

Transportation Commission Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2012

Commissioner Tom Bertken called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Roll was called and the following was recorded:

Members Present:

Michele Bellows

Thomas G. Bertken

Christopher Miley (arrived for New Business item)

Jesus Vargas

Sandy Wong

Members Absent:

Kathy Moehring

Rajiv Sharma

Staff Present:

Barbara Hawkins, City Engineer

Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator

2. Minutes

Commissioner Vargas called for approval of the April 25, 2012 and May 3, 2012 meeting minutes. *Commissioner Bellows* seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Oral Communications – Non-Agendized Items / Public Comments

Jim Strehlow, Alameda resident and local employee, stated that the Fernside Homeowners Association in the May 3 minutes should not state “Drive.” He also stated that the meeting minutes did not reflect that he noticed a decline in vehicle trips per day on Gibbons Drive since he was a child. He did not like that the Public Works Department spent Measure B monies on the Gibbons Drive project without anyone knowing about it. He requested that the Transportation Commission recommend to the City Council a policy requiring that Public Works Department projects appear as a non-consent agenda item to ensure public awareness. He also mentioned that there is confusion about which meetings are special Transportation Commission meetings and which ones are regular meetings.

Jon Spangler, Alameda resident, stated that participation in Bike to Work Day increased by 29

percent from the previous year's estimate totaling over 1,000 bicyclists at the bike stations in the City of Alameda. He stated that Measure B reauthorization that is on the ballot is already outdated, and needs more maintenance monies and more for bicycle projects. May 27 is the BART deadline to review the draft Bicycle Access Plan Update.

4. New Business

4A. Draft Capital Improvement Program: Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Staff Hawkins presented an overview of the draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for this upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Vargas asked how frequently the draft CIP is updated, how environmental justice fits in to it and if staff considers projects that minimize maintenance costs.

Staff Hawkins stated that the CIP is updated one time per year. Staff works with AC Transit to ensure environmental justice is considered when restructuring bus lines. The City is installing audible pedestrian signals to ensure individuals with disabilities have equal access to facilities. The City constructs projects in ways that are easy to maintain.

Commissioner Bellows asked how the projects are ranked and if some are rolled over to the next year.

Staff Hawkins replied that the projects are ranked using the criteria provided in the staff report and ranking sheets. If the project is not recommended for funding this upcoming fiscal year then staff places it on an unfunded project list. Staff will send the ranking sheets and the unfunded project list to the Transportation Commission members.

Carol Gottstein, Alameda resident, asked what the grand total cost is for the draft CIP, and asked for clarification about the Measure C reference.

Staff Hawkins replied that the grand total cost is \$17.8 million for capital projects and \$4 million for annual projects, which totals \$22 million. The Measure C projects only will apply if Measure C is passed by the voters.

Dave Campbell, representing the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, stated that Measure B is founded on the principal of "Complete Streets" meaning that streets should be designed for all transportation modes. The projects in the Measure B reauthorization need to be ready to go, and then will more likely be funded.

Jon Spangler stated that the Estuary Crossing Shuttle marketing is an important item in the draft CIP. Improved signage with schedules at the shuttle stops is needed. He also mentioned the importance of the Neptune Park Path project, which will link Webster Street/Willie Stargell Avenue with the Marina Village area.

Commissioner Miley asked about the unfunded list.

Staff Hawkins replied that it lists the unfunded projects and references potential funding sources.

Commissioner Bellows asked about undergrounding utilities.

Staff Hawkins explained the procedure that the Alameda Municipal Power department goes through to underground utilities. The costs are shared by the adjacent neighborhood.

Commissioner Vargas requested that staff reports include page numbers.

Staff Hawkins acknowledged the request.

Commissioner Bertken made a motion for the Commission to accept staff's recommendation. *Commissioner Miley* seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

4B. I-880/Broadway/Jackson Multimodal Transportation and Circulation Improvements for Alameda Point, Oakland Chinatown, Downtown Oakland and Jack London Square

Postponed until the June 27 Transportation Commission meeting.

4C. Highway Safety Improvement Program Call for Projects: Clement Avenue or Blanding Avenue Bike Lane/Sidewalk Projects

Staff Payne provided an overview of the staff report.

Jon Spangler, Alameda resident, stated that he supports this project.

Lucy Gigli, representing BikeAlameda, stated that she supports the project. It is in the Bike Plan Update as part of the Cross Alameda Trail, which includes the former Beltline railroad between Main Street and Fruitvale Avenue in Oakland. She requested that staff consider a cycle track along Clement Avenue between Grand Street and Oak Street. She also would like staff to consider sharrow stencils on the Class III bike routes along with signs.

Commissioner Vargas recommended to remove as much railroad track as possible as Phase I of the project. The cycle track idea could be a Phase II or long-term project if it is not as cost effective.

Commissioner Miley asked about the Caltrans submittal process and when staff would recommend design features to Caltrans.

Staff Payne explained that staff would include a preliminary design with detailed cost estimates in the Caltrans grant submittal.

Commissioner Bellows asked if the City is likely to obtain the HSIP funds since Alameda was successful in obtaining them for the Shoreline/Westline bike lane project.

Staff Payne replied that she does not think that previous successful grants will be a Caltrans consideration in that the project ranking system is based on a quantitative cost/benefit formula.

Commissioner Bellows made a motion for the Commission to proceed with the grant application. *Commissioner Vargas* seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

5. Staff Communications

Park Street Streetscape Update

The City is expecting the Park Street Streetscape project to be completed by the end of May. This phase of the streetscape project is between San Jose Avenue and Alameda Avenue. The major accomplishments of this project include the installation of:

- Parking kiosks: 11 total
- Trees: 60 total; 3 types (Brisbane Box, October Glory Red Maple and Sterling Silver Linden)
- Street lights: 38 total
- Bike racks: 32 total with continuing refinements in process
- Bus shelters: 2 total
- Sidewalk repairs
- Curb ramp repairs

Estuary Crossing Shuttle Update

The Estuary Crossing Shuttle currently has on average close to 180 boardings per day, which includes about 20 boardings per day with bicycles. The City was successful at receiving Lifeline Program funding totaling \$187,957, which provides almost 50 percent funding to extend the service for two years beyond August 2013 to August 2015. The City will apply for Air District Transportation for Clean Air (TFCA) Regional Funds later this summer to help close the funding gap for this service extension.

Commissioner Wang asked for clarification on the extent of funding that is secured for the Estuary Crossing Shuttle.

Staff Payne explained that the shuttle service is fully funded through the Air District's TFCA regional funds and a City local match through the TSM/TDM Fund until August 14, 2013. The Lifeline Program will help extend the service beyond August 2013 to August 2015 by providing almost 50 percent funding for these additional two years of service.

On-going Traffic Calming Projects

The City has three on-going traffic calming projects:

- 1) Otis Drive between Mound Street and High Street: Community members are concerned about speeding and pedestrian circulation. Public Works Department staff

- has updated school signage along Otis Drive and removed a parking space at Otis Drive/Court Street. Staff is working with Caltrans to consider yield markings in the pavement similar to Otis Drive at Lum School.
- 2) Fernside Blvd between Tilden Way and High Street: Community members provided a petition to Public Works Department in June 2011. Staff held a community meeting on January 2012. The community members raised concerns about speeding, in particular by AC Transit buses, lack of crosswalks and sideswipe collisions. Public Works Department staff installed a crosswalk on Fernside Blvd. at Harvard Drive, worked with AC Transit staff to reduce bus speeds and installed a right edge line on Fernside Blvd. going westbound between High Street and Cornell Drive. Police enforcement and neighborhood watch programs also are being considered.
 - 3) Franklin School: Parents of Franklin School students have raised concerns in early 2012 about pedestrian-involved motor vehicle conflicts. Public Works Department staff improved the striping of the Grand Street and Encinal Avenue intersection making it a school crossing with the orange striping, an advanced stop sign and signs stating "Turning vehicles must yield to pedestrians." Franklin School parents are interested in pursuing a midblock crossing on San Antonio Avenue between Franklin School and Franklin Park. The Transportation Commission members will have the opportunity to review this item at a future meeting.

Shoreline Drive/ Westline Drive Bike Lane Proposed Project

Staff held a community meeting on Thursday, May 10 where almost 100 individuals attended. The next community workshop is going to be held on Thursday, June 28 to discuss ideas on how to move forward. The majority of the comments received stated that they were in favor of the project; however, a vocal opposition does exist.

Commissioner Bertken stated that he attended, felt it was valuable to go and urges other TC members to attend the next workshop. He stated that there is opposition to enhanced beach side parking and that left-turn lanes are important. He requested a design layout be included at the next workshop that would show a typical cross section or intersection concept.

Potential Future Meeting Agenda Items

Staff Payne listed the potential items for the next special meeting on June 27 as follows:

- Amend bylaws to create a consent calendar
- Quarterly report on transportation policies and plans
- Shoreline Drive/Westline Drive status update
- I-880/Broadway/Jackson multi-modal project
- Webster Street Intelligent Transportation System/Smart corridors project

At the July 25 meeting, AC Transit will come to discuss a potential reconsideration of the restriction for local trips on Line OX and the Speed Protection and Restoration Project. A discussion on the Transportation Expenditure Plan projects also is expected to occur.

6. Announcements / Public Comments

Jim Strehlow stated that the Estuary Crossing Shuttle is not working for him because he needs it during the midday and later in the evenings.

7. Adjournment

8:48 pm