



**TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, May 21st, 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

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

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

2. Roll call

6:17 pm:

Commissioners Present: Marina Budimir, Barry Fike, Naveen Gattu, Arsh Singh Hothi, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Kim Walton, Ren Zaro

Commissioners Granted Leave: Holly Scheider

Staff Present: Wahid Amiri, Noah Budnick, Dani Dynes, Mark Helmbrecht, Pejman Mehrfar, Terrence Salonga

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

6:18 pm: Five public comments.

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

4. Approval of minutes from the April 16th, 2026 meeting

6:24 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Leung) to approve the minutes from the April 16th, 2026, commission meeting.

6:24 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: Fike, Zaro

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

6:24 pm: Motion passed 6-0-2-0-1-0

5. Approval and Order of Agenda

6:24 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu / Lutzker) to approve the meeting agenda.

6:25 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

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

6. Update on administration and staff

6:26 pm: Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht provided staffing updates: Kenneth Jung, Supervising Civil Engineer, has moved from the Transportation Division Capital Improvement Program (CIP) subdivision to the Measure FF team; the Transportation Division will rehire to fill the vacancy. Scott Artis, Parking Services Manager, resigned in May; the Transportation Division will rehire to fill the vacancy.

6:27 pm: Eleven members of the public present.

The new City Engineer, Pejman Mehrfar, introduced himself to the commission.

Mark Helmbrecht provided further updates on items raised at the April 16th, 2026 commission meeting: annual scooter parking agreements with micromobility companies are being updated; requirements for micromobility vendors to improve scooter parking were issued; staff are coordinating with the Parks Department's Urban Forestry unit concerning the ongoing issues with overgrown tree branches; Public Works staff followed up with the attendees from the most recent commission meeting and provided them contract information for Urban Forestry; select single parking meter posts will be converted to bicycle racks; staff followed up with Commissioner Leung on older driver safety; staff are preparing traffic safety studies of the intersection of Stuart and Grant and the intersection of Hearst and Grant.

Commissioners asked the following questions: is staff being advised not to rehire for vacant positions; is the Public Works department considering layoffs; for tree trimming outreach, how do residents report trees that need trimming; how are sidewalk trip hazards reported; is there a way to coordinate with emergency services as emergency routes change?

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Commissioners applauded the infrastructure improvements at the Ashby BART station entrance, the Mabel-Bonar bicycle boulevard and scooter parking improvements.

7. Announcements

6:37 pm: No announcements.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Excusing a SAFE STREETS Citizens Oversight Committee (SSCOC) member's absence at the June 10, 2026 oversight committee meeting

6:38 pm: Commissioners reviewed the item: the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission appointed Liza Lutzker to serve on the SAFE STREETS Citizens Oversight Committee; Ms. Lutzker will be absent during the June 10, 2026 oversight committee meeting; since the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission appointed her, the commission has the authority to excuse her absence from the June 10 oversight committee meeting.

Commissioners commented that Commissioner Lutzker's absence will be felt.

6:38 pm: No public comment.

6:39 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi / Walton) to excuse Liza Lutzker's absence from the June 10, 2026 SAFE STREETS Citizens Oversight Committee meeting.

6:39 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

6:39 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-1-0

2. Public Hearing: Bike Plan Update Final Draft

6:39 pm: Public Works' Transportation Manager Helmbrecht introduced the Public Hearing on the Bike Plan Update Final Draft; Transportation and Infrastructure Commission Chair Zaro formally declared the Public Hearing open, and the Public Works' staff presented the Bike Plan Update Final Draft.

6:53 pm: Two public comments.

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7:00 pm: Commissioners asked if there is any difference between what was presented at the April commission meeting and tonight?

7:02 pm: Commissioner Leung advised commissioners who were present at the April commission meeting to let commissioners who were not there comment.

7:02 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi / Fike) to close the public hearing on the Bike Plan Update Final Draft.

7:02 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

7:02 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-1-0

7:03 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi / Lutzker) to reaffirm the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission's motion from the April 16, 2026 meeting regarding the Bike Plan Update Final Draft to recommend City Council approval of the Bike Plan Update at their June 16, 2026 meeting:

April 16, 2026, 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

7:03 pm: Vote:

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

7:03 pm: Motion passed: 8-0-0-0-1-0

3. City of Berkeley's Five-Year Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031

7:04 pm: Secretary Helmbrecht introduced Public Works staff to present the proposed Five-Year Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan ("paving plan") for fiscal years 2027 to 2031. Interim Public Works Director Wahid Amiri commended staff's work on the plan and commented as follows: Hopkins Street is a placeholder for \$6.8-million to carryover funding in the Council process; the next steps on the Hopkins project are up to the City Manager's Office and elected officials to give staff direction; if Hopkins is not included in the paving plan, then the \$6.8-million will go to other locations; the City wants to move forward with work with Hopkins in Fiscal Year 2028.

Commissioner Lutzker asked about improvements to Telegraph, Oxford and Claremont streets. Interim Director Amiri affirmed that the City Council made a referral related to Telegraph Avenue, Oxford Street is part of Measure FF and the Streets and Open Space Improvement Plan (SOSIP) and Claremont Avenue is also included in Measure FF.

7:10 pm: The Engineering Division's Supervising Civil Engineer, Terrence Salonga, presented the City's Five-Year Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031 ("5-year paving plan"). The presentation covered an overview of the streets planned for paving in Fiscal Year 2027 and future years of the 5-year plan.

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

7:27 pm: Measure FF's Principal Program Manager Manoj Madhavan presented how Measure FF complements the 5-year paving plan.

7:30 pm: Supervising Civil Engineer Salonga continued the presentation on the proposed 5-year paving plan.

7:34 pm: Commissioners asked clarifying questions: Was any consideration given to let streets exit the paving plan; given that the cost of paving is only going to increase, there's a fiscal cliff for paving, and to avoid the debt spiral of paving,

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is there a strategy to address this; can the City meet stormwater pavement requirements by using permeable pavement and other materials; do any of the streets in the plan presented today include permeable pavement and other stormwater management treatments in the City's toolbox?

7:40 pm: Eleven members of the public present.

7:40 pm: Commissioners asked additional clarifying questions: Russell Street between Fulton and Ellsworth in front of Sylvia Mendez School is in bad shape, can it be moved up on the paving plan; is that an issue for the commission's construction subcommittee to address because the construction company should pay the costs for fixing the street; regarding the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit, in addition to the costs associated with it, does additional real estate need to be secured to implement the proposed improvements; can projects be combined; is there an estimate of the amount of space that is needed; would new equipment, like a new street sweeper be required for certain types of pavers; have operating expenses in capital improvements been considered?

7:49 pm: Six public comments.

8:03 pm: Ten members of the public present.

8:03 pm: Commissioners asked additional clarifying questions: reiterating public comments about using Measure FF safety funds for paving: how are Claremont, Oxford and Telegraph streets being funded; will the proposed Measure FF projects be presented at the SAFE STREETS Citizens Oversight Committee; is there more than \$40-million in Measure FF funding?

8:15 pm: Commissioner Walton left.

Commissioners asked additional questions about the relationship between projects funded under the City's Five-Year Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan and under Measure FF and the public oversight process.

8:26 pm: Nine members of the public present.

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

8:45 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Fike, Hothi, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

8:45 pm: Motion passed: 7-0-0-1-1-0

Commissioners commented on the following: Telegraph Avenue, Claremont Avenue and Oxford Street are not on the paving plan; Telegraph was Council's number one referral; the Commission cannot vote to recommend paving plan without assurances that Telegraph, Claremont and Oxford are included in the plan; it would be inequitable to the people who need paving; the commission agrees to save \$6.8-million for Hopkins.

8:59 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Fike / Hothi) to extend the meeting to 9:10 pm.

8:59 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Fike, Hothi, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

9:00 pm: Motion passed: 7-0-0-1-1-0

Commissioners discussed how the Commission and the City Council can comment on projects funded under the City's Five-Year Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan and under Measure FF.

9:04 pm Action: It was moved / seconded (Zaro / Fike) to recommend the Five-Year Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031 with amendments that integrate Measure FF and paving dollars and includes Claremont Avenue, Oxford Street and northern Telegraph Avenue for paving and multimodal safety improvements.

9:09 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Fike, Hothi, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

9:09 pm: Motion passed: 7-0-0-1-1-0

9:10 pm: Seven members of the public.

9:10 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Hothi / Leung) to extend the meeting to 9:15 pm.

9:10 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Fike, Hothi, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

9:10 pm: Motion passed: 7-0-0-1-1-0

4. Informational presentation on the Telegraph Avenue Multimodal Corridor Project update

9:11 pm: Secretary Helmbrecht presented the refined recommended concept design for the Telegraph Avenue Multimodal Corridor Project and previewed next steps for the project. This refined recommendation is based on feedback from the September 18, 2025 Transportation and Infrastructure Commission meeting and from City Council action at their October 28, 2025 meeting. It includes measures to improve transit travel times across the corridor and to close the slip lane at the Dwight Triangle.

9:12 pm: Five members of the public present.

9:13 pm: Three members of the public present.

9:15 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu / Lutzker) to extend the meeting to 9:20 pm.

9:15 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Fike, Hothi, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

9:15 pm: Motion passed: 7-0-0-1-1-0

9:18 pm: Commissioners expressed appreciation for the update and for the design changes based on their previous comments.

9:18 pm: No public comments.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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9:19 pm: Commissioner Lutzker Wants to form a temporary ad hoc committee on construction mitigation; Commissioners Walton and Budimir will join. Staff will schedule a meeting for July.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

9:19 pm: No communications.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9:19 pm: Commissioner Gattu requested a presentation on green infrastructure.

F. ADJOURNMENT

9:20 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Gattu / Leung) to adjourn the meeting.

9:20 pm: Vote:

Ayes: Budimir, Fike, Hothi, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Zaro

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Walton

Excused: Scheider

Recused: None

9:20 pm: Motion passed: 7-0-0-1-1-0

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 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

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Email: transportation@berkeleyca.gov eleyca.gov

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We are a group of residents immediately adjacent to the intersection of Grant Street and Hearst Avenue, writing to request a **safety evaluation** of this location and the MLK Jr. Way–to–McGee segment of Hearst.

On April 29th, 2026, an 80-year-old woman was struck and seriously injured at this intersection by a driver reportedly traveling at high speed. This incident reflects ongoing safety concerns we have observed for years.

We have had conversations with many neighbors, including older people, who are concerned about the safety of the intersection.

We believe this matter to be urgent, and request implementation of interim measures as quickly as possible. Initial steps could be:

- **Re-install plastic pylons** that block off red zones at the intersection, but use more permanent attachments (the old ones did not last) such as used at Josephine and Rose (see photos in attachment)
- **Ensure visibility of signs** notifying drivers of the pedestrian and bicycle crossing

Key safety conditions at Grant & Hearst:

- **Excessive speeds on Hearst:** Along the park frontage, the north side has no parking and limited cross traffic, creating a long, open corridor where vehicles accelerate well above the posted limit.
- **High pedestrian demand:** Primary, middle and high school students regularly cross here before/after school, and a **heavily used dog park** sits immediately adjacent, generating steady foot traffic throughout the day.
- **Crossing conflicts despite “adequate” sight lines:** Pedestrians from Grant often encounter **fast-approaching vehicles** once they are committed to crossing. **Delivery trucks, mail vehicles, and private cars** frequently stop or park in red zones, intermittently **blocking visibility** at the corners.
- **Corridor context:** There are **all-way stops at McGee and California** along this same park edge. Grant sits between them, and the **gap appears to function as a speed run-up**, despite **comparable (or higher) foot traffic** at Grant during school peaks.

Request:

We ask the City to **prioritize a safety review** of this intersection and corridor segment and to implement the most effective measures. We ask for a range of solutions to be assessed, including:

- **Speed management on Hearst**
 - Speed cushions that slow down regular cars but don't impeded fire and EMT vehicles
 - Any other mitigations warranted and acceptable to public safety agencies

- **Visibility improvements**
 - Daylighting/strict red-zone enforcement
 - Use of permanently affixed plastic bollards in red zones (as were installed at Rose and Josephine). Residents have volunteered to clean out the area where the bollards would prevent the street sweepers from accessing.
 - Curb extensions (“bulb-outs”)
- **Crossing treatments**
 - High-visibility crosswalks
 - Pedestrian-activated beacons where appropriate
 - Move the diamond-shaped yellow pedestrian sign on the southwest corner out from behind the large tree
 - Regular trimming of the tree on the northeast corner which often obscures the diamond-shaped yellow sign at that location
- **Corridor-level measures** to address the MLK→McGee stretch.

Given the recent serious injury and the concentration of **students and park users**, we believe this location warrants **priority attention**.

Please let us know the **timeline for evaluation** and any **interim measures** that can be implemented quickly.

Sincerely,

Allison Bond, 1905 Grant
 Kevin Boone, 1904 Grant
 Paul Downs, 1912 Grant
 Grace Evans, 1910 Grant
 Hilary Goldman, 1906 Grant
 Mark Harpainter, 1809 Grant
 Robyn Hoke, 1907 Grant
 Krish Kotru, 1905 Grant
 Carol Lashof, 1807 Grant
 Kristin Leimkuhler, 1624 Delaware
 Andy Love, 1808 Grant

Nate Merhav, 1910 Grant
 Bernard Marszalek, 1804 Grant
 Stephen Most, 1815 Grant
 William Newton, 1807 Grant
 Howard Pollick, 1801 Grant
 Claire Schoen, 1815 Grant
 Jill Satterfield, 1908 Grant
 Linda Streat, 1801 Grant
 Addison Sutton, 1906 Grant
 Manning Sutton, 1906 Grant
 Allison Bond, 1905 Grant

C/o: Paul Downs, 1912 Grant Street, pauldownspdc@gmail.com

cc:

Rashi Kesarwani, City Council District 1 Councilmember
 Wahid Amiri, Interim Public Works Director
 Ian Kesterson, City Arborist

Josephine and Rose Pylons



Example 1



Example 2