



**TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6:15 pm**

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

**A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

**1. Call to order**

**6:17 pm:** Secretary Helmbrecht called the meeting to order.

*6:17 pm: Nine members of the public present.*

**2. Roll call**

**6:18 pm:**

Commissioners Present: Marina Budmir (alternate for Julia Moss), Barry Fike, Naveen Gattu, Arsh Singh Hothi, Liza Lutzker, Holly Scheider (arrived at 6:23 pm), Kim Walton

Granted Leave: Adrian Leung, Julia Moss

Absent: Ren Zaro

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Mark Helmbrecht, Ron Nevels, Noah Budnick, Eric Anderson, Elaina Hargraves and Alameda County Transportation Commission staff Matt Bomberg and Emma Berkhart

**3. Meeting chair nomination and election**

**6:18 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Gattu) for Commissioner Liza Lutzker to chair the meeting.

**6:18 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Scheider, Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**6:18 pm: Motion passed 6-0-0-2-1-0**

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

**6:19 pm:** Six public comments.

*6:22 pm: Eleven members of the public present.*

*6:31 pm: Twelve members of the public present.*

**5. Approval of minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting**

**6:34 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu / Walton) to approve the minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 commission meeting.

**6:34 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**6:35 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

**6. Approval and Order of Agenda**

**7. Update on administration and staff**

**6:36 pm:** Deputy Director, Wahid Amiri, provided an update on administration including monitoring and working closely with both East Bay MUD and PG&E; sending out Engineering Inspectors to conduct site visits to ensure work site conditions are safe, and ongoing communications including quarterly meetings with East Bay MUD and PG&E.

Deputy Director Wahid Amiri, and Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht addressed the traffic circle review process.

Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht provided staffing updates: Jennifer Sajor will return as the Micromobility and Electric Mobility Coordinator full-time beginning in December 2025; the Supervising Traffic Engineer position is still vacant.

Manager of Engineering, Ron Nevels, provided an update on staffing: Interviewing is underway for two Supervisor Civil Engineer vacancies in the Sewers and Streets, Storm and Sidewalk groups; a new Associate Civil Engineer will be starting in December; a new Junior Public Works Engineer in the Sewer group will be starting in December; there are three Engineering Inspector vacancies – one in the Sewer group, two in the Utilities group; there two intern

vacancies, with one new intern starting in January 2026; the Chief of Party position is still vacant.

*6:56 pm: Seven members of the public present.*

Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht provided a progress update on the California and Ada St. project; the layout of the street will be done this week, waiting for materials to be delivered; the contractor is expected to be back in Berkeley in early-December to implement it.

## **8. Announcements**

**7:10 pm:** Commission Lutzker alerted us on Saturday, John Edward Muller, cyclist, was killed on Telegraph Avenue. She noted how in the Southside, most people get around by foot, bike, or public transit and Telegraph Avenue has four lanes for traffic. The Commission paused to observe a moment of silence.

*7:14 pm: Five members of the public present.*

## **B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Presentation on the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) San Pablo Avenue Corridor Projects update**

**7:14 pm:** Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) staff gave a presentation on the San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Program, a project in partnership with the City of Berkeley, other local jurisdictions, AC Transit and Caltrans. ACTC staff provided an update on the three projects included in the program: Parallel Bike Improvements Project, San Pablo Avenue Safety Enhancements Project and San Pablo Avenue Bus and Bike Lanes Project. The Parallel Bike project consists of bicycle boulevard improvements parallel and connecting to San Pablo Avenue. The Safety Enhancements project consists of pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements and bus bulbs and stop upgrades. The Bus and Bike Lanes Project consist of adding bus lanes and bike lanes on San Pablo Avenue from Oakland to Heinz Avenue in Berkeley. ACTC staff presented an update on work that's been done at the staff level since they last presented these projects to the commission on July 20, 2023, and next steps for each. ACTC staff requested that the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission appoint a representative to attend a workshop to discuss these projects in more detail and to represent Berkeley in discussions of cross-jurisdiction issues.

**7:35 pm:** Commissioners asked clarifying questions: when will the projects begin the construction phase; do the proposed lights and beacons include the RRFBs; regarding the upcoming construction in spring 2026 on the parallel bike improvements, how will the projects be built; how are mountable traffic circles chosen; is ACTC adhering the City of Berkeley's standards; are ways to make traffic circles more visible being explored; how are ongoing concerns about new traffic circle designs being addressed; will the South Berkeley portion begin after 2030 because the bus and bike lanes project will not begin construction until 2030; why was the design treated differently on different road segments; is 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Heinz to Pardee going to be paved in conjunction with ACTC?

**7:48 pm:** Three public comments.

**7:59 pm:** Commissioners made comments and asked additional clarifying questions: what portion of the project will be completed by Spring 2026; can the projects designs be shared sooner; how will the transition from the Oakland to Berkeley sections be built; Commissioners expressed the necessity for bike lanes on San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley and asked if its a possibility in the future; why did the City make the decision to not include bike lanes on San Pablo Avenue; is there a dedicated bus lane in Berkeley; does Caltrans have any bearing on the exclusion of bus lanes north of Ashby; the idea of parallel bike lanes is appealing - what will that design look like; will there be a bike connection north of Ashby? Commissioners expressed disappointment over there being an absence of bike detection; indicated push buttons are inconvenient and inquired into how the infrastructure hand-off works.

**8:19 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker/Walton) for Commissioner Gattu to represent the Transportation Infrastructure Commission at the workshop.

**8:19 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**8:20 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

**8:21 pm:** Commissioner Walton asked an additional clarifying question: where is the funding coming from and is it in hand?

*8:22 pm: One member of the public present.*

**2. 2026 Transportation and Infrastructure Commission meeting schedule**

**8:22 pm:** Commissioners discussed the 2026 meeting schedule.

**8:29 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu/ Hothi) to hold the Transportation Infrastructure Commission meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 6:15pm, except for December and June.

**8:29 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**8:30 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

**3. Commission Chair and Vice Chair nominations**

**8:30 pm:** Commissioner Lutzker reported that Commissioners Zaro and Leung agreed to be nominated as Chair and Vice Chair for 2026.

**8:30 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker/ Hothi) for Commissioner Ren Zaro to serve as Commission Chair for 2026.

**8:31 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**8:31 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

**8:31 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi/ Gattu) for Commissioner Adrian Leung to serve as Vice Chair for 2026.

**8:31 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**8:32 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

**4. Commission discussion of 2026 work plan**

**8:33 pm:** Commissioners reviewed the 2026 work plan and discussed it with staff.

**8:45 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi/ Walton) to extend the meeting to 9:00 pm.

**8:46 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Walton

Noes: Scheider

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**8:46 pm: Motion passed 6-1-0-1-1-0**

*8:49 pm: Zero members of the public present.*

**5. 2026 Temporary Ad Hoc Committee assignments, creation or dissolution**

**8:49 pm:** Commissioners discussed assignments for Temporary Ad Hoc Committees for 2026.

**8:59 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Walton/Hothi) to extend the meeting to 9:05 pm.

**8:59 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**8:59 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

**C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9:00 pm:** Commissioners gave verbal reports from Temporary Ad Hoc Committees.

Bike Plan subcommittee:

Commissioner Lutzker noted the Bike Plan subcommittee met with staff.

Disaster and Fire Safety Commission:

Commissioner Lutzker expressed concerns about the evacuation time study being used as the basis of design for bike projects.

Measure FF subcommittee:

Commissioner Hothi noted a work plan has been created; the committee will be meeting four times in 2026; no funding is available yet; planning is preliminary; staffing will be implemented early summer; RFQs are out for consultants.

Five-Year Paving Plan subcommittee:

Commissioner Hothi informed the commission on how the stormwater permit rules will slow down projects and add additional costs.

**9:05 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi/Gattu) to extend the meeting to 9:10 pm.

**9:05 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider,

Noes: Walton

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**9:05 pm: Motion passed 6-1-0-1-1-0**

**D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**9:07 pm:** No communications.

**E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**9:07 pm:** Bike plan.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

**9:08 pm Action:** It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu/Hothi) to adjourn the meeting.

**9:08 pm: Vote:**

Ayes: Budmir, Fike, Gattu, Hothi, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Zaro

Excused: Leung

Recused: None

**9:08 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-1-1-0**

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:15 pm, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709.*

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:transportation@berkeleyca.gov) [eleyca.gov](http://eleyca.gov)

To: Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, City of Berkeley  
From: Delaware/ California/ McGee Neighborhood Group  
Re: Recent Paving Work by EBMUD  
Date: Thurs, Nov 20, 2025

Good Evening Commissioners and Staff in the Transportation and Public Works Departments,

We are here tonight representing the Delaware / California / McGee Neighborhood Group, which is just North of Ohlone Park and East of Sacramento Street. As you may know, East Bay MUD recently performed a large pipeline replacement project under the roads in our neighborhood. We have grave concerns about the safety and poor surface conditions of the road following this project that EBMUD has yet to complete.

While we are grateful to EBMUD for replacing our water pipelines, they have left the road surface in terrible shape. They trenched both laterally and longitudinally down most of the streets through our neighborhood, finishing around the end of August, and then very temporarily filled in the deep trenches. Months have passed and they have yet to come back and finish the repaving job. Residents have been communicating with the City of Berkeley and EBMUD, and it is still unclear to us when they will resurface the roads. As EBMUD customers and taxpayers in this city, we are frustrated. This is completely unacceptable.

On Delaware Street, where we live, the temporary repair job is so bad that cars routinely drive on the wrong side of the street so they don't have to go over the constant bumps and trenches. On California Street, it is impossible to ride a bike safely, as the longitudinal trench lies in the bike lane and is too rough to ride on. Pedestrians are also having a hard time crossing the streets. Our multiple wheelchair using residents cannot roll over the lip of the trenches, and some residents who use walkers cannot cross the intersection without an aide.

This is a main thoroughfare for children riding to and from King, Longfellow and Berkeley High schools, as well as BART commuters, and if you come out any morning of the week you will see cyclists navigating the trenches on these roads. Conditions on Grant and other streets are as bad if not worse. It is only a matter of time before there is an accident on these streets!

We have learned that while some of our streets are included in the 5 year paving plan for the city, many are not. This means that it could be years before the streets finally get freshly paved and restored to pre-project condition after being torn up by EBMUD.

We urge this Commission to ask Staff to:

1. Look into the timeline for EBMUD's spot re-paving of the trenches,
2. Prioritize all streets affected by the EBMUD Pipeline Project in the 5 year paving plan, and
3. Guarantee that EBMUD completes the job with quality asphalt paving, and a surface that is safe for all users.

We invite you to visit the affected area, so you can see the extent of the safety risk to our community. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to seeing your solutions in action soon.

Mat Glaser, Kristin Leimkuhler and Larry Orman  
*Del Cal McGee Neighborhood Group*

Mat Glaser  
Email: [mat.glaser@gmail.com](mailto:mat.glaser@gmail.com)

Attachment: Photos and Map of Area

NB BART

SACRAMENTO

AREA IMPACTED BY EBMUD PROJECT  
(may not be exact)

Cedar

Lincoln

Virginia

Francisco

California

Delaware

OHLONE PARK

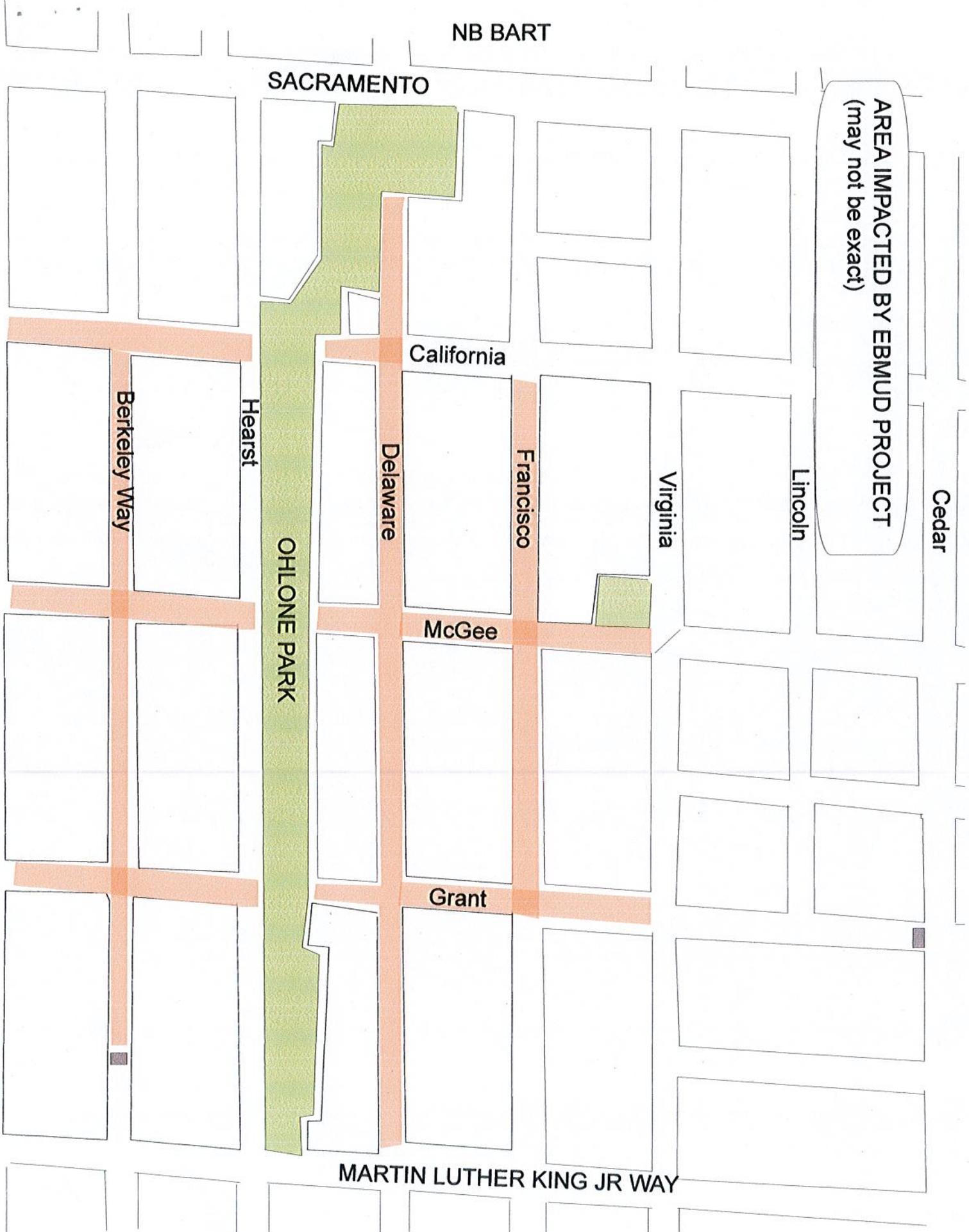
Hearst

Berkeley Way

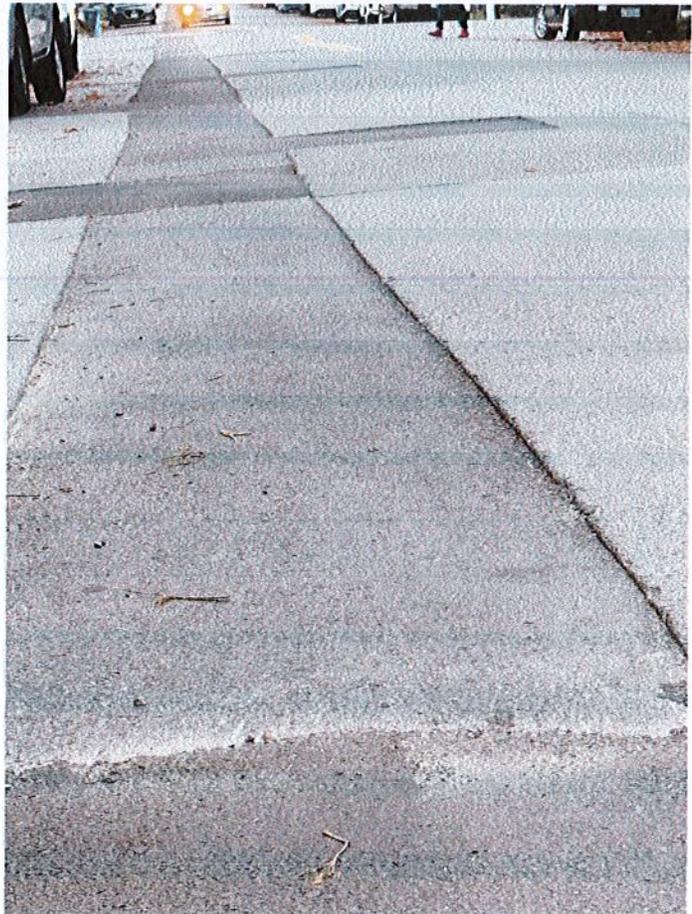
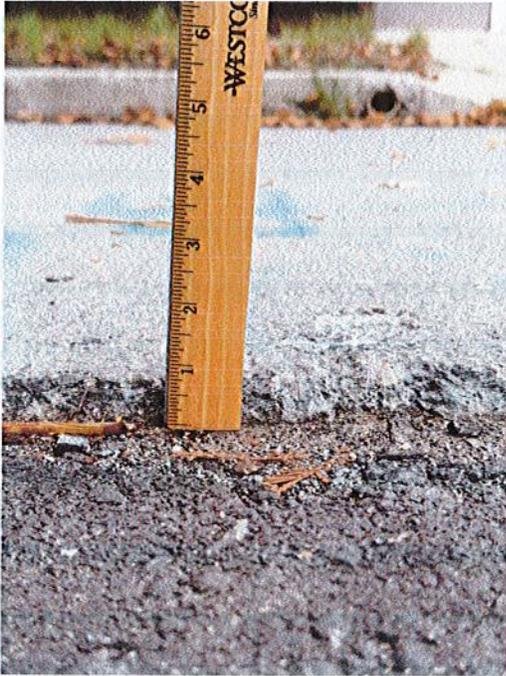
McGee

Grant

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY



EBMUD PAVING  
PHOTOS SHOWING DEPTH OF TRENCHES IN SOME LOCATIONS



FOLGER ST.

← worker was nearly hit by car here

FIX-IT AUTO

TCHO

CROSSWALKS NEEDED!

HERE ← PEOPLE WALK AND CROSS HERE 24/7

HASSELL ST

PARKING LOT

UCSF / GYM

CROSSWALK NEEDED

HERE ← PEOPLE WALK AND CROSS HERE 24/7

SAN PABLO AVE