



**TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 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: Commission Chair Zaro called the meeting to order.

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

2. Roll call

6:17 pm:

Commissioners Present: Barry Fike, Arsh Singh Hothi, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Julia Moss, Kim Walton, Ren Zaro

Granted Leave: Naveen Gattu, Holly Scheider

Staff Present: Mark Helmbrecht, Noah Budnick, Elaina Hargraves, Liza McNulty

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:18 pm: 6 public comments

4. Approval of minutes from the November 20th, 2025, meeting

6:28 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker / Walton) to approve the minutes from the November 20th, 2025, commission meeting.

6:28 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Gattu, Scheider

Recused: None

6:28 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:29 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Leung / Moss) to approve the meeting agenda.

6:29 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Gattu, Scheider

Recused: None

6:20 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

6:30 pm: Nine members of the public present.

6. Update on administration and staff

6:30 pm: Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht provided staffing updates: An offer has been made for the recruitment of the Supervising Transportation Engineer position; Ron Nevels, Manager of Engineering has retired; Daniel Akagi, Supervising Civil Engineer has retired, Terrence Salonga and Ricardo Salcedo have both been promoted to Supervising Civil Engineers as leads for the Street, Sidewalk, Stormwater, Streetlight and Sewer groups, respectively; an additional crossing guard position has been approved; two interns positions have been approved.

Helmbrecht also provided the following updates: the community meeting for the Adeline Corridor Quick Build Project is scheduled for January 21st; the construction materials for the Ada and California streets safety improvement project have arrived and its implementation is imminent; the materials for the Josephine and Rose streets safety improvement project have arrived and its implementation is imminent.

6:35 pm: Commissioners asked clarifying questions on the following topics: What is the City policy for online meetings versus in-person meetings; can the public access the paving plan; is there an update on the Bike Plan update?

Commissioners suggested the need for a City staff liaison with the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association; expressed gratitude for the Delaware Street raised crosswalk; voiced their frustration over the lack of safe pedestrian access in the construction zone on University Avenue between Sacramento and California streets; recommended a better way for communicating paving algorithms to improve transparency; advised the City to follow up on the lack of crosswalks on San Pablo Avenue near Ashby Avenue.

7. Announcements

6:44 pm: No announcements.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Informational Presentation on the Pier-Ferry Project

6:45 pm

Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department staff provided an overview of the Berkeley Pier-Ferry Project. The project proposes to replace the closed Berkeley Pier with a newly constructed dual-purpose pier and breakwater to provide both recreation access and zero-emission electric ferry service between Berkeley and San Francisco. The Project includes landside improvements such as a plaza and restroom, cycle-track on University Avenue, Bay Trail improvements and parking lot reconfiguration. The Project is currently in the design and environmental review phase; the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project is expected to be published in February 2026. The Project is expected to be shovel ready in 2027.

7:26 pm: Three members of the public present.

7:31 pm: Commissioner Lutzker left the meeting.

7:56 pm: Commissioners asked the following clarifying questions: will a restroom be located on the pier; will the educational facility near the Adventure Playground be affected by the project; what is the status of the building which formerly housed Hs Lordship; will the pylons from the previous pier need to be removed; will dredging be conducted; why is there a break in ferry service between the hours of 11 am to 4 pm; will the boats recharge during the morning dwell time; is the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) responsible for ferry operating costs; will the City have oversight of the parking lots; will bike lockers be able to accommodate cargo bikes; how many commuters are estimated to bring their bikes on the ferry versus using bike lockers; are there restrictions for e-bikes and cargo bikes on the ferry; how long will building the pier to accommodate six and half feet of sea level rise last?

8:05 pm: Two members of the public present.

8:15 pm: One public comment.

8:17 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Moss/Walton) to extend the meeting to 8:27pm.

8:17 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Lutzker, Gattu, Scheider

Recused: None

8:17 pm: Motion passed 6-0-0-0-3-0

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8:18 pm: Commissioner Walton verified there was nothing to report from the BART Board meeting agenda.

Commissioner Zaro announced chairpersons from relevant commissions were invited to attend a meeting on the Vision Zero Action Plan update.

Commissioner Walton encouraged a 15–20 minute educational presentation(s) at an upcoming commission meeting on traffic circles and the traffic calming process.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

8:23 pm: No communications.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8:24 pm: Measure FF updates and a Traffic Calming presentation.

F. ADJOURNMENT

8:27 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton/Moss) to adjourn the meeting.

8:27 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Lutzker, Gattu, Scheider

Recused: None

8:27 pm: Motion passed 6-0-0-0-3-0

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission
Thursday, January 15, 2026

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:15 pm, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709.

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.

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