



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
January 26, 2012 – 7:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair McCroskey.

3. **ROLL CALL. Members present:** Anderson, Knapp, Mazur, McCroskey, Miki. Staff present: Lt. Geissberger, bond, Leptien, Chavez.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for December 1, 2011.** Minutes were approved with the following changes:
Mazur requested to add a statement that she left the Council Chambers during the discussion of Item 8-3 (Speed Humps in the 950 block of Ordway). Correct a typo on the first page. Motion Knapp/Mazur: Approve the minutes with corrections. Vote: 4 ayes, 1 abstained (Miki because she was absent for last meeting).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Francesco Papalia of Key Route Boulevard asked to clarify the policy regarding Public Comment and what the difference is between reports and action items.

Sol Strand, Pierce Street said that he could not get out of his garage from Gate A at 555 Pierce St. and waited for over a minute until the moving truck left. He said he emphasized before the City Council during this project design stages that it was important to move the fence back to the guard rail to ensure that space was available for the moving vans. He also called attention to the compact parking spaces along the angled parking area on Pierce. He said he counted 73 compact parking spaces. The angle of the diagonal parking is not consistent with the angle of the planter and motorists have to go over the center line to back out because the lane is too narrow.

Norm L. Albany resident asked if the Caltrans property adjacent to approximately 745 Pierce to the south end of the 500 block of Pierce had been purchased by the City and if it had, he would like to know if the City would widen the street. Leptien said that the land had been purchased and the City is exploring several opportunities for road widening and other enhancements.

Amy Smolens, of Kains Avenue reminded the Commission that the Sidewalk Condition in the City was included in the Work Plan a year ago and she did not see it in the current work plan. She also said that the Jackson/Buchanan intersection was still not detecting bicyclists, but that Bernardes and Chavez were working on it.

Mazur said that during the Reports section, she would like to try at this meeting to give about five minutes to ask questions and another five minutes for the public to ask questions only because they are reports.

6 PRESENTATION

6-1 Police Report

Lt. Geissberger reported that in December 2011, there had been 19 collisions in the City: 13 non-injury and 5 injury collisions, one (1) fatal collision, three (3) hit/runs, three (3) collisions occurred on Marin Avenue, one (1) auto/pedestrian collision, one (1) auto/bike collision. APD issued 152 citations, including two (2) for parking on sidewalk, and 12 DUI arrests.

Regarding the fatal crash at Golden Gate Fields, the video showed that the vehicle was coming to the parking lot area at approximately 1:35 am. The vehicle was found with a lifeless person inside at about 6:30 am. The vehicle crashed against the fence. Toxicology tests are being performed and waiting for results.

Knapp asked about the letter addressed to the Commission regarding the modifications at Buchanan and Jackson. Chavez clarified that the letter had been written before the restriping and widening of the lanes in the north leg.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

6-1 Review of 95% Plans and Cost Estimate for Improvements at the Intersection of Marin Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue.

Chavez explained that as requested in the December meeting, staff is bringing a refined design and budget for the preferred Option 2. Leptien provided an explanation of the design and budget refinements in order to contain costs. Staff is asking for a recommendation from the Commission to take this project to the Council. The Commission had the following questions:

- Is the No Right on Red arrow going to be implemented? Chavez responded that only during school hours. Chavez said that Option 2 presented at the meeting did not include the third speed hump proposed in December because after further analysis, it was determined that the vehicle volume on that segment of Santa Fe is too high for the installation of speed hump according to City Policy.
- McCroskey asked about the ADA access. Chavez responded that the ADA access is considered and part of the project. Chavez clarified that the City will apply for another grant to fund the other elements of the project that could not be included in this project

The Commission opened the discussion to the public, but no comments were received.

Motion Knapp/Anderson: Recommend to City Council to authorize the Call for Bids for construction of this project. Vote: 3 Ayes 2 abstained.

6-2 Status Report on Share the Road signage installation on Masonic Avenue.

Chavez reported that there was a miscommunication regarding her work order in terms of color and location of signs. Staff previously informed the Commission that the signs would be fluorescent yellow instead of the traditional yellow. Both colors are approved by the MUTCD, however, because the first signs that were installed are traditional yellow, Chavez recommends keeping this color because the MUTCD does not advise mixing colors and each sign is approximately \$200. She also said that staff was talking with BART because safety during construction is a purview of the agency performing construction.

Leptien said that the BART project was moving along south and that the fence would be down pretty soon. He said it would be better to wait until this project is done in order to put sharrows where they should be located.

Discussion was open to the Commission.

Knapp asked if sharrows indicated bicyclists to ride in the middle of the road and if that was the case, they would be in conflict with the vehicle code. Leptien said that he did not think it would change the law as bicyclists have the right to use the street. Chavez said that sharrows indicated a bicycle route and that their presence raised the level of motorists' awareness for bicyclists on the street.

Discussion was open to the public.

Amy Smolens said that the temporary installation of sharrows is the City's responsibility. It was agreed that the City would be adding sharrows because of the BART construction. Right now is when sharrows are needed, particularly because the fenced area was not adequate for bicyclists. The other issue is that the signage manufacturer should be able to rectify and complete the order in the color requested. In addition, some of the signs that were recently installed were not visible. There is an understanding in Public Works that the signs were installed temporarily, which she hoped was not true. Masonic is bike route and the sharrows should stay.

Knapp asked if this is a financial burden to the City because if funding is a problem, he does not see the benefit of installing something now and remove it three or four months later.

Bond advised the Commission to be clear on what their role is. The issue was not regarding policy, but regarding decisions of where the signs would go, color and implementation of sharrows. These issues should be coordinated with Public Works and were administrative in nature. He said he would be happy to work with the Albany Strollers and Rollers (AS&R) anytime.

McCroskey said that Masonic is a bike route and that over a year ago, the City patched the potholes along this road. It was his understanding that sharrows would be installed in December, 2011. Regarding the color of the sign, the concern is that it is the same color used by the school signage and he was hoping there would be some differentiation. The location of the signs is something that could be fixed easily. However, in terms of addressing policy, perhaps, it should be the Commission's vision to prioritize sharrows Citywide.

Knapp said that he did not think the City or BART was somewhat responsible for the dooring incident that happened along Masonic recently. The person that opens the vehicle door to traffic has the responsibility to watch for oncoming traffic.

Smolens said that she would like to go on record that AS&R was not using this accident to advocate for sharrows on Masonic. AS&R was requesting them since October 2011 as a safety measure.

6-4 Status Report on Speed Surveys at 900 Ordway, 900 Cerrito, 1000 Evelyn, 1550 Sonoma Avenue.

Chavez reported that the City had taken speed surveys at the locations mentioned above. She said that she would conduct an additional survey on Sonoma as the counter malfunctioned and it only recorded two days of data. She also called the Commission's attention to the 85th percentile of Cerrito Street and the fact that she had taken another survey in 2007 which showed almost the same speed of 30 mph at the 85th percentile level. She said that the City did not have any more funds assigned for speed humps. She advised the Commission to add 900 Cerrito to the list of traffic calming projects generated by the Traffic Management Plan. The following were the comments from the Commission:

- Knapp asked if the neighbors could pay for the installation of speed humps.
- Mazur said that she recalled there was an option to pay in the adopted policy.
- Chavez said she would have to review the discussions in 2007.
- McCroskey suggested putting this item in a future agenda.

6-4 Status Report on Parking Policy Discussion held on January 24, 2012 with Traffic and Safety Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Sustainability Committee.

Bond thanked the commissioners and said that David Arkin suggested looking at the questions stated in the staff report of 2008.

Knapp asked if the format for subsequent meetings would be the same. His understanding was that the Traffic and Safety Commission had some authority over parking issues and he would like to retain that authority on any parking-related issue.

McCroskey suggested creating a subcommittee to evaluate some issues like Parking as it has been the practice of the Commission.

Miki said that it would have been great to have that kind of joint meeting during the process for the Active Transportation Plan. He agreed with McCroskey on the idea of creating a subcommittee of the Traffic and Safety Commission.

Bond said that the Commission's feedback that night was very helpful, but that the Planning and Zoning Commission had not had time to debrief on this matter and this could be an issue that extends for a year.

Miki said that if the goal was to put something for the November ballot, the next joint meeting should be happening sooner than later.

Comments from the public:

Preston Jordan commended the Commission for its efforts. He said that he has been talking with Ann Cheng, Mayor of El Cerrito about different parking strategies other cities were implementing. He said that Albany was so small that if permit parking is implemented, it should be done throughout the City, but obviously, some areas were more impacted than others.

6-5 Traffic and Safety Commission Work Plan

Bond provided background on the issue. The Commission had the following questions: (Knapp) What was the City Council decision on the parking on sidewalks in the Washington Avenue neighborhood? Bond said that the meeting had not happened at the Council level. Traffic and Safety's recommendation was to enforce the No Parking on Sidewalk restriction.

Preston Jordan reminded the Commission that the neighborhood would like to have an informal agreement about parking on Washington Avenue, able to park on the street along the south side of Washington, and continue parking the way they currently do along the north side. In this way emergency vehicles would have accessibility to the street. He added that in terms of the Work Plan, he would like to add the issue of sidewalk conditions. Adequate sidewalk infrastructure was addressed in the Active Transportation Plan.

McCroskey said that the Washington Avenue issue was two-prong: First, there was the issue of enforcing the parking policy and the other was to analyze traffic patterns and traffic calming in the neighborhood as a proposed request for proposal for consulting services.

Chavez asked if the report would come back to the Commission with the changes. Bond said that the changes were straight forward and that he would be sending the Commission the memo that is sent to Council.

McCroskey requested adding the sidewalk maintenance program to the Work Plan.

6-7 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mazur nominated McCroskey for a second term. McCroskey accepted the nomination. Knapp nominated Miki as Chair, but Miki declined. Miki nominated Knapp as Vice Chair. Knapp accepted. Vote for Chair and for Vice Chair was unanimous.

7. Announcements and Communications-None.

7-1 Report from staff on recruitment of Assistant Planner for Safe Routes to School Program

Bond reported that it was decided to combine this position with an entry level environmental planning job because the City's environmental planner had been promoted to City Clerk. The position was envisioned as an entry level planning position.

8. Future Agenda Items

Clarification between public comment and discussion items, probably February or March. The Cerrito speed hump discussion with the inclusion of funding by the neighborhood —April. Knapp asked if the issue of parking, permit parking and paid parking is something that is the purview of the Commission, and that it required a comprehensive survey. He volunteered to do this.

Chavez said that it would be good for the commission to read *The Real Cost of Parking* by Donald Shoup or to look for research about parking on the internet.

9. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.