



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
City Council Chambers  
1000 San Pablo Avenue  
March 24, 2011 – 7:00 PM**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair McCroskey.
2. **ROLL CALL. Members present:** Anderson, Knapp, McCroskey, Mazur. Miki was excused. Staff present: Chaney, Lt. Geissberger, and Chavez.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 24, 2011. Mazur had some changes. Minutes were approved with corrections by motion Mazur/Knapp. Vote was unanimous.**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anderson asked the Commission to start conversations with AC Transit to provide transportation between Target, and the future location of Whole Foods at UC Village, Safeway, Solano, and the library. Anderson will put together a map showing the desired travel pattern. He also requested the Commission to consider parking on Washington, between Adams and Madison Streets. This is the only area in Albany where the second block west of San Pablo has time-limited parking. He was concerned about the Farmers' Market and the potential additional traffic on Washington. He would like to have a speed and volume survey done on this segment of Washington St.

McCroskey announced the upcoming Green and Arts Festival on May 1, 2011 at the Veterans Memorial Park. He said that the Albany Strollers & Rollers would have a booth and encouraged the public to attend. The other event at Memorial Park is a Family Biking Workshop presented by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition from 9 am to 12 noon the same day of the festival. He also thanked Lt. Geissberger for assisting with the Good Neighbor Month effort at Marin Elementary School, which aimed at educating parents on how to drop off children at school safely.
5. **PRESENTATION**

**5-1 Police Report**

Lt. Geissberger presented the report for the month of February. A total of 11 collisions, 3 non-injury 8 injury and 1 hit and run. Two collisions occurred on Marin Avenue, 1 pedestrian and 1 scooter collisions. APD issued approximately 69 moving citations and 25 DUI arrests.

Mazur asked if the APD had removed its traffic officer judging by the number of DUI arrests. The officer who was doing traffic was moved to graveyard. Knapp asked more information on the pedestrian collision. Lt. Geissberger thought this collision was on Key Route Blvd. Mazur asked for more information on the multi-vehicle collision. Lt. Geissberger said that APD determined that there were not any criminal charges.
6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**6-1 Albany Active Transportation Plan**

Chavez provided background on the plans process, meetings to date, and the Alameda County Transportation Authority grant funding the project. She described each project included in the plans. The discussion was open to the public. The following people spoke: Francesco Papalia, Kristina Osborn, Lee Young, S Heard, Bill Tresele, Susan Kaplan, Kristen Avini, Preston Jordan, Gregory Hoff, Jeanne Killian, and Michael Conley. The comments were the following: (35:37).

- The proposal to eliminate parking along the median on Key Route to implement bike lanes is duplicative. Ohlone Greenway runs parallel to Key Route and the fact that 140 parking spaces will be eliminated to provide only two blocks of bike lanes does not make sense.
- People should be notified. The postcard did not illustrate how this plan would affect neighborhoods.
- A variance to decrease the required number of parking spaces was given to a medical building at the intersection of Solano/Key Route, given the existing number of on-street parking spaces available on Key Route Boulevard. This project eliminates those spaces and could result in more demand for parking.
- Sharrows are OK
- Cyclists should stop at the Ohlone Greenway intersections. Motorists should yield to cyclists at those intersections and signage alerting drivers to do so should be installed.
- Inform the public that there is a plan already under way to widen the Ohlone Greenway.
- This is a great plan; however, some areas need to be addressed, such as leaving Adams the way it is.
- The Pocket Park proposed at the intersection of Key Route Boulevard and Solano Ave. will disturb the dry cleaning customer parking and the child care center parent parking.
- When there is an event at the Albany High School, or during Solano Stroll, on-street parking along the Key Route median is in high demand and completely consumed.
- Since Albany High School does not have parking on-campus, parking along the median on Key Route is used by students, teachers and staff. In addition, this parking is used by the businesses on Solano Avenue.
- Less parking means lower home values, which are already lower in the area because of the BART noise.
- High School students won't bike to school.
- Mixing High School students on bikes with vehicular traffic on Key Route brings safety concerns.
- Eliminating parking on Key Route Blvd. will affect business in the area.
- The Key Route Proposal will affect the Bay Area KinderStube as drop off parking is needed by the preschool.
- The plan should address the need to have a separated public process for Stage II Key Route. Parking for the pre-school and for the businesses at the intersection of Key Route and Solano could be incorporated in the design of the Pocket Park.
- Support for the Kains and Adams proposals as they are presented in the Plan. Encouraged residents to take a look at Milvia Street in Berkeley.
- Do not add more signage on Key Route.
- Crossing San Pablo Ave. is a challenge for pedestrians, particularly at Brighton where students cross. On January 3, I was hit by a car at this intersection and I had the light in my favor.
- San Pablo Avenue is the training grounds for the School for the Blind.
- Pay attention to the type of vegetation that will be planted in the proposed medians on San Pablo Ave. The shrubbery should not be left to grow too high. How does planting on the median improve safety?
- Please do something to stop speeding on Adams.

### **Key Route Boulevard**

The Commission discussed the issue. Their comments were:

- Would like to see a sidewalk next to the parking along the median on Key Route.
- Support for sharrow markings on Key Route.
- Key Route proposal is the only one that negatively affects the neighborhood.
- Can the pocket park be designed to allow parking?
- Opposes the park proposal on Key Rt. because it impacts the existing Veterans Memorial.
- The CAP recommends exploring the implementation of bikeways as a way to encourage alternatives to driving and to reduce emissions caused by transportation sources.

Matthew Ridgway, the consultant for the project said that they can work on some alternatives for Adams and Kains and for the proposed park at the intersection of Solano and Key Route. The intention was to work around the memorial, not to remove it.

Motion Knapp/Mazur: In Project #19 Key Route Boulevard Median Path and Separated Bikeway Project Description, the Commission recommend that the portion of the plan providing for the elimination of parking on Key Route Boulevard to accommodate bike lanes be deleted and to include that any future proposals for the pocket park take into consideration parking for the businesses in the area and not disturb the Veterans memorial. Vote was unanimous, motion passes.

Amendment to this motion restates that any considerations for a pocket park should not impinge upon the existing Veterans memorial.

Vote: 4 ayes, 1 opposed (Anderson)

Motion #2 Mazur/Knapp that instead that a dedicated bike lane, Key Route be marked with sharrows. Vote unanimous, motion passes

Motion # 3 Knapp/Mazur: moved to advance the proposed path in the median. Vote was 4 ayes. 1 opposed (Anderson).

Motion #4 by Mazur: forward a project description for Project #19 for environmental review including the implementation of sidewalk on the west and possibly, east side of the median. It was decided to add this as a discussion item for a future agenda.

### Adams Street

Cristina Osborne, Preston Jordan commented on this project. These are the comments:

- Supports elimination of right in/right out proposal on Adams St.
- Elimination of right in/right out proposal on Adams St.
- Implement traffic circles and yield signs on Adams St., which could apply to Kains with a variation.

The Commission agreed that the projects described in the plan are conceptual and that another public process will take place when a project is implemented. Chair McCroskey invited the members of the Commission to continue reviewing the project list and the document and bring their comments at a special meeting.

Motion Knapp/McCroskey: Table discussion of Item 6-1 for a special meeting to be held on either 4/7 or 4/11. Vote was unanimous.

### **6-2 I-80 ICM Project-Location of signage along Buchanan Street for traffic management on I-80**

Chavez provided background on this issue. She brought concerns about signage on Buchanan St. interfering with the planned bike path. She said City staff had suggested installing the signs on the median. She also announced the upcoming presentation on this project to City Council on 4/18/2011.

Motion Knapp/Mazur: Install the I-80 ICM permanent signs on the Buchanan Street median rather than on the south side of Buchanan where they interfere with planned bikeway.

## **7. Reports**

**7-1 Update on Buchanan /Jackson Signal and Pedestrian Improvements** – The award to bid and to amend the project budget would go to Council for the next meeting.

**7-2 Update on Pierce Street Pavement Rehabilitation and Bicycle Path project** – The City is awaiting the E-76 from Caltrans. Once this is obtained, the City can go out to bid. The goal is to start the project in May, 2011.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Commission announcements or requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

The Commission made the following changes to the future agenda items.

- Special Session (April, 2011)

- Permit Parking Program (April, 2011)
- Parking on Washington Avenue between Pierce Street and Gateview– Mazur suggested extending the area to Polk Street and to the hill of Washington. (April, 2011)
- Temporary parking restriction on the existing green zone on the south die of the 1000 block of Solano Avenue at Subway restaurant (April, 2011).
- AC Transit Route restoration covering BART, Target, San Pablo, Solano, Library (May or June, 2011)
- Implementation of RAD at the traffic signals to enable red light violations (May or June, 2011)
- Revisit the provisions for the enforcement of large vehicle parking (July, 2011)

**11. ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 10:44 pm—Next meeting: 4/7, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Council Chambers.**

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