



**TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, April 16th, 2026, 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

6:19 pm: Commission Vice Chair Leung called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call

6:19 pm:

Commissioners Present: Marina Budimir, Naveen Gattu, Arsh Singh Hothi, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Holly Scheider, Kim Walton

Commissioners Granted Leave: Barry Fike, Ren Zaro

Staff Present: Mark Helmbrecht, Eric Anderson, Noah Budnick, Dani Dynes, Chris Kidd (Consultant, Alta Planning + Design)

6:19 pm: Thirteen members of the public present.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:20 pm: Nine public comments

6:31 pm: Eight members of the public present.

4. Approval of minutes from the February 19th, 2026 meeting

6:31 pm: It was Moved / Seconded (Lutzker / Gattu) to approve the minutes from the February 19th, 2026, commission meeting.

6:32 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Gattu, Hothi, Leung, Scheider

Noes: None

Abstain: Lutzker, Walton

Absent: None

Excused: Fike, Zaro

Recused: None

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

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:34 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Leung / Hothi) to approve the meeting agenda and to add an item introducing the new Commissioner, Marina Budimir.

6:34 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Gattu, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Fike, Zaro

Recused: None

6:34 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

6:35 pm: Commissioner Budimir introduced herself.

6. Update on administration and staff

6:39 pm: Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht provided staffing updates: the City has a \$30-million structural deficit which will significantly impact and affect service provision; Kenneth Jung, Supervising Civil Engineer has moved from Transportation Division Capital Improvement Program (CIP) subdivision to the Measure FF team; the Transportation Division will rehire to fill the vacancy; the Measure FF's Principal Program Manager and Program Manager I have started; Scott Artis, Parking Services Manager will be resigning in May; Public Works staff are working with Human Resources to fill the position; the new City Engineer has been selected and the position will be filled soon.

6:43 pm: Commissioners asked for clarification on the following: Measure FF staffing clarifications; additional information on the proposed cuts to current vacant positions.

Commissioners commented, stating construction and prioritizing mobility access has improved, specifically in the area surrounding Adeline Avenue and Bancroft Way.

Commissioners asked for an update on older driver safety and inquired who in the City is working on this. They also inquired into whether Berkeley regulations impede property owners from trimming their trees.

7. Announcements

6:52 pm: Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht noted information in the agenda packet from the City's Planning and Development Department about their San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Rescheduling the July 16, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to July 23, 2026, and adopting a new meeting schedule

6:55 pm: Staff requested that the Commission reschedule the July 16, 2026 meeting to July 23.

6:56 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Leung/Lutzker) to reschedule the July 16, 2026 meeting to July 23, 2026.

6:56 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Gattu, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Fike, Zaro

Recused: None

6:56 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

2. Bike Plan Update Final Draft

6:57 pm: Transportation Manager Helmbrecht introduced the Final Draft of the 2026 Berkeley Bicycle Plan Update. Staff and consultants presented the final draft plan, including an overview of responses to Transportation and Infrastructure Commission comments and public comments on the Public Draft Plan that was released in 2025. Staff requested that the Commission take action to recommend the Final Draft Plan for approval by the Berkeley City Council at the May 19, 2026 Council meeting.

7:17 pm: Commissioners asked clarifying questions: How should the commission handle the comments received from Walk Bike Berkeley and Bike East Bay; what percent of the bike plan was developed by the consultants and what percent was worked on by staff?

7:22 pm: Four public comments.

7:28 pm: Commissioners asked additional questions: What were the concerns related to Gilman Street that resulted in switching the plan to Camelia Street; what is a "key project" and how does that differ from the project tiers; what is the

status of work being conducted on Claremont Avenue and what is the timeline for completion?

Commissioners commended the bike plan. The following suggestions were made: some parts of the plan are too full of jargon and technical terms, so staff should use language that is standard and direct -- e.g. what does "low stress" mean; list potential funding sources; specify if bike counts or a collision analysis was performed.

Commissioners asked the following questions about Hopkins Street: Could the church parking lot on Hopkins Street be utilized; could Hopkins Street between Monterey Avenue and Josephine Street be made into a one-way street and Rose Street be made into complimentary one-way; could the areas surrounding Monterey Market be made into one-way streets and would that allow for parking and a two-way protected bike lane; can Ada Street become a bike boulevard; can California Street dead end at the bottom of the hill?

Commissioners commended the outstanding, comprehensive work done on the bike plan and made suggestions for capturing the following comments for moving forward: rectifying the bike boulevard design guidelines; the importance of incorporating Berkeley school zones into the maps; evaluating peak school pick up and drop off traffic volumes, not overall traffic volumes and working them into the design guidelines.

Commissioners asked the following questions: How much funding for implementation has been available in the last decade; how much of that funding was from the City versus the state and other sources; what is the realistic budget expectation for the next ten years; is there an implementation plan?

Commissioners made the following comments and recommendations for improving the bike plan: Daniel Rodriguez at UC Berkeley has been doing bike counts; shops lose business because people are afraid to walk or bike there; arterials need to be made safer for cyclists and pedestrians; more bike parking is needed in shopping areas; kudos to staff; create a cover photo or trendy art for the plan; the infrastructure parts of plan are great; the plan needs to address the "softer" infrastructure in the next version; emphasize the human connection to the plan, e.g. Street Level Cycles is going through hard times and needs to be maintained to support cycling and college students; leverage non-staff resources in the community; loading zones are important; on-street car storage needs be addressed; the next version of the plan would benefit from a statement stating parking is less of a priority than it has been in the past; the City Council should take action to set a hierarchy of street uses.

8:45 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi / Walton) to extend the meeting to 8:55pm.

8:45 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Gattu, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Fike, Zaro

Recused: None

8:45 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

8:46 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Leung / Walton) for the Commission to recommend the Final Draft of the Bike Plan Update for approval by the Berkeley City Council at the May 19, 2026, Council meeting with the following comments:

1. Great appreciation for staff and consultants' hard work;
2. Request to the City Council that it develops a transportation modes hierarchy that prioritizes sustainable and active modes of transportation and deemphasizes maintaining on-street parking; and,
3. Requests that any hierarchy emphasizes the safety and accessibility needs of people with disabilities.

8:47 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Gattu, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Fike, Zaro

Recused: None

8:47 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

8:48 pm: Commissioner Lutzker reported that the Vision Zero subcommittee met with Public Works staff.

Commissioner Gattu reported that the Paving subcommittee met with staff.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

8:50 pm: Transportation Manager Helmbrecht reiterated the information in the agenda packet about the Planning and Development Department's San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8:53 pm: Commissioners discussed the following items for future Transportation Infrastructure Commission meeting agendas:

- Additional information on the City of Berkeley staff cuts
- Aging drivers
- Green infrastructure requirements

F. ADJOURNMENT

8:55 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu/Leung) to adjourn the meeting.

8:55 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Gattu, Hothi, Leung, Lutzker, Scheider, Walton

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Fike, Zaro

Recused: None

8:55 pm: Motion passed 7-0-0-0-2-0

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 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,

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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*