



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**1000 San Pablo Avenue**  
**January 23, 2014 – 7:00 PM**

---

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair McCroskey.
2. **ROLL CALL. Members present:** Javandel, McQuaid, Reeves, McCroskey, and Chomsky. Staff present: Lt. Geissberger, Chan, and Chavez.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for December 17, 2013.** Minutes were approved with minor changes. Vote: 3 ayes, 2 abstentions (Javandel was absent and Chomsky is a new member of the Commission).

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT- None**

5 **PRESENTATION**

**5-A Police Report**

In the month of December, 2013 there were 17 collisions: 12 Non-Injury and 5 injury collisions, 7 Hit and Runs, 2 collisions on Marin Avenue. PD issued 110 moving citations and 11 DUI violations. The PD would be conducting a saturation control operation the following day thanks to a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety.

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

**6-A Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

At Chavez's request, this item was moved to the end of the meeting.

**6-B 800 Block of Pomona Traffic Calming**

Chavez provided background on the issue and said that she had generated several reports on the data available from the traffic counters. In addition, she said that she had corroborated the results of the pneumatic survey with a 40 minute data collection with the lidar gun. She said that the results of both surveys would not warrant the implementation of speed humps or hard scape traffic calming measures, but would not preclude the Commission from recommending striping along the block.

Discussion was open to the public. The following people spoke: Bernard Knapp, Phillip Chen, Patrick Fynn. The comments were the following: Another block in the City, did not meet the warrants for hardscape traffic calming implementation and nevertheless, it was implemented. The results of the 900 Pomona survey were not accurate as many people slowed down when they saw the hoses. The worst traffic and speeding is observed at school bell times. Parents cut through on Pomona. In addition, new businesses at the corner of Pomona and Solano have brought more traffic, which is concerning. Traffic and Safety Commission could make the recommendation to Council to change the policy and allow the T&S Commission to have the discretion to make recommendations when special circumstances are present. Put zebra stripes at the intersections, make the intersection of Pomona and Washington a school crossing, and allow staff to meet with the neighborhood to discuss potential striping options. Residents of the block are interested in the idea of street painting. There are many children on the block and 25 mph seems too fast.

The Commission discussed the issue and supported the idea of striping. Javandel said that if the Commission discarded the significance of the thresholds, almost all of the residential streets would have speed humps. But the more elegant traffic calming options are the ones that psychologically affect the perception of the driver. Commission members asked about looking at the existing policy and see if it could be amended to include striping options for those blocks that do not meet the hardscape measures. In addition, it would be good to discuss the creation of speed zones.

*Motion Javandel/McQuaid:* Direct staff to investigate edge striping options and discuss them with residents of the 800 block of Pomona. Vote was unanimous.

### **6-C I-80 Integrated Corridor Project Wayfinding Plan and Signage for the intersection of Buchanan**

Chavez provided a summary of the comments from the previous month regarding the signage. She also introduced a concept design for the plaza wayfinding. The Commission suggested consolidating the arrows indicating locations with same direction and placing Buchanan Bikeway on top of Solano and San Pablo. Other minor modifications were suggested. Chavez would be conveying the changes to Caltrans over the next couple of days.

### **6-D Disabled Parking for Solano Avenue east of Masonic**

McCroskey recused from this discussion as he lives within the neighborhood of upper Solano Avenue. Chavez presented the item saying that the selected locations for lower Solano were already implemented. The potential locations for upper Solano are: 1305 Solano by I-Song orthodontics on the north side of Solano. This is a new location that was not presented last year. Prins Chiropractic location needs a sign and pole as there was already disabled parking installed, 1404 Solano Avenue (by First Fish) and the Solano Psychological Center at 1498 Solano. The Commission suggested shrinking the red curb by Cucinni's and install a disabled space there. Chavez said she would talk to the business owners of the block about the installation of the disabled on-street parking.

*Motion Javandel/McQuaid:* Approve the proposed locations at 1305, 1404, 1498, and 1556 Solano for the installation of on-street disabled parking. Vote was unanimous.

McCroskey returned to the meeting for the next item.

### **6-E Traffic and Safety Commission Goals and Objectives**

Chavez presented the item and said that Council had asked the Committee and Commissions to present their goals and objectives and to establish the relationship to the Council Strategic Plan.

The Commission had the following comments:

Remove the last bullet from the "Relation to City Council Strategic Plan" Section because it seemed that it belonged to another commission or committee. Remove the word "implementation" from the second bullet under "Initiatives and Accomplishments of 2013. Add: Decision on Washington Avenue Sidewalk Parking Policy. Add a bullet that reads: Begin implementation of Traffic Calming along Washington Avenue. Add: Began implementation of on-street disabled parking along lower Solano Avenue.

For Review and Initiatives for 2014: Add Continue implementation of disabled parking on upper Solano Avenue and begin identifying potential locations on San Pablo Avenue.

Add: Continue to review the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation section of the Municipal Code.

Add: Update of Traffic Calming Policy and Establishment of Speed School Zones.

Traffic and Safety – Minutes

January 23, 2014

The Commission asked about the Council goal of developing a parking management plan for commercial areas. Chavez said that she was unofficially informed that the City would be awarded a grant from Alameda County Transportation Commission for the development of a parking management program and for the implementation of bicycle facilities on Kains and Adams.

The Commission asked to be sent a copy of the Work Plan before sending it to Council.

#### **6-F Exclusive On-Street Parking for Car Share members**

McCroskey recused from the meeting as some of the suggested locations are near his home. Javandel led the meeting for this discussion. There was concern about the issue of reserving preferential parking spaces for City Car Share members versus a Point of Delivery location (POD). The Commission also said that preferential on street parking should not be exclusive to one company. Because this is not proposed as a POD, it does not benefit Albany residents. Also, if this generates from an environmental policy, this opens the door to other potential demands for parking like hybrid or electric vehicles. In addition, parking is already at premium in Albany. It would be good to have a clear idea of what we are trying to accomplish, wait to hear from the experience in Oakland, and wait until the parking policies from the City are evaluated.

*Motion Chomsky/Reeves:* Moved to postpone discussion of possible reserved on street parking spaces for car sharing vehicles until the Commission evaluates the City's parking policies. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

McCroskey returned to the meeting.

#### **6-G Report on research from the Ad-hoc Sub Committee on the updates to the Municipal Code.**

Chomsky was assigned to the Administration and Procedures and the Sidewalks Sub-committees. Those where the subcommittees where John Miki were assigned.

Javandel said he and McQuaid had met with the Albany Police Department. Chavez said that a lot of efforts were going on about existing policies. For instance, Measure D, the update to the General Plan, and the potential parking assessment analysis for the City.

Chan said that staff had been working on a sidewalk program that would consider sharing 50% of the sidewalk repair cost with property owners. The proposal would go to Council in the spring or early summer of 2014.

#### **6-H Report on Measure D Working Group meeting on December 8, 2013**

Chavez reported about the meeting held on 12/18/13. She said that it was determined to conduct research about the impact of transit oriented development and applicable Transportation Demand Management measures versus Vehicle Miles Traveled. Javandel said that there was some recognition from the group that there was a need for off-street parking, because it was obviously an impact on on-street parking. The question is, would it be two spaces per unit? Some cities use a formula that recognizes the typical structure of the family and add a fraction of the parking spaces as the number of bedrooms increase. There was a question about adding the notion of cost to the number of off-street parking spaces.

The Commission members who attended the meeting felt that the sessions should be longer in order to get more accomplished. In addition, they suggested committing two members of each Commission to attend consistently, so they are responsible for attending. Also, it would be good to

have the next steps laid out because it seems that time is running short. Chavez announced that the next meeting would be on January 30. She said she would rely on the comments to Jeff Bond who is the staff liaison for this subcommittee.

**6-I Nomination for Chair and Vice-Chair.**

McQuaid nominated Farid Javandel as Chair and Reeves nominated Ken McCroskey as Vice-Chair. Motion McQuaid/Chomsky: Accept nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Vote was unanimous.

**7. Announcements and Communications**

Chavez said that staff had prepared a thank you letter for John Miki for his service on the Commission, which she read at the meeting.

Chavez also said that two of the three projects submitted made the cut for the Alameda County Transportation Commission Technical Assistance Program: The bicycle facilities on Kains and Adams and the parking assessment for the City.

**7A Washington Avenue Traffic Calming Design.**

She announced that the design contract for the bulb outs would be awarded to Kittelson and Associates and that the contract agreement would go to Council at the first meeting in February. Kittelson and Associates was the firm that conducted the pedestrian assessment study along Washington Avenue, through the University of California Transportation Center.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

- 8A Marin/Curtis SR2S Project Concept Design
- 8B ATP Striping and Signing 65% Plans
- 8C Buchanan Bikeway Phase III Design
- 8D Electric Vehicle charging stations
- 8E Kains and Adams bicycle facility concept

Chavez said she would like to add the traffic calming policy and school zones for March or April.

**9. Adjournment**—Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.