



# TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

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

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Present: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey  
Absent: Peng  
Staff Present: Justin Fried, Transportation and Sustainability Manager  
Michelle Plouse, Community Development Analyst

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 Garrett Pinguelo appreciated the Commissioners' service to the community.

### 3. PRESENTATION

#### 3-1. Commission Member Introductions

Commissioners introduced themselves.

#### 3-2. Monthly Police Data on Collisions and Citations

Fried reported data for January 2023.

#### The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- In the graph depicting vehicle collisions per month, the top line represents total vehicle collisions, and the bottom line represents injury collisions.

#### The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Jeremiah Garrett Pinguelo:

- A request for the report to include the proximity of collisions to schools.

#### 3-3. Shared Mobility Data

Fried reported GIG ridership for the fourth quarter of 2022.

Plouse shared Veo scooter data from October 10, 2022 to February 6, 2023.

#### The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- The data reflects GIG members in Albany and trips that either start or end in Albany.



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- The distance traveled during a trip varies based on several factors.
- Staff has received one complaint regarding the scooters.
- Albany Police Department (APD) has not reported collisions with scooters, but staff can request that data specifically.

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

- A request for a presentation from Veo or GIG. Veo is providing free helmets. Perhaps, the City could encourage GIG to use electric vehicles. Riders are not allowed to park scooters around City Hall and a few other areas in Albany.

**The Commission made the following comments:**

- The effect of the COVID pandemic is obvious in the graph.
- The City of Berkeley's health department may be able to provide collision data.
- Interest in learning whether scooters are used to reach key destinations such as public transit and schools.
- Scooter rides cannot end at City Hall, UC Village, and some other locations. The University of California has not authorized the use of Veo scooters on any of its properties.

Fried advised that GIG provides hybrid vehicles and has expressed interest in providing electric cars when more charging stations are available.

### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

#### 4-1. Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2023.

Barnes/Javandel: Moved to approve the consent calendar.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Peng

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

**5-1. 15 Mile Per Hour Reduced Speed Zones Near Schools** – Staff will present the steps, estimated costs, and considerations associated with installing reduced speed zones for eligible roadways near schools in Albany.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission consider a recommendation to City Council to direct staff to conduct Engineering and Traffic Surveys on eligible streets within 500 feet of Albany schools and prepare a resolution establishing 15 mile-per-hour reduced speed zones for City Council consideration.



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Fried presented the staff report.

### **The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- When it takes effect, AB 43 will allow consideration of a speed limit reduction on Buchanan and Marin.
- Engineering and Traffic Surveys are needed for the 19 roadway segments so that the Council can consider a speed limit reduction.
- Staff estimates the cost for the surveys in the range of \$20,000-\$30,000.
- The Transportation Commission (Commission) could review the surveys and a resolution prior to staff presenting them to Council.
- Engineering and Traffic Surveys do not provide recommendations regarding roadway design.
- Staff has not discussed this project with APD but would do so before any implementation.
- The purpose of a survey is to determine whether a reduction in the speed limit is justified. Under AB 43, the Council could reduce the speed limit even though a survey indicates a reduction is not justified.
- Under existing laws, reducing the speed limit to 15 miles per hour near schools is allowed only when children are present.
- California does not post signage with specific hours; rather, signage stating “when children are present” is utilized.

**The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by** Jeremiah Garrett Pinguelo and Ms. Focht:

- Support for reducing speed limits near schools to make children safer.
- An inquiry regarding the inclusion of streets near preschools in this project.

Fried related that he would research the possibility of including preschools.

### **The Commission made the following comments:**

- Previously the Commission was most interested in reducing the speed limit on Buchanan and Marin, but that cannot be considered until 2024.
- Berkeley found that a reduction in the speed limit around schools did not affect driver behavior.
- Interest in staff speaking with Albany Unified School District (AUSD).
- Without coordinating the design speed for the roadway design and some enforcement, driver behavior is not likely to change. Simply changing the signage is not an effective way to increase safety.
- Reducing speeds in school zones is highly desirable. Getting drivers to reduce their speeds is the conundrum.
- Unwillingness to make a recommendation until APD shares their thoughts.



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- Language of “when children are present” is ambiguous and probably will not affect most drivers’ speeds.
- In Albany, traffic seems to move slowly during drop-off and pickup times at schools, but there are problem behaviors such as pulling into the opposing lane and double parking.
- This project does not target the problem in a way that’s likely to improve it.
- The roadway segments are scattered piecemeal around the City, and that would make any action less effective.
- Residents in school zones may be further annoyed with navigating changes in speed limits.
- The real problem is parents dropping off children in traffic, and the children darting between cars.
- Perhaps cell phones could provide a distinctive notification when the driver is approaching or in a school zone.
- Large and visible community support could influence the Commission to support the project.
- The speed humps on Santa Fe are probably spaced too far apart to significantly reduce vehicle speed.
- A preference to delay the project in order to review the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices when it is revised for AB 43 in 2024.
- On Masonic near Albany Preschool, cars slow down substantially to go over the raised crosswalk. Traffic calming measures may be more effective than signage.

Javandel/Chomsky: Moved to recommend staff consult with the Albany Police Department and if they think it is viable to enforce on an ongoing basis then bring the item back to the Transportation Commission for consideration.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Peng

**5-2. Expenditure of Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax** – Revenue generated from the sugar-sweetened beverage tax approved by voters in November 2016 is used to fund health-related programs, events, and activities in the City. The ordinance requires the Transportation Commission along with three other advisory bodies to provide recommendations for how to spend the revenue generated by the tax.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission discuss ideas for how to spend revenue from the sugar-sweetened beverage tax proceeds for Fiscal Year 2024 and provide a recommendation to City Council for consideration at their special study session.

Fried presented the staff report.



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### **The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission, the Social & Economic Justice Commission, the Commission, and a representative of AUSD may make recommendations to the City Council.
- The Commission's recommendations in 2022 were funded.
- In 2022, the expenditure plan exceeded the estimated annual tax amount. The difference was likely covered with tax monies not expended in prior years.

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

- Support for recommending the Crossing Guard Program and adding an additional guard.

### **The Commission made the following comments:**

- Support for recommending \$5,000 toward the BikeLink lockers at Albany Waterfront.
- Training kids in bicycle safety increases safety.
- A suggestion to prioritize the Crossing Guard Program, Bike Safety Program, and an Access Hub for BikeLink lockers at Albany Waterfront over the Healthy Me Music & Movement Program, All-bany Swims, and Move 'n' Groove.
- The BikeLink lockers are more a convenience item while the Crossing Guard and Bike Safety Programs are more directly related to safety.
- Support for recommending two tiers of programs.
- The pool is a school facility, teaching kids to swim is more the responsibility of AUSD.

*McCroskey/Javandel:* Moved to recommend to City Council the Crossing Guard Program, Bike Safety Program, and an Access Hub for BikeLink lockers at Albany Waterfront as priority items and Healthy Me Music & Movement Program, All-bany Swims, and Move 'n' Groove as secondary items and to recommend funding in amounts approximate to those stated for each item in the staff report.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Peng

### **5-3. Appreciation for Past Commissioners**

Fried presented drafted resolutions for Robert del Rosario and Sadie Graham.

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

- Appreciation for Mr. del Rosario's and Ms. Graham's service.



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### The Commission made the following comments:

- The resolutions reflect the character of each Commissioner's service.

Javandel/Chomsky: Moved to adopt the resolutions of appreciation for former Commissioners as presented.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Peng

### 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 reported Commissioner Cheng would be willing to serve as Vice Chair.

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

- Thanks for obtaining and sharing Commissioner Peng's input.

Javandel/Barnes: Moved to nominate Commissioner Chomsky as Chair of the Transportation Commission for the 2023 calendar year.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Peng

Barnes/Javandel: Moved to nominate Commissioner Peng as Vice Chair of the Transportation Commission for the 2023 calendar year.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, Javandel, McCroskey

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Peng

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fried announced training for Advisory Body members and staff liaisons is scheduled for March 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners are encouraged to attend as there have been changes in laws pertaining to public meetings.

Commissioner McCroskey noted that the comment period for the Alameda County Transportation Commission's (ACTC) plans for San Pablo Avenue is still open.



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Commissioner Javandel reported the City of Berkeley is accepting comments regarding Ohlone Greenway improvement projects between the Albany border and North Berkeley BART station at [fehrandpeers.mysocialpinpoint.com/ohlonegreenway](https://fehrandpeers.mysocialpinpoint.com/ohlonegreenway). Chair Chomsky added that the comment period closes March 1, 2023.

### 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Javandel noted a request for future agenda item regarding reduced speed limits in school zones if APD provides a favorable position.

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

- A suggestion to include thoughts from AUSD and the Board of Education regarding reduced speed limits. Every lightbulb above an intersection along the Ohlone Greenway should be working.

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

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.