



**CITY OF ALBANY  
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION**

**City Hall - Council Chambers  
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706  
Thursday, April 27, 2017 7:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chair Reeves.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chomsky, Javandel, del Rosario, McCroskey (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Reeves  
Absent: none  
Staff Present: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner  
Jeff Bond, Community Development Director

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes for March 23, 2017**

*Motion Chomsky/del Rosario:* Moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting, as submitted.

Ayes: del Rosario, Reeves, Chomsky  
Noes: None  
Abstain: Javandel  
Absent: McCroskey

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Julia Frank and Michele Ling:**

- Clarification of whether a stop sign, crosswalk, and curb ramps will be installed within a month, as stated by Public Works Director Hurley, at the intersection of Carmel and Washington; support for installing the stop sign to alleviate residents' concerns.

Chavez reported the stop bar and stop sign will be installed. She did not know when the crosswalk with curb ramps would be installed because they had to be added to the CIP.

**5. PRESENTATION**

**5-1. Police Report**

None.

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

- 6-1. Masonic Avenue and Marin Avenue Intersection Striping and Signage** – The City has received reports about potential conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians crossing Marin Avenue at the Ohlone Greenway and motorists turning from Masonic onto eastbound Marin. In addition, staff has received reports of motorists using right turn only lane as a through-lane.

Chavez reported that staff proposes adding signage at the Masonic/Marin intersection in response to complaints about left turning vehicles not yielding to pedestrians and cyclists on the crosswalk. The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) recommends implementation of signage, but that has not been done. The sign could be mounted on the traffic signal pole for right and left turning vehicles. Staff will collect data before and after installing signage to determine its effectiveness. The ideal solution would be adding a phase to the signals, but the controllers probably cannot accommodate an additional phase. Other complaints were that through vehicles pass left-turning vehicles on the right. Staff wants to collect data about the occurrences of this behavior and then, based on that data, propose

alternative striping. In addition, staff will seek information about collisions resulting from this particular behavior from the police department. The recommendation is to install signage at the Marin/Masonic intersection. Staff will return in June with a proposal for the Solano/Masonic intersection.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- Whether data collection will occur prior to installation of improvements. Data collection likely will begin the following week.
- The distance between the sign and stopped cars may render the sign ineffective; there does not appear to be an overhead mast arm to attach signage to. Staff will investigate the suitability of the pole and determine an alternative location if necessary.
- Whether turning vehicles yield because bicycles or through vehicles have the right-of-way. Turning vehicles always yield to through vehicles. .

**The following PUBLIC COMMENT was offered by Judy Innes.**

- Cars run the red lights as well. Another concern is cars traveling east on Solano making high-speed right turns south onto Masonic.

**The Commission made the following comments:**

- A one or two-second all-red phase would help with cars running the red light.
- A suggestion to relocate the "share the road" sign on the south side of the intersection.
- The solutions discussed do not address crosswalks not part of the Ohlone Greenway.

*Motion Javandel/Chomsky:* Moved to approve installation of signage as proposed and to investigate signal timing opportunities with the existing equipment.

Ayes: Chomsky, Reeves, Javandel, del Rosario

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: McCroskey

**6-2. Review of Revised Layout of Proposed Park and Ride Under I-80/Buchanan Street Intersection – The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has submitted a revised design for the proposed Park and Ride Lot. The plans will be also presented to City Council at its May 1st meeting.**

Chavez recalled the Commission's January review of the Park and Ride Lot proposal. After the Commission meeting, staff met onsite with AC Transit, MTC, and AECOM staff. Concerns were visibility of the pedestrian crossing and installation of a crosswalk midblock. New conceptual plans include moving the crosswalk from the west side to the east side and signal modifications. Staff concerns are vehicle speeds turning onto the freeway, a leading pedestrian interval signal phase, and a link between the alternative path and the bus stop. Caltrans and AC Transit were not comfortable with locating a bus stop on the on-ramp. The intent is to monitor this pilot program, perhaps partner in applying for grants, and adding features such as electric vehicle charging stations. Michelle Go of MTC and Tyson Tano of AECOM, project manager and project designer were at the meeting.

Tyson Tano advised that improvements include a bus stop on Buchanan, a new sidewalk with loading area, a fence to prevent jay walking across Buchanan, new signal phasing, and lighting for the lot and bus stop. Currently design is at the 30 percent level with construction possibly in 2018.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- Reasons for rejecting the on-ramp bus stop. Caltrans had safety concerns about the proximity of passengers to high-speed traffic and buses merging into traffic.
- Consideration of the BCDC boundary limit. The bus stop would not be within the BCDC boundary.
- Sufficiency of the \$3 million budget for three Park and Ride Lots. The current designs would cost more than \$3 million. Federal funding cannot be used for the Albany lot because the area is within the Caltrans right-of-way.
- The possibility of using RM3 funds. RM3 funding would be part of the November 2018 ballot, and MTC hopes to open the lots in 2018.

- Clarification of the median fence and fencing around the lot. The median fence could be a black chain-link fence 4-6 feet high. Around the lot, the project engineers are looking at the Caltrans standard of a black metal fence, 8-10 feet high.

**The Commission made the following comments:**

- Sufficient space at pickup/drop-off locations for all users including casual carpools and private shuttles.
- AC Transit will monitor usage and may implement additional service if there is enough demand, because Line L is currently at capacity at this location during peak hours. However, this lot may be heavily used by carpools and private shuttles.
- Support for staff concerns.

**6-3. Review of Consultant Scope of Work for Preparation of a Feasibility Study of Two-Way Bicycle Lanes on Kains and Adams Streets** – Following a request for proposal process, Parisi Transportation Consultants has been selected to prepare a study evaluating the feasibility of creating two-way bicycle lanes on Kains and Adams Streets. The proposed scope of work includes public outreach.

Bond reported the interview panel recommended the selection of Parisi Transportation Consultants. Previous discussions suggested forming a technical advisory committee, but staff felt funds would be better spent on analysis and direct public outreach. The project is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission. In 2012, the Council directed staff to perform additional analysis prior to implementation of the project.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- Clarification of public meetings and number of meetings. Public outreach would include informal community meetings, limited postcard notification, electronic notifications, and Traffic and Safety Commission hearings of policy discussions.
- Plans for a walk-through event. Walking or biking events will be publicized for the public to attend.
- Timeframe for the project. The project will be presented to the City Council on May 1, and staff will meet with the consultants in the next two weeks to develop a final schedule. The earliest timeframe for public outreach would be the summer.

**The following PUBLIC COMMENT was offered by Ruth Gjerde:**

- Concerns about the potential implementation of a bike lane on a corridor with high traffic and with a significant number of driveways.

*Motion McCroskey/Javandel:* Moved to recommend that the City Council approve the contract with Parisi Transportation Consultants.

Ayes: McCroskey, Javandel, del Rosario, Reeves, Chomsky  
 Noes: None  
 Abstain: None  
 Absent: None

**6-4. Review of 2017-19 Work Plan** – An updated Work Plan based on the City Council Strategic Plan and on the 2015-16 adopted Commission Plan was discussed at the March 23 meeting. Staff has revised the Work Plan based on Commission discussion. The Traffic and Safety Commission Work Plan is scheduled to be presented to Council at its May 15 meeting.

Chavez reviewed Commission comments incorporated into the draft work plan.

Bond added that the work plan would be presented to the Council on May 15.

**The Commission made the following comments:**

- Change to "goods movement" in the opening paragraph.
- Change upper Solano Avenue to Solano Avenue east of Masonic.
- Add the bullet to "Continue work on the incremental steps ... ."
- Concern about the number of items being too many to accomplish in two years.

**6-5. Review of Proposed Appropriation of Transportation Development Act, Article 3 funds (TDA)** – As the City's local Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Body (BPAC), the Traffic and Safety Commission is required to review any project that is recommended to receive Article 3 Transportation Development Act funds. Staff proposed the San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street Pedestrian Improvement Project as the recipient of Article 3 TDA funds for FY 2017-18.

Chavez reported staff proposes to use the approximately \$17,800 in TDA funds for the San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street Pedestrian Improvement Project.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- Other projects for which funds could be used. Staff suggested the Ohlone Greenway sidewalk improvement project.

*Nomination Javandel/Reeves:* Moved to recommend that the City Council approve the allocation of \$17,816 in TDA funds to partially fund design of San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street improvements.

Ayes: del Rosario, Reeves, McCroskey, Chomsky, Javandel

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**6-6. Information Report on Traffic Analysis Services for the Albany Unified School District Middle School Annex Project** – On March 14, 2017, the Albany Board of Education approved a contract with the consulting firm Michael Baker & Associates to prepare a traffic and pedestrian circulation study that will collect various pedestrian counts and traffic surveys and develop proposed mitigation measures for review.

Bond reported the School District retained Michael Baker & Associates to prepare a traffic analysis. Staff had not received any analysis or conclusions by the time of the meeting. The School District plans include public roadways, therefore, the Commission should review them and provide direction.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- City public outreach for these projects. The School District will lead outreach. Staff has communicated the need for public outreach to the School District.

**6-7. Information Report on Plan Bay Area 2040** – The Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments has prepared the final draft of Plan Bay Area 2040. In addition, a draft environmental impact report has been prepared.

Bond reported the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments have completed the final draft of Plan Bay Area, the regional sustainable community plan, as required by State law. The main document is more of an overview of the region. Plan Bay Area concepts significant to the City are a bus rapid transit system on San Pablo Avenue, an express lane system, and growth projections. Open houses will be held in Fremont, San Francisco, and Walnut Creek.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- Whether zoning policies are binding on the City or in conflict with the General Plan. Nothing in the draft Plan is a legal requirement for the City. Future Plans will likely facilitate housing production.
- Type of development chosen for promotion in the draft Plan. The draft Plan appears to promote development near transit in all cities in the region.

**6-8. Information Report on Revisions to California Environmental Quality Act Thresholds of Significance for Transportation Impacts of Projects** – The California Office of Planning and Research has been working for several years on revision to CEQA Guidelines related to transportation impacts of projects. In addition, several cities in California have adopted individual thresholds of significance for use in their environmental review processes.

Bond reported CEQA is moving away from forcing municipalities to require projects to build more vehicle infrastructure and toward requiring municipalities to consider the system network as a whole. Some cities are adopting thresholds of significance in advance of State action. He recommended the City monitor actions taken by other cities but not consider new thresholds of significance. The City did not conduct environmental impact reviews often enough to justify new thresholds. The Commission can discuss thresholds as each project is presented.

**The Commission made the following comments:**

- Existing LOS is good for transit because it measures and mitigates delay along corridors and intersections, however, VMT measure is great to account for impacts on alternative transportation modes, but does not capture transit benefits. The City of Oakland captures transit benefits in other ways, such as having a strong Complete Streets Policy and strict Conditions of Approval for development projects. Bond's approach will allow the Commission to consider transit benefits and improvements with each project.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATION**

Chavez announced the City received the Complete Streets grant for Solano Avenue east of Masonic Avenue.

Bond advised that the Marin/Buchanan Phase 3 Project should be presented to the City Council on May 15.

A work session with the Washington/Albany Hill neighborhood is scheduled for May 17 to discuss the neighborhood's proposal.

Commissioner McCroskey noted May is bike month. The Strollers and Rollers will provide bike valet parking at the Arts and Green Festival on May 7. Bike to Work events are scheduled for the week of May 8 with Bike to Work Day on May 11. The Albany Police Activities League is holding its annual bike rodeo on May 20th. The sidewalk on San Pablo north of Monroe has been poured, and the cycle track appears to be imminent.

Chair Reeves indicated she would not be present for the June Commission meeting.

Chavez reported 35% plans for the Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Projects would be presented soon. Caltrans had arranged for PEER review process for this project. The City has good candidates for two engineering positions in Public Works.

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 8-1. Washington Avenue Traffic Calming—May 2017**
- 8-2. Kains Avenue Speed Surveys (600 and 1000 blocks)—May 2017**
- 8-3. Sidewalk Program 2017—May/June 2017**
- 8-4. North Albany Traffic Calming—June 2017**
- 8-5. Pavement Program 2017—June 2017**

**ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting: May 25, 2017 – City Council Chambers**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:04 P.M.

*The Commission agenda is available for public inspection at the Albany Community Center/Library, Senior Center and City Hall. The agenda, when available, can be found on our web page at [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org). Agenda related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Traffic & Safety Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Community Development Department.*

*Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission/Committee/Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.*

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and State Law, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administration Office 510-528-5710. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102.104 ADA Title II)". Upon request, we will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternate formats, of disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please deliver a written request, including your name, mailing address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials and preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service at least two (2) days before the meeting. Request should be sent to: City Clerk, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706.*