



## TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers  
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA  
Thursday, September 28, 2023

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### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

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

Present: Barnes, Chomsky, McCroskey, Peng, Vigil-McClanahan, Von Nydeggen  
Absent: Javandel  
Staff Present: Justin Fried, Transportation and Sustainability Manager  
Jeff Bond, Community Development Director  
James Cirelli, Associate Engineer  
Mark Hurley, Public Works Director

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

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynn Lyndell inquired regarding efforts to calm traffic along Santa Fe Avenue.

Fried acknowledged that an updated schedule is owed to those requesting information about traffic calming.

#### 3. PRESENTATION

##### 3-1. Monthly Police Data on Collisions and Citations

Fried reported data for June, July, and August 2023.

##### 3-2. Shared Mobility Data

Fried reported GIG data for April-June 2023 and Veo data for April-August 2023.

**3-3. Street Lighting Evaluation Presentation** – The City is working on a project to evaluate streetlighting conditions throughout Albany to inform any future systematic improvements.

Hurley introduced the anticipated outcomes of the street lighting evaluation.

Cirelli highlighted completed and current work on the project.

Dane Sanders, Clanton & Associates President, presented a detailed update.



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

- An evaluation of lighting for a block includes consideration of the uses in the block.
- This study will not get into the aesthetics of particular light fixtures.
- The City maintains and pays for the lighting beneath the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) tracks.
- Motion sensors for outdoor lighting are still evolving and currently are not reliant for street and path lighting purposes. The study will help determine the quality of light needed for an area, and additional features will be discussed when staff presents a project.
- Albany does not have a dark skies ordinance.
- The County of Alameda maintains street lighting in Albany and many other cities.
- A timeline for replacing street lighting has not been determined.
- For Site 10, Buchanan Street, the lighting along the street and sidewalk was a little low but not too dark. Vegetation along the path may block light and cause shadows.
- Most of the City's streetlighting is LED; Upper Solano and Masonic have some high-pressure sodium lighting.
- LED lights have evolved over the past decade and are more efficient than those currently installed in Albany.
- The study pertains to lighting of the public right-of-way rather than private property.

### **The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Richard Weiss:**

- A suggestion to consider the aesthetics of the light fixtures.

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

- When a light along the Ohlone Greenway goes out, a considerable distance is dark because the lights are spaced far apart.
- As an interim measure, perhaps the City could provide motion-sensing light fixtures to residents for installation on their porches. The residents rather than the City could implement this.
- The three points noted on the map of collision data are good information.
- Interest in lighting intersections better.
- Some individuals at the workshop supported less overall light.
- In the near term, the City is constrained to replacing fixtures in their current locations. Installing new poles for light fixtures would have a much higher cost.

## **4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **4-1. Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of Jun 22, 2023**

**Recommendation:** That the Transportation Commission approve the meeting minutes for the special meeting of June 22, 2023.



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### 4-2. Sidewalk Repair Program – Phase 8

**Recommendation:** That the Transportation Commission recommend that the City Council authorize the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Phase 8 project for construction of additional sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations.

**The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by** Richard Weiss:

- A request for evaluation and replacement of street trees at 1034 Nielson Avenue because they are damaging the sidewalk.

Cirelli reported staff is evaluating the trees at the location.

McCroskey/Peng: Moved to approve the consent calendar.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, McCroskey, Peng, Vigil-McClanahan, Von Nydeggen

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Javandel

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

**5-1. Conceptual Design for Jackson Street Bikeway Between Buchanan Street and Monroe Street** – Consultants for the City will present conceptual designs for a two-way off-street bikeway on the east side of Jackson Street between Buchanan Street and Monroe Street in University Village

**Recommendation:** That the Commission recommend that the City Council approve the conceptual design for the Jackson Street Bikeway between Buchanan Street and Monroe Street and direct City staff to work with UC Berkeley on final design and implementation of the project.

Fried presented the staff memorandum.

Andrew Lee, Parametrix Senior Consultant, presented the conceptual design.

**The Commission requested the following clarifications:**

- Staff has discussed with UC Berkeley a path connecting the loop behind Sprout's to Jackson Street, and they are open to it. However, a path may not be feasible due to environmental considerations.
- Staff hopes that the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) will fund much of the project and that the developer of the student housing project will utilize the City's design in its off-site work. UC Berkeley will probably not contribute



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significant funding but has tentatively allowed the City to increase the right-of-way for the work.

- Before construction of the student housing, a parking lane extended from Monroe Street to Riley Drive. Construction plans for the student housing retain seven spaces in the parking lane. The proposed conceptual plan would eliminate the seven spaces.
- At the intersection with Monroe, the directional ramps with retaining curbs on each side will not be suitable for bicyclist travel such that bicyclists should not travel between Monroe and Riley. There could be a different treatment to indicate bicyclists should not use this section.
- If bicyclists could bypass the corner at Monroe, northbound bicyclists could enter the widened section of the bikeway just north of the intersection. However, a transition north of the intersection introduces other challenges, such as a potential conflict between bicyclists and turning vehicles.
- At the UC Berkeley's request, staff has reached out to residents.
- One bus stop will be eliminated with construction of the student housing. Another nearby stop will remain.
- A four-way stop at Riley may be possible, but unlikely to meet warrant requirements. More studies would be needed to determine if it is warranted.

**The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Ian MacLeod, Carrie Schulman:**

- Encouragement for the City to extend the bikeway from Buchanan to 8<sup>th</sup> Street; shifting from the two-way bikeway to sharrows would be problematic.
- Concern about bicyclists crossing Jackson street at Riley; perhaps the trees at the corner of Monroe could be relocated.

**The Commission made the following comments:**

- A suggestion to add a bicycle amenity, such as a tool stand or bike pump, to the bikeway.
- Support for paving the bikeway as far as possible toward Monroe, installing stop signs or shifting the path of travel at Riley, connecting to the creek path, moving the transition near Ohlone Avenue a bit south to create a buffer zone, curving the edges of the transition from the bikeway to the Buchanan path.
- A suggestion to relocate the traffic signal controller at the intersection with Buchanan to allow a gentler curve for bicyclists.
- Concern regarding investing time and resources into an interim design for the bikeway.
- A temporary bollard and signage directing bicyclists to the preferred street alternative could be installed.
- Electric bikes and scooters using the bikeway could be an issue; signage could be helpful.



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- Opinions on the optional slip lane allowing northbound on-street cyclists to enter path north of Monroe were expressed without reaching a consensus.

### McCroskey/Vigil-McClanahan: Moved to

1. Recommend that the City Council approve the conceptual design for the Jackson Street Bikeway between Buchanan Street and Monroe Street with
  - a) the alternative route at Riley Drive,
  - b) strong consideration given to a connection to the path located behind Sprout's and along Village Creek,
  - c) construction of the bikeway as close as possible to Monroe Street, and
  - d) installation of signage reminding users of appropriate speeds and behavior;and
2. Direct City staff to work with UC Berkeley on final design and implementation of the project.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, McCroskey, Peng, Vigil-McClanahan, Von Nydeggen  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Javandel

### McCroskey/Peng: Moved to extend the meeting to 10:00 PM.

Ayes: Barnes, Chomsky, McCroskey, Peng, Vigil-McClanahan, Von Nydeggen  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Javandel

- 5-2. Review of 2021 and 2022 Vehicle Injury Collision Data** – Staff will present an analysis of 2021 and 2022 vehicle injury collision data.

***Recommendation:*** For discussion only

This item was continued to a later meeting.

- 5-3. Update from Commissioner McCroskey on Climate Action Committee's Zero Emission Transportation Subcommittee**

***Recommendation:*** For discussion only

Commissioner McCroskey reported the subcommittee reached consensus that the next step is to increase electric vehicle (EV) charging within the City of Albany. Subcommittee members will explore curbside public EV charging in front of commercial properties, commercial parking charging, and EV charging on City-owned properties. The subcommittee will meet quarterly.



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

- Support for the subcommittee's direction.

**5-4. Update on Street Tree Management Plan** – Staff will provide an update on preparation for a Street Tree Management Plan.

***Recommendation:*** For discussion only

This item was continued to a later meeting.

### **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fried reported AC Transit has established guiding principles for realignment plans. Staff anticipates the release of draft bus service plan scenarios in a few months and is attempting to schedule presentations for the Transportation Commission and the City Council. The City Council recommended approval of the San Pablo Avenue Corridor Program on July 17, 2023. AC Transit's San Pablo Avenue Transit Signal Priority Project made signal changes along San Pablo and Buchanan to enable signal priority for buses. AC Transit has been addressing issues caused by the changes. Signal upgrades at Masonic intersections are mostly complete, and staff is monitoring and evaluating the new configuration.

Commissioner McCroskey announced International Walk and Roll to School Day is October 4, 2023.

### **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Peng requested a discussion of Assembly Bill (AB) 825 if it becomes law.

Fried advised that future agenda items include the Kains Avenue/Adams Street Bicycle Boulevard Pilot Project, the Street Lighting Evaluation, a presentation from AC Transit regarding transit-supportive design guidelines, and traffic calming.

**8. NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, October 26, 2023, 7:00 PM

### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55 PM.