automated enforcement program (SB 720); former City Councilmember Kate Harrison's 2022 referral regarding rapid rectangular flashing beacons; Commissioner Lutzker asked if the Bike Plan is still on track to come back to the Commission in November.

F. ADJOURNMENT

8:25 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Gattu) to adjourn the meeting.

8:25 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Gattu, Hothi, Fike, Leung, Lutzker, Moss, Scheider, Walton, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

Recused: None

8:25 pm: Motion passed 9-0-0-0-0-0

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:15 pm, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission
Thursday, October 16th, 2025

Administrative Procedures from the City of Berkeley Commissioners' & Board Members' Manual, 2025 Edition, pages 62-63 regarding minutes:

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

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, Mark Helmbrecht
Manager of Transportation, Public Works
Telephone (510) 981-6403 / Fax: (510) 981-7060 / TDD: (510) 981-6903
Email: transportation@berkeleyca.gov eleyca.gov

From: Lawrence Grown

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:37 AM

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

Cc: Janet Byron; Salonga, Terrence <tsalonga@berkeleyca.gov>; Alina Constantinescu; charlie_paths; Bob Gomez; bpwaboard

Subject: Re: Jeronimus Alley Renaming: October 28 Berkeley City Council Meeting

Hi Noah.

Thank you for your guidance. Below is my note to the Commission. Please forward.

Best wishes,

Lawrence

Dear Transportation and Infrastructure Commission,

Regarding the renaming of 5-1/2 Street to Jeronimus Alley:

I wish to thank you in advance for recommending this change to City Council for two main reasons. As you know, Wayne Jeronimus worked for the City of Berkeley from the 1970s through the 1990s. I applaud your recognition of his tireless work on affordable housing which is ever important here and everywhere. The name change also brings attention to the alley as a valuable community resource. Many people enjoy the alley every day for its human scale and mostly pedestrian nature. It is also becoming a mural arts destination, and the new recognition will make more Berkeley residents aware of its importance.

I'm personally invested in the alley. I have led a couple of community clean-up days there and continue to help murals get funded there through Commotion West Berkeley. I also want to recognize Berkeley Path Wanderers Association for their work to keep the alley clean and for recommending this official name change.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Grown

Design. Sustainability. Community.

510.393.3667

[Metro Lighting](#)

[West Berkeley Design Loop](#)

[Commotion West Berkeley](#)

[Berkeley-Built Magazine](#)

[One Future Arts Alliance](#)

[International Marketplace](#)

Oct. 16, 2025

Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, Noah Budnick, Wahid Amiri as secretary:

I'm using my public-comment opportunity to let you know about some of the wide range of Public Works matters that concern us and we hope will concern you.

I couldn't attend last month. The August meeting on the stormwater plan was well attended by knowledgeable people who asked good questions. Ricardo Salcedo and the consultant's representative seemed clear and forthcoming, although we never got the promised answers to our chat questions. I hope some of you have studied the slides, and will seek another input opportunity before this is effectively a done deal. I also appreciate Ricardo and Mary Skramstad taking a walk with Toni Mester and me to exchange views on Aquatic Park.

Continuing regarding Aquatic Park, we have reported several different openings into pipes where someone could fall, or drop a body, into deep water. I hope these are being attended to. These parks are our insane asylums, and bodies in Aquatic Park are not new.

We were sorry to identify the bubblegum-pink algae we have seen over three years as purple sulfide bacteria, able to flourish on sulfur alone without light, carbon, or oxygen, and so tolerant of sewage-like conditions that utilities use it to help break down the raw effluent.

We remain disappointed that the city declines to measure depths in the lagoons. The silting in is obvious and increases flood likelihood and algae blooms, which go on even when cool summers don't cause dead alga to form a smelly yellow to black surface scum.

Most important is **the big Codornices Creek encampment fire that could have easily killed people**, and the second fire two days later that blackened a bicycle and bedsprings and melted tent and mattress cover; the rest is ash and charcoal. A generation ago, the city chose to make this land a Public Works responsibility, not a park. For 25 years, better stewardship has come only after the responsible agencies caused an expensive calamity. We seem to be on the edge of that now, with a cleanup and at last "no camping" signs promised next week. We hope the city revives the system of reporting problems that Berkeley created but let lapse.

Nothing is forever, and cities lack institutional memory. But I hope you will show enough interest as commission members to keep this from repeating and perhaps prevent a death.

Susan Schwartz, President, Friends of Five Creeks

510 848 9358, f5creeks@gmail.com, www.fivecreeks.org



Above: Part of the camp that burned with explosions, a few days before the fire.

Below: The camp after the fire, partly cleaned by a volunteer.



Below: Camp below Fifth, before and after fire, charred materials.

