



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Albany, CA

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 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
Emile Morales, Associate Engineer
Robert Gonzales, CIP Manager
Anne Hsu, City Clerk

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremiah Pinguelo felt the 25 m.p.h. speed limit on Solano Avenue should be lower. A pedestrian was fatally injured at Jackson and Solano, and no improvements were made in response to the fatality. School zones should be implemented around schools.

Commissioner McCroskey announced a third death occurred on the rail tracks in north Berkeley. Fencing is located on the west side of the tracks through Albany. Perhaps in the future, at-grade crossings can be eliminated from Richmond to Oakland or further south.

3. PRESENTATION

3-1. Monthly Police Data on Collisions and Citations

Fried presented data for September and October.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Staff does not know if citations were issued in any injury accidents.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- An inquiry as to whether any of the accidents occurred around schools or on Solano.

The Commission made the following comments:

- The Commission has taken the position that citations should be issued for violations that cause injury even if a collision does not occur.

3-2. Shared Mobility Data

Fried presented data for September and October.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- The bimonthly GIG report should contain data for each month.



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The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- The Police Department should increase enforcement if accidents are occurring; perhaps the City can encourage GIG to provide electric vehicles.

The Commission made the following comments:

- GIG provides hybrid vehicles.
- A bimonthly report of GIG data is acceptable.
- GIG has a pilot project with electric vehicles in Sacramento.

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

4-1. Modifications to Stop Controls and Additional Safety Improvements at the Key Route Boulevard Intersections with Brighton Avenue, Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Portland Avenue, and Washington Avenue – Consultants for the City will present a proposal to add median stop signs at the Thousand Oaks Blvd, Portland Ave, and Washington Ave intersections with Key Route Blvd and additional recommended safety improvements at these three intersections and the Brighton intersection.

Recommendation: Recommend that staff incorporate the proposed median stop signs and safety improvements into road rehabilitation designs for Key Route Boulevard.

Andrew Lee, Parisi Transportation Consulting, presented proposed safety improvements and recommendations for modifications to stop controls.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Design for repaving Key Route is expected to begin in the next nine months.
- The median is probably not large enough for more than one vehicle to stop within the intersection. Two small vehicles may be able to stop within the intersection, but that is not expected to occur frequently.
- The Transportation Commission will review the design of the repaving project and take public comment.
- Staff is obtaining quotes for the signage and striping project, which may be implemented in the spring of 2021.
- Public Works can install the red curbs and possibly the stop signs.
- Removing red curbs will add about half the number of parking spaces being removed by the recommended red curbs.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo, Darren McNally, Michael Roberts, Brad Carlton, Neo Serafimidis, Ian MacLeod:

- Concern about the loss of parking spaces at the corners of intersections; a suggestion for lights at crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety.
- Vehicles have struck students and staff in crosswalks around schools; questions of whether these changes consider pedestrian safety, will alter the number of vehicles in the area, and will alter the speed of vehicles.
- A question of whether curved or painted bulbouts or raised intersections were considered.
- Questions of whether speed humps were considered and the reasons for recommending the removal of bike lane stencils on Washington.



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- Support for stop controls in the medians and other changes; concerns about the loss of parking spaces, the benefits of some of the red curbs, and the speed of vehicles.
- Support for the stop controls because they will slow traffic; shrubbery in the medians should be trimmed to no more than 2 feet tall; curved sidewalks in the medians should be straightened and widened; stop controls are not necessary at Washington and should not be installed on bike boulevards.

Fried advised that a southbound bike lane should be installed with the signage and striping project. Staff directed the consultant to focus on stop controls. Changes to curbs can be explored in the resurfacing project for Key Route. The bike stencils within the intersection will be removed, and stop bars and stencils installed. Red curbs at the corners of intersections will increase visibility for pedestrians and motorists. The consultants have recommended trimming or removing shrubbery.

Gonzales indicated sidewalks in the median will be straightened and curb ramps will be installed as part of the resurfacing project.

The Commission made the following comments:

- The speed hump was installed at the Thousand Oaks intersection to cover utilities.
- Stop controls may add a bit of congestion but will increase the certainty of traffic movements.
- Support for the recommendations.
- Pedestrians crossing the intersection more than 100 feet from vehicles at the initial stop is a concern.
- The public needs to be educated about these changes.
- A red curb on southbound Key Route at Portland is missing from the graphic and text.
- Vegetation at the ends of medians should be replaced with grass.
- A suggestion to install school crossing signs away from the crossings.
- The stop sign at Washington will be helpful.
- Shrubby should be at most 2 feet tall.
- These improvements should make the intersections safer and make active transportation users feel safer.
- Perhaps red curbs at the corners can be 18 feet rather than 20 feet in order to retain a parking space.

Jordan/McCroskey: Moved to recommend that staff incorporate the proposed median stop signs and safety improvements into road rehabilitation designs for Key Route Boulevard, replace vegetation on either side of the median sidewalks with vegetation that does not grow taller than 2 feet, use their discretion in reducing the length of proposed red curbs by up to 4 feet in order to preserve one parking space, and install school crossing signs according to engineering standards.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4-2. Albany Sidewalk Program – Additional 2020 Sidewalk Repairs – Staff will present prioritization and plans for sidewalk repairs funded by Measure P1 parcel tax.



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Recommendation: Recommend that City Council authorize change order to the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Phase 3 project for construction of additional sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations as presented by staff.

Morales presented the staff report.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Phase 4 will be the final phase utilizing the legacy database of locations. New data will be presented to the Commission for review and may result in revised criteria for prioritization.
- The contractor surveying sidewalks found sidewalks generally to be in disrepair.
- The average cost will be about \$22 per square foot.
- Staff will attempt to locate the map of locations in Phase 0.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo, Harry Chomsky.

- Suggestions to paint "no smoking" on Solano sidewalks and to construct sidewalks with rubber.
- A question of whether the presentation, particularly the map, will be available on the website.

Morales indicated sidewalks made of rubber may not hold up to vehicular traffic. The map and list of repair locations will be posted to the sidewalk repair webpage under Public Works. The presentation will also be added to the online agenda packet.

The Commission made the following comments:

- Support for revising prioritization criteria.
- The contractor works quickly, and the bid was lower than the engineer's estimate.
- A rubber sidewalk is a greater trip hazard than a concrete sidewalk and may be more difficult for manual wheelchairs to travel on.

McCroskey/Jordan: Moved to recommend that City Council authorize a change order to the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Phase 3 project for construction of additional sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations as presented by staff and adopt the revised criteria for prioritization of repair locations.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

4-3. Authorization to Submit Applications to the Alameda County Transportation Commission 2022 Comprehensive Investment Plan Call for Projects – The Alameda County Transportation Commission is finalizing the Countywide Transportation Plan and will soon be releasing a call for projects for the 2022 Comprehensive Investment Plan. Funding is available for bicycle/pedestrian and transit-related improvements benefiting Alameda County that will be implemented between fiscal years (FYs) 2021-22 through



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2025-26, with a priority towards funding capital improvements that can be implemented in the near-term.

Recommendation: That the Transportation Commission recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit applications for the following projects to the Alameda County Transportation Commission 2022 Comprehensive Investment Plan: San Pablo Pedestrian Improvements; Codornices Creek Phase IV; Solano Complete Streets Short Term Improvements; Pierce Street Park Bikeway.

Fried presented the staff report.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Staff grouped all projects for the San Pablo Avenue Corridor as one project, and all projects in the Solano Avenue Corridor that can be completed in the near term are grouped as a second project. Program improvements are also included but not as specific projects. Components of the Solano Complete Streets project that are located in Berkeley are not included.
- Staff is working with the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) and Caltrans to ensure improvements on San Pablo are not duplicative.
- Additional elements, such as signal upgrades, could be incorporated into near-term improvements. ACTC may be able to perform signal upgrades outside the grant application.
- Improvements to the Washington Avenue intersection will be included in the application.
- Staff is searching for design funding rather than capital funding for San Pablo Phases II and III and the Pierce-Buchanan Bikeway.
- Several maps of parallel routes were included in the San Pablo Corridor project. One included a crossover from the Greenway.

Commissioner Javandel recused himself from the remainder of the discussion due to his ownership of real property located within 1,000 feet of Pierce Street Park.

The Commission requested clarification of the following additional points:

- Staff identified Measure B funding for the Adams and Kains project in the CIP update. Therefore, staff will not seek outside funding for the project.
- The Solano project is eligible, but its competitiveness is unknown.

The Commission made the following comments:

- Because ACTC has expressed interest in funding the Adams and Kains project, it should be included.
- Support for the recommended projects.
- ACTC may not be interested in a project involving only paint.
- The application narrative should emphasize that Phase IV of the Codornices Creek project will complete a 20-mile bike path network.

del Rosario/McCroskey: Moved to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m.

Ayes: Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen



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Noes: None
Recused: Javandel
Absent: None

Jordan/McCroskey: Moved to recommend the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit applications to the Alameda County Transportation Commission 2022 Comprehensive Investment Plan for the following projects: San Pablo Pedestrian Improvements; Codornices Creek Phase IV; Solano Complete Streets Short Term Improvements; Pierce Street Park Bikeway and recommend staff consider including the Kains and Adams pilot project as a fifth project or as a replacement of one of the four projects.

Ayes: Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen
Noes: None
Recused: Javandel
Absent: None

4-4. Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes – Staff will provide meeting minutes and an alternative format of meeting minutes with minimal description of presentations by staff and consultants per the direction of the Commission at the September 24, 2020 meeting. Staff will also provide an update on posting of meeting minutes, materials, and recordings on the City website.

Recommendation: That the Transportation Commission approve the meeting minutes for the virtual meeting of September 24, 2020 and provide direction to staff regarding the format for future meeting minutes.

Fried presented the staff report.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Visually impaired people can access the audio only recordings of meetings. YouTube provides captioning for videos.
- Changing the format will not affect staff time but will reduce costs.

The Commission made the following comments:

- Support for the new format for meeting minutes.
- A suggestion for staff to explore closed captioning of meeting videos.

Jordan/del Rosario: Moved to approve the new format for meeting minutes and request staff include closed captioning in meeting recordings.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Javandel/McCroskey: Moved to approve the meeting minutes in the new format for the meeting of September 24, 2020 as presented.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen
Noes: None



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Abstain: None
Absent: None

4-5. Report and Possible Recommendation from Transportation Commission Subcommittee on a Potential Update to the Traffic Calming Policy – Staff or subcommittee members will provide an update on subcommittee work to develop a potential update to the Traffic Calming Policy for consideration by the Commission and possible recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner Jordan presented the subcommittee's recommendation.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- AWDV stands for average weekday daily volume.
- The recommendation does not consider financial constraints, only prioritization.
- Anecdotes about speeding vehicles are not supported by the data.
- The number of cars traveling at speeds greater than 25 m.p.h. will determine prioritization of locations.

McCroskey/Javandel: Moved to extend the meeting to 10:15 p.m.

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

Noes: None

Recused: None

Absent: None

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Harry Chomsky, Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- Support for the recommendation with no threshold.
- A suggestion to reduce the speed limit to 15 m.p.h. citywide.

The Commission made the following comments:

- A preference to tell residents requesting traffic calming that the block does not meet the criteria if the data indicates a very low prioritization.
- It is time for the policy to evolve.

Javandel/Jordan: Moved to recommend staff incorporate the subcommittee's recommendation of number of vehicles traveling faster than the speed limit into the traffic calming policy and return to the Transportation Commission with a revised traffic calming policy.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5-1. Update on Development of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan

Bond reported a virtual open house for the Specific Plan is available at sanpablospecificplan.org for review and comment.



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5-2. City Now Accepting Applications for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Bond announced recruitment for Boards, Commissions, and Committees is underway. Current members must reapply if they wish to continue serving. Current members will continue to serve until an appointment is made.

The following **PUBLIC COMMENTS** were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- Appreciation for installation of pedestrian signs; a request for LED lights on pedestrian signs; a request for a discussion of school zones.

Jordan/Paulsen: Moved to extend the meeting to 10:20 p.m.

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

Noes: None

Recused: None

Absent: None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Fried advised that access to Buchanan at Ocean View Elementary and design of Ohlone Trail Safety Improvements are scheduled for the next meeting.

8. **NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, January 28, 2021, 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 10:17 p.m.