



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**EDITH STONE ROOM—RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
1249 MARIN AVENUE
November 20, 2008**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

2. Roll Call

Members present: Ray Anderson, Lubov Mazur, Nancy Peterson. Madson was in Washington D.C. and Atkinson had surgery last week.

Staff Present: Chaney, Lt. Geissberger, Chavez

3. Consent

There were a couple of typos to correct on the minutes. Minutes were approved with the corrections on paragraph three and four.

4. Public Comment

David Salvatore resident of Washington reported that he had some concerns about the intersection of Marin Ave. and Santa Fe Ave. his son was almost hit by a car at Santa Fe within the last 30 days. His son was walking on the crosswalk and a car turning right did not see the child walking and almost hit him. He said that he is a native of Ohio and in that state every school has flashing beacons warning drivers of the temporary speed limit of 20 mph during school bell times. He wanted to know if there were some things planned for the intersection of Marin and Santa Fe.

Chaney explained all the efforts made during the last five or six years to improve this intersection: The reconfiguration of Marin Ave.; the bulb outs; the curb drop-off areas; the crossing guards; and the walking bus.

Salvatore suggested implementing a pedestrian-only cycle at the signal. Chaney said that technical analysis is needed to accomplish this.

Salvatore said that perhaps more enforcement would help. Lt. Geissberger said that there is only one officer for all the schools.

The Commission members suggested putting this issue on the agenda for a future meeting.

Terry Georgeson, Principal at Ocean View Elementary said she is concerned about the intersection of Buchanan and Jackson. The cross guard was hit by a car within the last two years and she had been on disability in the last two weeks. The school does not have a crossing guard for that intersection. She was wondering if the City could provide a crossing guard.

The Commission asked that staff agendize this issue for a future meeting. They suggested including Cornell Elementary as well.

Michael Mejia, resident of El Cerrito and founder of the Albany Mountain Bike Program said that with the passage of the Regional Parks Bond Measure, there was going to be

funding opportunities for the City of Albany.

Laura Casdia, Principal at Marin Elementary said that traffic around Marin School is dangerous. A vehicle hit a child and made him topple off his bike at the corner of Marin and Santa Fe. She said that vehicles sail by trying to make the light at the intersection and that they continue to roll ignoring the “No Right Turn on Red” (NRTOR) sign that was recently implemented.

Ken McKroascky suggested the implementation of signs alerting people about the NRTOR signs ahead.

Mazur asked about the possibility of installing police call boxes on bike paths such as Ohlone Greenway.

Amy Smolens, resident of Kains said that the Bicycle Master Plan calls for call boxes and illumination on Class I paths.

The Commission asked staff to agendaize these issues for next month’s meeting.

5. Discussion and Possible action on matters related to the following items:

5-1 Ferry Terminal Study

Chaney said that the City is seeking comments from the Commission to send to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). She said that other City Commissions/Committees were recommending Alternative B as it has the least significant environmental impact.

Mazur referred to the different alternatives and asked if AC Transit is going to be providing service to the ferry. She was concerned about access to the freeway.

Peterson asked about the differences of the alternatives. She wondered if the consultants talked to business owners who will be most likely impacted by any of these proposals.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Nick Pilch said that the Albany (Buchanan) Alternative is the one that offers the closest proximity to the largest number of residences than any of the other alternatives. For instance, the Albany alternative is close to the condominiums on Pierce St. and to UC Village. These residents could walk or bike to the ferry station if it were built in Albany. This would encourage multi-modal access to the station.

Anderson asked if people were allowed to bring bikes on BART.

Pilch said that it is not allowed during peak hours. However, you can bring your bike after 9:00 am and before 4:00 pm. He said that Caltrain is a good example of how to accommodate bikes on trains as they assigned one car just for bikes.

Smolens asked if the consultants had considered having bicycles on the ferry

Ken McKroascky resident of Santa Fe Avenue asked if the consultants have adequately

evaluated fuel usage from expected users.

Michael Mejia said that he does not support the Gilman option.

Anderson said that he supports the ferry and said that four years ago, he supported the University Avenue location. He said that he would have supported the Albany location.

Mazur said that she did not want to recommend an alternative because the City Council already made a decision. So she recommended supporting the ferry location in the Berkeley/Albany area.

Anderson moved that the Traffic and Safety Commission support the ferry location in the Berkeley-Albany area. Peterson seconded. Motion passed.

5-2 Ex-officio member proposal on the Traffic and Safety Commission

Mazur said that she preferred a decision on this item be made at the next meeting when the full Commission is present. She said that a discussion could take place at the meeting.

Anderson referred to the fact that all members of the Commission should be voting members.

Chaney said this proposal would be consistent with the other City Committees and advisory bodies.

Pilch said that he feels disappointed at the City Administrator memorandum because it did not address the City policy. He said that her suggestion does not guarantee the City Council would appoint someone who has the bicycle and pedestrian background.

Smolens said that it is important to have a bicycle expert who could speak for bicycles and pedestrian issues.

McKroasky said that the openness of the Traffic and Safety Commission had been great. Having an ex-officio member would ensure that this relationship between the Commission and the Bicycle and Pedestrian community is strengthened.

Chaney said that ex-officio means “non-voting” and this category of membership to a commission is granted to staff.

Mejia said that staff is always invaluable, however, we need a person who understands bicycle issues.

Chaney said that the City is spending more dollars on bicycle planning than on traffic calming.

Mejia said that Bicycle use is increasing, it is a changing aspect and it would be increasing in the future.

Mazur said that the Commission had three scenarios:

1. Beth Pollards’ idea
2. Community member/New Bicycle Advisory Committee

3. Ex-Officio member

The Commission tabled discussion of this issue for the next month's meeting.

5-3 Concern regarding AC Transit bus operators obstructing traffic flow on Buchanan Street, San Pablo Avenue, and Solano Avenue.

The Commission authorized staff to send a letter to AC Transit requesting attention to this matter.

6. Reports

6-1 Police Reports

Lt. Geissberger said that during the month of October there had been 21 Collisions: 15 non-injury, and 6 injury. Seven were hit and runs, 4 occurred on Marin Avenue. He reported that there were no bicycle collisions during this month and that the Police Department had issued 186 citations.

Regarding the collision on Buchanan Street that occurred last month, a van pulling out from USDA hit a motorcycle traveling on Buchanan St. There was complaint of pain, but nothing more. He reported that the morning of the meeting, there was a significant collision on San Pablo Avenue. A vehicle rear-ended a big rig. Three people on board were sent to the hospital, including an 11 year-old child.

6-2 Marin Elementary Walking School Buses

Chavez reported that Marin Elementary started its Walking School Bus Program on November 19 with four routes. Two of these routes were well attended. The Santa Fe route had 6-8 children. This event will take place every Wednesday.

Mazur asked how was crossing the streets with the kids. Ken McKroascky, one of the parent "drivers" said it was fine.

The Commission suggested drafting a letter to the Principal or Superintendent letting them know of what is happening at Marin Elementary.

7. Announcements/Communications

7-1 Chaney asked the Commissioners to attend the upcoming City Council meeting on December 1, since the Traffic and Safety Commission had three items for consideration.

7-2 Amy said that the first meeting to plan Bike to Work Day 2009 was coming up soon.

7-3 Mejia said that there were no bike racks at the Cougars Stadium.

8. Future Agenda Items

8-1 Trucks parked on Buchanan Street.

9 Adjournment-meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. Next meeting is December 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm.