



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Albany, CA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen

Absent:

Staff Present: Jeff Bond, Community Development Director
Justin Fried, Transportation Planner
Bianca Hutner, CivicSpark Climate Fellow
Anne Hsu, City Clerk

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremiah Pinguelo suggested the City implement school zones to slow traffic.

3. PRESENTATION

3-1. Monthly Police Data on Collisions and Citations

Fried reported zero pedestrian collisions, two bicycle collisions, and four vehicle collisions, two of which involved injuries, during June. The Police Department issued no moving citations and made one DUI arrest. A motorist struck a recumbent bicyclist traveling southbound on San Pablo Avenue as the motorist attempted to pass the bicyclist. A bicyclist traveling eastbound on Washington failed to stop at Jackson and collided with a motorist proceeding through the intersection. The SafeTREC report reflects a 10-15% reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) compared to 2019 and 30-40% fewer reported crashes compared to 2019.

Commissioner Jordan requested the report include traffic stops.

The following PUBLIC COMMENT were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- The data is incomplete because police do not respond to all accidents.

3-2. Shared Mobility Data

Fried advised that the number of active GIG members in June totaled 198, trip starts totaled 491; vehicles in service totaled 506; and vehicles in service per day averaged seven.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- The graph shows members and total trips from GIG's prior reporting, which is not as accurate at the current reporting.

The following PUBLIC COMMENT were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- An inquiry about requirements for sanitizing carshare vehicles between trips.

Fried indicated GIG reassigned workers from relocating vehicles to sanitizing them daily.



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The Commission made the following comments:

- GIG recommends users sanitize vehicles before using them.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2020.

Recommendation: That the Transportation Commission approve the meeting minutes for the virtual special meeting of June 25, 2020.

Commissioner Jordan suggested increasing the level of summary of the meeting minutes and including links to the video.

Javandel/McCroskey: Moved to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting as presented.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

5-1. Development of Electric Mobility Plan – Staff will provide an overview of development of the scope for an Electric Mobility Plan, one of the action items called for in the 2019 City of Albany Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and the potential elements that involve infrastructure in city-owned right-of-way.

Recommendation: Provide comments to staff.

Hutner reported the purposes of the Electric Mobility Plan (EMP) are to reduce emissions from the transportation sector; supplement the Active Transportation Plan (ATP); promote mode shift as density increases; prioritize shared electric transportation for multifamily buildings and the public; and incentivize electric vehicles (EV) and EV chargers for single-family and multifamily homes. Outreach and education include a campaign for EVs, a webpage for an electrification guide, printed guidance materials, and regular updates of the Carbon-Free Albany website. The EMP suggests partnerships with East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) for private charging infrastructure, regional training programs for EV maintenance and repair, and electric mobility programs to connect underserved communities and promote used EV options. The EMP proposes actions for the community and the City and in the public right-of-way that can increase EV infrastructure. The Transportation Commission will review a draft EMP and provide feedback before it is presented to the Council for review and adoption.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Charging facilities for micro mobility is mostly decentralized.
- Four EV charging stations are planned for City-owned property. The EMP addresses residential charging infrastructure as well.
- A few carshare companies have attempted to offer electric vehicles.



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- The charging stations planned for City property are the result of a partnership with SharePoint.
- A survey for the public is scheduled for release on July 24, 2020.

The Commission made the following comments:

- While personal use of mobility cannot be controlled, being ready to respond to new products is important.
- Incentives could motivate developers to include public and private electric charging facilities in their projects along the San Pablo Avenue Corridor.
- Electric carshare vehicles may not be competitive because they would have to be parked at a charging facility. A shared EV could be feasible for a multifamily residential building.
- Priority areas for charging facilities should include multifamily residences and commercial areas.
- Docking facilities for micro mobility could be integrated into streetscape plans. The City should develop a policy for use and parking of micro mobility.
- A hierarchy of electric mobility could encourage the use of modes other than EVs.
- Staff should explore partnerships, user fees, and grants to fund charging infrastructure..
- Private chargers located in the public right-of-way or at curbside should be avoided or a last resort.
- Support for locating charging facilities in or near multifamily housing, high-density housing, or rental homes.
- Charging infrastructure for micro mobility may not be a priority.

5-2. Update on Proposed Bus Stop Parklet on Solano Avenue at Kains Avenue – Staff will present the updated bus stop parklet design proposed for the southwest corner of Solano Avenue and Kains Avenue.

Recommendation: Provide comments to staff

Fried indicated the design has been modified since the Commission's review in 2018. Modifications affect seating, physical separation between the bus loading area and the parklet, access to the front of the bus, the shade structure, and the configuration of bicycle parking.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- The curb line cannot be moved further out because of drainage and the slope for the raised platform.
- Striping can be further away from the curb at the crosswalk to allow a motorist and a bicyclist to navigate the bulb-out and angle toward the curb at the back of the bus stop to discourage motorists from passing a bus.
- The trees will not be removed.

The Commission made the following comments:

- A preference for removing the center striped island and angling the center stripe between points 13 feet from the corner of the parklet and 13 feet from the apex of the bulb-out. Removing the southern line of the striped island and retaining the northern line as the double yellow line would be better.



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- At least one table should be removed from the bulb-out.
- The café seating is more appealing than the bench seating.
- The planters appear as a wall on the sidewalk.
- The latest design responds to comments and is heading in the right direction.
- The step down to the bicycle parking area could be a fall hazard. A narrow planter could alert pedestrians to the step. The bench and two planters could be rotated 90 degrees and moved down.
- A covering over the transit area would be nice.

5-3. Review of 2019 Vehicle Collision Data – Staff will present an analysis of 2019 vehicle collision data.

Recommendation: Provide comments to staff

Fried indicated the data source is UC Berkeley's SafeTREC Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) and the California Highway Patrol Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS). Data for 2018-2019 is provisional and subject to change. Reported injuries range from a complaint of pain to a fatality. Freeway collisions have been excluded. Collisions continue to be concentrated on major corridors within Albany. He described the circumstances of severe and fatal vehicle collisions, pedestrian collisions, and bicycle collisions and any violations.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Major corridors, particularly Solano and San Pablo, continue to have the highest concentration of collisions.

The Commission made the following comments:

- Residents complain about motorists rolling through stop signs, but the severity of collisions at four-way stops do not rise to the level of this reporting.
- A request for the report to include vehicle collisions with injuries less than severe.
- This data helps inform the Commission's decisions.

5-4. Update on Encroachment Permits for Outdoor Dining – Staff will provide an update on this item based upon City Council discussion on July 6 and State and County direction since the Commission's June discussion.

Recommendation: Provide comments to staff

Bond advised that two applications for encroachment permits have been received since the staff report was released, but the permits have not yet been issued. The Alameda County Public Health Officer has not allowed outdoor barbershops and salons and does not expect to allow them any time soon. Staff will work with restaurants to ensure their installations are as safe as possible and is looking into purchasing cones to improve the visibility of installations in the roadway. Multiple residents and the County Health Department have contacted staff with concerns about the lack of physical distancing at one restaurant.



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The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- If health orders close restaurants, the closure could extend for as little as 14 days. Staff will seek the advice of the Public Health Officer before taking action on existing restaurant installations.
- Staff will work on signage for reduced speeds near restaurant installations.
- The City is not providing any equipment for the installations other than cones.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fried announced the Council authorized the Washington Avenue pavement reconstruction contract. The project will be separated into two phases. The first phase covers San Pablo Avenue to Cornell and Masonic to Pomona, and work should begin in August and be complete in 60 days. The second phase will cover Cornell to Masonic and has been scheduled for 2021 when East Bay Municipal Utility District (MUD) completes its work. The installation of electric service at the Buchanan Park and Ride Lot is scheduled for August, which should complete the project.

Commissioner McCroskey shared a photo of speed humps at the intersection of San Gabriel and Brighton, which someone decorated with eyes and antennae. He thanked staff for patching westbound Buchanan just west of Pierce Street. The Planning & Zoning Commission has mentioned forming a subcommittee with the Transportation Commission to review parking requirements for vehicles and bicycles for the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

Commissioner Jordan advised that in his capacity as a resident he offered comments on the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner McCroskey requested agenda items for bicycle parking requirements and formation of a subcommittee to work with the Planning & Zoning Commission on the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

Fried noted upcoming items are traffic calming measures for the 1000 block of Masonic and updating the ATP.

Commissioner del Rosario requested staff respond to public comment regarding the visibility of a crosswalk signal.

Commissioner Jordan requested an agenda item to discuss blocking the clockwise travel lane around Memorial Park during shelter in place. Chair Paulsen noted the Albany Middle School track is open for exercise and not crowded.

8. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, September 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue or virtual meeting pursuant to state and county COVID-19 guidance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.