



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Present: Chomsky, Javandel (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), McCroskey, Peng
Absent: None
Staff Present: Justin Fried, Transportation and Sustainability Manager
Michelle Plouse, Community Development Analyst
James Cirelli, Associate Engineer
Mark Hurley, Public Works Director

The Albany Land Acknowledgement Statement was read as adopted by the City Council per City of Albany Minute Action, November 15, 2021.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremiah Pinguelo commented regarding free helmets provided by Veo scooters, traffic accidents, a streetlight at Solano and Ordway, and updating streetlights on Solano to LED lights.

Carrie Schulman hoped a plan to add a bicycle crossing at San Pablo and Washington Avenue would be a priority for the Transportation Commission (Commission). Solano Avenue is too narrow for motorists to pass bicyclists safely and comfortably.

3. PRESENTATION

3-1. Monthly Police Data on Collisions and Citations

Fried reported data for November and December 2022.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- The recent storms were not a factor in the collisions as the storms occurred in January 2023.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Bryan Marten and Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- An inquiry whether a resident could block his own driveway with his vehicle and whether the Albany Police Department (APD) initiates a citation or responds to a complaint.
- A request for staff to include weather conditions for traffic collisions; perhaps more stop signs or traffic lights are needed to prevent collisions.



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Fried advised that state law prohibits all motorists from parking their vehicles such that they block driveways, but he wanted to double check the law. He agreed to contact APD regarding enforcement and report to the Commission. UC Berkeley's Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) provides collision data, but there is a time lag to reporting the data.

The Commission made the following comments:

- The Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) can provide information about specific collisions.
- SWITRS data for collisions in Albany in December does not match the data in the report.
- The Commission reviews collision data in detail when considering transportation projects.
- SWITRS data is useful for looking at traffic collision patterns.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2022.

Recommendation: That the Transportation Commission approve the meeting minutes for the special meeting of December 1, 2022.

Javandel/Peng: Moved to approve the consent calendar.

Ayes: Javandel, Peng, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: Chomsky

Absent: None

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

5-1. Draft Local Roadway Safety Plan – Consultants for the City will present the draft City of Albany Local Roadway Safety Plan.

Recommendation: Recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the City of Albany Local Roadway Safety Plan and authorizing staff to implement the plan.

Ruta Jariwala, Principal at TJKM Transportation Consultants, presented a draft Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP).



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The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Staff did not ask the consultant to review the preliminary data for 2021. The LRSP is a living document and should be reviewed periodically with an updated analysis.
- No. 3 for Project 8 should not include an RRFB at Pierce and Buchanan.
- Code R03 in the presentation is probably a typographical error. The LRSP has an appendix that lists the codes and their definitions. The codes have established definitions that do not change according to their context.
- All presentations regarding the LRSP will be included in an appendix to the report prepared for the City Council.
- The consultant will review nighttime collisions on page 4 of the presentation and provide a clarification.
- The colors used on the maps were chosen because they are easily visible.
- The public can provide input regarding project priority when the Commission discusses its Work Plan and when the Council discusses its Strategic Plan. Staff will consider implementing the projects as part of projects already in the planning process.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo and Carrie Schulman:

- A request for the budget for each project and the funding sources; streetlights on Solano should be consistent in height and brightness.
- An inquiry as to the priority of each project in the LRSP; complaints are not a good basis for establishing the priority of intersection projects.

Fried reported the LRSP includes costs and benefit/cost analyses for obtaining grant funding for projects. The information will be included in discussions of capital improvement planning, Commission work plans, and the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) update. The projects are not numbered in order of prioritization.

The Commission made the following comments:

- The draft LRSP needs extensive proofreading for typographical and formatting errors.
- Figure 24 in the LRSP and the text for Figure 24 do not match.
- The numbers shown in Table 1 appear to be taken from the 2000 Census rather than the American Community Survey (ACS). The number of individual commuters is 36% rather than 58%.
- On page 70, the terms non-signalized and non-intersection appear to be conflated.
- Acronyms need to be explained in an appendix perhaps.
- Albany has 1.8 square miles of land; whereas, the LRSP refers to Albany's total area of 5.4 square miles, much of which is water.
- The LRSP should include the Climate Action Plan as a supporting document.



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- In Table 5, Corridors E and F do not have the same magnitude of injuries as the other corridors and may not need to be prioritized. The small sample size affects the statistical significance of 0 and 1 collisions. More data may provide better information about the statistical prominence of corridors.
- The Commission should keep in mind the public's perception of certain areas as dangerous.
- The Commission and staff will review and prioritize the intersections that have the highest number of injury collisions so that projects will provide the most benefit.

Ms. Jariwala explained that a corridor with a fatal or serious injury collision is automatically ranked higher than a corridor with no fatal or serious injury collisions, even though the corridor may have many more total injury collisions.

McCroskey/Javandel: Moved to recommend that 1) the City Council adopt a resolution a) approving the City of Albany Local Roadway Safety Plan provided that it is proofread and edited to staff's satisfaction and b) authorizing staff to implement the plan; and 2) future prioritization of projects take into account the limitations of the methodology of the report.

Ayes: Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey, Peng

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5-2. Sidewalk Repair Program – Staff will provide an update on the Sidewalk Repair Program and present the plans for Phase 7 of the sidewalk repairs funded by the Measure P1 parcel tax. Staff will discuss design for a curb and gutter passthrough bulbout at two locations, which would utilize the parking lane to repair the curb, gutter, and street while maintaining drainage and the adjacent street tree.

Recommendation: Recommend that:

1. Staff install the pilot curb & gutter passthrough bulbout and red curb no parking designations at 405 Kains Avenue and 805 San Carlos Avenue.
2. Staff present curb ramp designs and red curb designations for 1501 Washington Avenue and 602 Santa Fe Avenue to the Commission prior to construction.
3. City Council authorize the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Phase 7 project for construction of additional sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations as presented by staff.

Cirelli presented the staff report.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- The Santa Fe/Key Route area will be included in a future design project to determine the locations of curb ramps. This will allow sidewalk repairs to proceed.



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- NoBPOT means no best path of travel. NoPAR means no pedestrian access route.
- A curb and gutter passthrough bulbout will not extend into the roadway beyond the parking lane and will be painted red. Adding some type of reflective material may resolve issues of visibility.
- At 405 Kains, the sidewalk will curve around the tree. The tree is damaging the sidewalk and the street. The sidewalk will be repaired in the usual fashion. The experimental portion of the pilot project is the passthrough bulbout.
- The homeowner maintains the planting strip.
- A rain garden features a small pond to retain stormwater, which has to be dug below street grade and would be harmful to the tree. The City would be responsible for maintaining a rain garden.
- Staff developed the concept of a passthrough bulbout by blending rain garden and tree well features.
- Tree growth is unpredictable; the arborist may be able to say more but the life of the curb and gutter passthrough bulbout is unknown.
- Notice of the hearing and potential red curbing was provided to residents located within 150 feet of a project.
- The project at 405 Kains will improve the disabled parking space.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Bryan Marten, Jeremiah Pinguelo, and Stanley Mack:

- People do use the sidewalk along the 500 block of Adams Street; shaving the sidewalk in 2022 was helpful; a question of whether red curbing will be noticed to residents along the block.
- The sidewalk at 405 Kains will need ongoing maintenance because the tree will continue to grow; perhaps the arborist should inspect it to determine if it should be removed.
- As the tree at 405 Kains grows, it could block the passthrough gutter and create new ponding issues; the City should consider removing the tree.

The Commission made the following comments:

- The Commission needs to consider ways to make the pilot program applicable to areas where active transportation users are likely to travel in the parking lane.
- A preference to stripe a parking space for compact cars at 805 San Carlos.
- A suggestion not to paint the curb at 805 San Carlos and allow motorists to use the space as they choose.
- The adjacent resident may have concerns about a vehicle in an unstriped space blocking the driveway; staff should solicit the resident's input at the appropriate time.
- The pilot project is a creative way to reclaim the street as open space.
- Thanks to staff for developing the concept.
- The Commission has previously left a curb of similar length unpainted.



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- All sidewalk repairs are subject to the possibility of future tree damage because trees grow.
- A preference to preserve street trees.

Javandel/Chomsky: Moved to recommend that 1) staff install the pilot curb and gutter passthrough bulbout and red curb no parking designations at 405 Kains Avenue and 805 San Carlos Avenue; 2) staff present curb ramp designs and red curb designations for 1501 Washington Avenue and 602 Santa Fe Avenue to the Commission prior to construction; 3) staff consult with the neighbor at 805 San Carlos regarding a red or unpainted curb; and 4) City Council authorize the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Phase 7 project for construction of additional sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations as presented by staff.

Ayes: Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey, Peng

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5-3. Citywide Streetlighting Evaluation Update – Staff will provide an update on the Citywide Streetlighting Evaluation project.

Recommendation: Provide comments to staff.

Hurley reported staff has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant, and the submission deadline is early February 2023. Lighting is an issue for the community, and staff is happy to move the evaluation forward.

Cirelli presented the staff report.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Staff would like a Commissioner to serve on the committee to review proposals.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Pinguelo:

- Suggestions to install solar panels and/or battery storage to light poles and to work with the Climate Action Committee.

The Commission made the following comments:

- Berkeley's pilot project for streetlights with solar panels is working well.
- Appreciation for the project.
- Interest in specific lighting versus general lighting and lighting the Buchanan pathway.

Chair McCroskey volunteered to serve on the review committee.



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Javandel/Peng: Moved to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m.

Ayes: Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey, Peng

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5-4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Recommendation: That the Commission nominate and select a Commission member to serve as Chair and, following the selection of Chair, nominate and select a Commission member to serve as Vice Chair for the 2023 calendar year.

Chair McCroskey suggested continuing the item to the next meeting so that the fifth Commissioner could be present, if one is appointed.

By acclamation, the Commission continued the item.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6-1. Kains & Adams Bikeway Pilot Project

Fried reported construction should be complete the following week.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- Signage has been installed, and motorists can travel in both directions within the block.
- Motorists can enter at the north end of Kains and at the south end of Adams and can travel in either direction within the block.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Bryan Marten and Carrie Schulman:

- The word stop and a line are missing from the northwest corner of Washington and Adams; motorists in both directions need a signal to proceed through the intersection; the ticketing of contraflow parking needs to be addressed.
- Biking on Kains is scary; a suggestion to make Kains a local only street or replace a lane of parking with a northbound bicycle lane.

Chair McCroskey advised that the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) has opened a survey regarding San Pablo Avenue and requested staff include a link to the survey in the City's e-newsletter.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS



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None.

8. **NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:53 p.m.