



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
December 17, 2013, 6:30 PM**

1. Holiday Treats

2. Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair McCroskey.

3. Roll call Members present: Ken McCroskey, Peggy McQuaid, Susan Reeves, and John Miki. Absent and excused: Farid Javandel. Staff present: Chan, Geissberger, and Chavez.

4. Approval of Minutes Approval of October minutes by McQuaid/Reeves motion. Vote: 3 ayes, 1 abstention. Approval of November Minutes by McQuaid/McCroskey motion. Vote was 3 ayes 1 abstention.

5. Public Comment

Bernard Knap,p resident of the 800 block of Pomona Avenue, expressed concerns about speeding on his block. He said that a speed survey was done, but residents of the block were not notified as to when the results were presented to the Commission. He said that his neighbors would like to come before the Commission and express their concerns about traffic and speeding.

6. Presentation

6-A Police Reports

Lt. Geissberger said that in the month of November, there had been 13 collisions, 7 non-injury and 6 injury collision, 4 hit and runs, 2 collisions on Marin Avenue and one bicycle collision. The APD issued 94 moving citations. The Commission is interested in an update to the collisions map.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on matters related to the following items:

7-A I-80 Integrated Corridor Project Wayfinding Plan and Signage for the intersection of Buchanan Street and I-80/I-580 ramps.

Chavez provided background on the signage plan from Caltrans and asked the Commission to make a recommendation regarding the proposal to provide wayfinding to the Baytrail in Albany. The signage plan is the result of Caltrans request to encroach on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) jurisdiction for the construction of the I-80 ICM Project. She introduced Mr. Robert Solotar from Caltrans to clarify questions, and mentioned that she had received a letter from Preston Jordan in support of the proposed plan. She said that if the Caltrans proposal is recommended, it may require approval from Council as the plan is different from the approved Wayfinding Plan.

Mr. Solotar made the presentation. He explained that this project was funded by Alameda County. The County's consultants were supposed to get in touch with the cities, but it was not the case with the City of Albany. The signs are supposed to be installed before June 2014. Another goal is to have an integrated sign design along the I-80 Corridor. No City logos would be included in the Caltrans signs. Commission had

the following questions: What was the hierarchy of the signs? Would it indicate if a person is on the Bay Trail or not?

Discussion was open to the public, but no public comment was received. Discussion was back to the Commission. Comments were as follows:

It is good to have sign uniformity around the interchange area. This is an opportunity to implement wayfinding in that area. On signs 1-1, 1-2, 3, 4, and 5, add a line that indicates wayfinding to “Buchanan Bikeway.” The color of the Bay Trail logo is green and the background is green. It may be difficult to differentiate the sign. Instead of the Bay Trail logo, use the phrase “Bay Trail” on signs 3, 4 and 5. For sign 5-north, add a line that guides people to Eastshore Highway under the bridge overcrossing. Chavez requested Mr. Solotar to provide a larger version of the plan.

Motion McQuaid/McCroskey: Accept the concept plans, with the understanding that a larger version of the plan is needed to see the details better.

Miki amended the motion to add that Caltrans considers including a plate that indicates wayfinding for Buchanan Bikeway on any sign that provides wayfinding for Solano and San Pablo. These would be signs 1 south facing, 2 west facing, 3 north facing, 4 south facing, and 5 south facing. And to replace the Bay Trail logo on signs 4 south facing, 5 north and south facing, and 3 south facing with the word “Bay Trail” , to be consistent with Berkeley and Emeryville. Vote was unanimous.

7-B Implementation of Permit Parking Requests in the City of Albany

Chavez explained the existing permit parking program described in the City’s Municipal Code. She said that about three years ago, City staff invited staffs from El Cerrito and Berkeley to present their parking programs. For Albany, there are many implications with the implementation of a parking program and its impacts should be fully analyzed. There are many areas that would benefit from a permit parking program in the City. These areas are located adjacent to the business district, or areas impacted by commuter parking.

Public comment was open to the public. Sol Strand spoke and said that Pierce Street was a transit route. Perhaps, if the park is fully developed a Permit Parking program may be needed there. If implemented, the parking information could be added to the existing street sweeping signs.

7-C Report on UC Village Development Proposal

Chavez said that in order to keep the project on track ,the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the concept design on December 11. An appeal is expected, but the plans will go before Council in February 2014. She said that the consultations with Caltrans are ongoing and the developer has expressed his willingness to provide additional right of way along the development, to allow for the cycle track and the bus stop relocation. The Planning and Zoning and the T&S Commission will have an opportunity to see the final plans.

7-D Report on meetings from the Ad-hoc Sub Committee for the updates to the Municipal Code

Chavez recommended looking at the Cities of Emeryville, El Cerrito, Berkeley, Alameda, Santa Monica Municipal Codes, and see what components they feature that would be suitable in Albany. The Commission had the following comments: Look at the City of Davis for bicycle and transportation sections of the Municipal Code.

7-E Report on Measure D Working Group meeting on December 18

Chavez said that this meeting would be an inter-committee meeting by the Planning and Zoning Traffic & Safety Commission Meeting – December 17, 2013

Commission, T&S, and Sustainability Commission for Measure D, and that it would be open to the public. More than two representatives from each commission would be allowed. She said that Claire Griffing was the staff liaison and that more information would be known after the first meeting.

8 Announcements and Communications

Chavez reported that the Wayfinding grant request was not successful. She said that Council had approved the Complete Streets Plan and the bus stop relocation on the northbound direction at Solano and San Pablo was included pending conversations with business owners. She said that she had initiated talks with them and an idea was moving the bus stop about 40 feet north of the intersection and create an urban plaza in the bus stop bulb out that provided character and community identity for the City. It could even be a piece of advertising for adjacent businesses.

McCroskey said that the Ohlone Greenway was open in its entirety and invited Commission members to take a stroll and see what they thought.

Miki announced that he would be stepping down from the Commission in the New Year and that December would be his last meeting as a Commission member. He said that it was a pleasure working with staff and the other members of the T&S Commission and that he commended the new Public Works Director's approach to test things first.

9. Future Agenda Items

In addition to the items listed on the agenda, the Commission wishes to continue with the implementation of disabled parking along upper Solano Ave. The Marin/Curtis preliminary plans will be before the Commission in February 2014. For the Kains and Adams bicycle concept Plan, staff is waiting for the outcome of the Alameda County Technical Assistance program process. Staff received the second set of plans for administrative review of the Buchanan Bikeway Phase III. One issue with this Plan is the provision of improved bike access at the intersection. Bike boxes are an option to consider and some additional reconfiguration of the vehicle lanes at the intersection.

The other two items that need to be included early in 2014 are the exclusive on street parking for City Car Share members. Suggested locations are Marin/San Pablo, Solano/Curtis, Solano/Ohlone Greenway, and Solano and San Pablo. Staff will seek feedback from the City of Oakland regarding its car sharing parking program.

Solano Avenue Electric Vehicle Parking is another upcoming item for early 2014.

Speeding concerns along the 800 block of Pomona. This item will be put on the agenda for January or February.

9. Adjournment—the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2014.