TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, October 15th, 2026, 6:15 pm

North Berkeley Senior Center
Aspen Room
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709
And via Zoom

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. **Call to order**
   6:15 pm: Chair Zaro called the meeting to order.

   6:15 pm: Two members of the public present.

2. **Roll call**
   6:16 pm:

Commissioners Present:	Marina Budimir, Amanda Dillon (arrived at 6:19 pm), Barry Fike, Naveen Gattu, Adrian Leung, Liza Lutzker, Kim Walton, Ren Zaro
Staff Present:	Jamie Parks, Mark Helmbrecht, Noah Budnick, Elaina Hargraves, Ken Jung

3. **Public comment on items not on the agenda**
   6:17 pm: One public comment.

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

4. **Approval of minutes from the September 17th, 2026 meeting**
   6:20 pm Action: It was Moved /Seconded (Lutzker / Leung) to approve the amended minutes from the September 17th, 2026 commission meeting.

   6:20 pm: Vote:
   Ayes: Budimir, Dillon, Fike, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Walton, Zaro
   Noes: None
   Abstain: None
   Absent: None
   Excused: None
   Recused: None

   6:20 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-0-0

5. **Approval and Order of Agenda**
   6:21 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Lutzker) to approve the meeting agenda.

   6:21 pm: Vote:
   Ayes: Budimir, Dillon, Fike, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Walton, Zaro
   Noes: None
   Abstain: None
   Absent: None
   Excused: None
   Recused: None

   6:21 pm: Motion passed 8-0-0-0-0-0

   6:22 pm: Two members of the public present.

6. **Update on administration and staff**
   6:22 pm: Jamie Parks, the new Public Works Director, introduced himself.

   Commissioners asked him the following questions: How is the City getting prepared for winter weather conditions; what can residents do to prepare for this winter, which supposed to be especially wet; what are the possibilities for the City and UC Berkeley working together; what are the City's thoughts on project evaluation?

   Commissioners made the following comments: The public doesn't have a lot information on Public Works' work; a messaging system would help dispel misinformation; advocacy groups can also help communicate; consultants, at times, fall short when they present information to the Commission and to the public; request for proposals (RFPs) responses should necessitate consultants prove their outreach methods for Berkeley communities; the City should determine a suitable way to let the other departments know about Public Works' projects with clear, consistent messaging to effectively communicate about specific projects.

   Commissioners asked additional clarifying questions: What can Berkeley residents do to alleviate staff burden; what resources can they provide to assist the City, how can the public best coordinate with the City to help implement projects; could there be monthly events or a community managed content calendar?

   Commissioners emphasized many UC Berkeley students are civically engaged; they encouraged staff to reach out to professors and to the public service program at the UC Berkeley School of Data Science.

   Staff provided an update on SAFE STREETS Citizen Oversight Committee (SSCOC) temporary appointments: After consulting with the City Clerk' s office, it

was determined the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission may make a temporary appointment when one of its SSCOC appointees has been granted an approved leave of absence; the appointment should be treated as a temporary appointment tied to the specific leave of absence, rather than as a standing alternate appointment; the temporary appointment should not extend beyond the period of the approved leave.

Transportation Division Manager, Mark Helmbrecht, provided staffing updates: Elliott Schwimmer was promoted to Parking Services Manager; the City is currently recruiting for the Senior Planner position in the Parking Services division; recruiting is underway for the Meter Collections and Maintenance subdivision supervisor; Gina Mendoza was temporarily promoted to Traffic Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. Helmbrecht provided the following project updates: Pedestrian hybrid beacons were installed at Shattuck and Russell and at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Prince and are operational; two grants were developed - Caltrans sustainable transportation grant to study all of University Avenue (last updated in 1996) and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant for improvements at signalized intersection; the traffic signal grant application will be presented to the Council in October for approval to be submitted to Caltrans, and the University Avenue grant application will be submitted to the Council in November for approval to be submitted to Caltrans; work to update the City's construction access policy is progressing with input from commissions and the City Council's Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability (FITES) committee.

Commissioners asked additional questions and commented on the following: Will the signal improvement grant include signal preemption, pedestrian priority, protected left turns, etc.; do different grants fund different things – for example, for pavement flashing beacons at crosswalks; are there grant opportunities for predictive analytics?

7. **Announcements**
   7:07 pm: No announcements.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. **Informational presentation on Cedar & Grant Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Improvements**
   7:08 pm: Ken Jung, Supervising Civil Engineer, Measure FF division, presented the planned pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements at the intersection of Cedar and Grant Streets and briefed commissioners on next steps in the project's development. The presentation covered existing site conditions,

potential improvements and an introduction to the planned Grant Street Bicycle Boulevard Project.

7:19 pm: Commissioners asked the following clarifying questions: will additional funds be needed; will the outreach be conducted by City staff or by consultants; does the City know anything about East Bay Municipal Utility District's processes for repaving streets after they perform work; will these improvements mirror the improvements made at California and Dwight; what is the maximum bike size the planned median can accommodate; there is a crosswalk on the east side, is there a plan to place a crosswalk on the west side; where does the bike boulevard start?

Commissioners stated it is counterproductive not to install an additional crosswalk on the west side at Cedar and Grant.

7:28 pm: Two public comments.

7:32 pm: Commissioners asked additional clarifying questions: What happens if the Grant Street bike boulevard grant doesn't get approve; if building curb ramps at all corners without a crosswalk, will they be directional curb ramps?

Commissioners commended the presentation and proposed plans, describing it as highly promising and made the following comments: King Middle School parents talk about traffic safety with their children; the entrance to King is on the west side of the street; children frequently cross where there is no existing crosswalk; the median should be constructed to be as wide as possible because narrow lanes are a proven traffic calming tool; the Cedar and 9th Street crossing has visibility issues; the steep grade at Grant and Cedar Streets creates significant visibility concerns; remove as much parking as possible.

Commissioner Fike stated that six or seven townhomes will be built on the northwest corner.

Commissioners asked additional follow-up questions: Does the planned safety project interfere with the existing traffic diverter; is there a plan to harden the median to make it difficult for drivers to drive over it?

Commissioners expressed excitement regarding the California and Dwight intersection, as it works for bikes, walkers, drivers; the City was encouraged to add a marked crosswalk on the west side of Cedar and Grant, especially for King students; neighbors on the adjacent streets will likely oppose traffic diversion; the City was encouraged to compare data received from California and Dwight.

Commissioner Walton stated that high speeds and heavy traffic might limit how well improvements at California and Dwight actually work; pedestrians on Spaulding and Dwight find it quite frustrating.

Commissioners stated that many King parents think a second crosswalk would be largely beneficial; drivers on Cedar would appreciate the addition of a crosswalk, as it would provide increased visibility; the lack of a crosswalk reduces drivers' awareness of people crossing the street.

Commissioners asked additional questions; Does the City ever include speed bumps for projects like these; can there be a before study of driver speed? Or crashes?

Commissioners commented on using the project to educate the public on its purpose and benefits and referenced a flyer circulated around for the HAWK signal installation near Ashby Avenue; children frequently bicycle to King School on Virginia to California Street; it is anticipated that many residents will be inspired to assist as crossing guards at this intersection.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Temporary Ad Hoc Committee verbal reports, assignments, creation or dissolution**
   7:59 pm: Commissioners addressed the following: The construction management subcommittee met and agreed this is an ideal time to update the document.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

8:00 pm: No communications.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8:01 pm: Commissioner Walton announced her retirement from the commission, effective today.

F. ADJOURNMENT

8:05 pm Action: It was Moved / Seconded (Walton / Budimir) to adjourn the meeting.

8:05 pm: Vote:
Ayes: Budimir, Dillon, Fike, Gattu, Leung, Lutzker, Walton, Zaro
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Excused: None
Recused: None

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

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 6:15 pm, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission
Thursday, October 15th, 2026

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.

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