

Transportation Commission Minutes (DRAFT)

Wednesday, February 22 2012

Commissioner Kathy Moehring called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Roll was called and the following was recorded:

Members Present:

Kathy Moehring
Thomas G. Bertken
Rajiv Sharma
Michele Bellows
Christopher Miley

Members Absent:

Jesus Vargas

Staff Present:

Obaid Khan, Supervising Civil Engineer
Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator
Adrienne Heim, Administrative Assistant

2. Minutes

The revisions for January 25, 2012 include the following:

Commissioner Miley stated he had one correction on page 10 of 13, located within the middle of the page regarding projects that already have partial funding in place should receive higher priority to leverage other funding.

Staff Khan replied that *Commissioner Miley's* point was captured in the staff report.

Commissioner Bellows commented on the December 14, 2011 meeting minutes approval number. The approval number should have been 3-0 rather than the 4-0 because *Commissioner Bellows* and *Commissioner Miley* were not sitting on the Commission at that time.

<p><i>Commissioner Bertken</i> called for approval of the January 25, 2012 meeting minutes. <i>Commissioner Bellows</i> seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0, 1 abstention.</p>

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

Jon Spangler, Alameda resident and a League of American Cycling Instructor, reported on a meeting that he had with Michael Noonan, Alameda Police Chief and Captain Paul Roller about extending the reach of bicycle and motorist safety education within the City. His objective is to put together a team made up of East Bay Bicycle Coalition and Bike Alameda members as well as Alameda Public Works and Police Department. The team would develop proposals to sell to other agencies and community service organizations in Alameda and they would attempt to raise up to \$50,000 to conduct school outreach and motorist safety education. Mr. Spangler asked the Commission to provide comments as he moved along with the process.

Commissioner Moehring asked Mr. Spangler if he spoke with local bicycle shops to get more participation.

Jon Spangler stated that he will be in touch with the local business owners, but he would mainly like to receive input from the Commissioners.

4. New Business

4A. Draft TSM/TDM Plan

Staff Khan summarized the background and introduced David Reinke.

David Reinke, Associate Planner at Kittelson and Associates, summarized the draft report and highlighted key findings from last month's presentation made by his colleague, Cliff Chambers.

Commissioner Bertken asked when talking about applicable vehicle trip reductions Mr. Reinke has a statement at the end of the paragraph, which says that achieving vehicle trip reduction rates above 10 percent by project sponsor will require public sector support to be considered during the development and approval process. He asked if the City would not expect anything more than a 10 percent reduction for non-major development type projects.

David Reinke replied that national reports consider a 10 percent reduction to be realistic under the given circumstances.

Commissioner Moehring and Commissioner Bertken applauded the draft TSM/TDM report stating that it is excellent.

Commissioner Moehring stated although we would like a 25 percent reduction, it is realistic to have a reduction of 10-15 percent, especially in this environment.

Staff Khan asked the commissioners to take an action to recommend the draft TSM/TDM Plan and if the commissioners have any comments or suggestions, they can make it part of the action item. He also requested, if applicable, that commissioners include comments or suggestions as part of the action items going forward. He stated that the draft TSM/TDM Plan will then go to the Planning Board for approval and then may go to the City Council.

Commissioner Bertken made the motion to approve the draft TSM/TDM Plan. *Commissioner Miley* seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4B. North Park Street Draft Code and Draft Environmental Impact Report

Staff Khan summarized the Planning staff's report for the North Park Street Code and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the North Park Street Code. He asked the TC members to provide feedback for the Planning Department to include the comments in the North Park Street Code's Final Environmental Impact Report.

Commissioner Bellows asked when would the comment period close.

Staff Khan stated that comments would be solicited until the end of this month.

Commissioner Bertken asked if this meeting was the only time public comment would be received.

Staff Khan replied that public comments have been received in a number of hearings, but this would be the only time public comment would be received from the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Miley explained that based on the DEIR, the City has zoned for a lot of mixed-use development. He wanted to know whether the City discussed the Sustainable Community Strategy, which is being developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments and whether that would impact this planning process and planning in general.

Staff Khan stated that the amount of land use that is assumed in the DEIR is consistent with the City's General Plan. The Planning Department has not considered the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the North Park Street Code yet will consider the Sustainable Communities Strategy when it updates the Land Use Element.

Commissioner Miley asked when the Land Use Element for the General Plan is updated if this item would come before the Transportation Commission.

Staff Khan replied yes, the TC members would have an opportunity to weigh in.

Commissioner Moehring called for public comment.

Jon Spangler stated that the Planning Board is currently working on the General Plan's Housing Element update and when he spoke with Andrew Thomas, City of Alameda Planning Services Manager, mixed-use high-density development is being considered. He forwarded the Commission a slide show and webinar of TransForm's GreenTrip Initiative, which recommends high-density housing with reduced parking requirements. Mr. Spangler believes higher densities allow residents to take advantage of a variety of travel modes. Furthermore, he explained that mixed-use and high-density residential developments should be developed along the City's commercial corridors and he urged the Commission to be more involved with the Planning Board and City Council.

Staff Khan stated that all comments will be forwarded to the Planning Department and they will respond to them in the final report.

Commissioner Moehring is excited to see the plans moving forward.

5. Staff Communications

Staff Khan reported on the Transportation Bylaws Update. He specifically noted that the commissioners' vote to hold meetings every other month may be premature and for now the meetings will be held every month until he receives more information in March.

Staff Khan reported on the Review of the Draft Prioritized Transportation Project List, which will go before the Planning Board next Monday. He incorporated some of the TC members' comments specifically within the Project Readiness section. Also, some of the changes have resulted in a shuffling of the projects on the list.

Commissioner Miley stated that there were concerns in Oakland regarding the Broadway/Jackson project. He wanted to know if as the projects move forward would they come before the Commission or the public for comments.

Staff Khan replied that it is an internal prioritized project list so staff could pursue funding. He further explained that if any project moves forward in terms of scoping then the Transportation Commission would be involved. In terms of the Broadway and Jackson project, as the project moves towards the next step, which is the environmental analysis and document, the public's input is essential and staff is continuing to work with the City of Oakland. He also stated that the Broadway/Jackson project application, which went into the Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan, was a co-sponsored application with the cities of Alameda and Oakland, which was the first time the City has co-sponsored with the City of Oakland on this project.

Commissioner Miley stated that he did not realize the project was co-sponsored project between Oakland and Alameda, so it is good to see that collaboration.

Staff Khan stated that although most of the project's footprint is located in Oakland, it creates a great regional collaboration and plans for multimodal elements such bus rapid transit, bike lanes on Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway and transit exclusive lanes.

Staff Payne gave an update on the Alameda Paratransit Program Modification. She presented the MRTIP fare structure to Donatella Zepplin, who works as the outreach spokesperson for those who use paratransit services at Mastick Senior Center. Ms. Zepplin felt the \$3.00 increment would cause more confusion given that the East Bay Paratransit is a \$4.00 ticket and the Premium taxi service travel voucher costs \$2.50. Therefore, all of the customers would have to remember how much each service costs. She understood Ms. Zepplin's concerns and suggested that the Commission change the initial decision from \$3.00 to \$2.50.

Commissioner Bellows stated that the purpose of the \$3.00 charge was to increase funding to the MRTIP program and she asked staff to consider increasing the charge to \$4.00.

Commissioner Moehring stated that the \$4.00 is a good option as well, but increasing the charge to \$4.00 may burden those who rely on the service.

Commissioner Bellows asked how much does it cost to use the MRTIP service.

Staff Payne stated the MRTIP service is free, so they would be going from free to \$2.50.

Commissioner Moehring asked Staff Payne to contact Ms. Zepplin and ask her if a \$4.00 fee would be feasible.

Commissioner Miley asked Staff Payne if the service would remain free until the Commission decides otherwise.

Staff Payne replied that the program fare change would not begin until after the end of the fiscal year or July 1st.

Commissioner Bellows requested staff to create a table of the Alameda Paratransit Program fees.

Staff Payne gave an update on the Safe Routes to School Draft Project Revised Submittal for Grand Street at Wood Middle School. She explained that they have made progress by receiving public input and receiving approval from the adjacent residences on the side of the public walkway, which was staff's biggest concern. She further explained that in March staff would work on the submittal and the support letters.

Staff Payne reported on the Future Meeting Agenda Items. The quarterly report will be a main agenda item in March as well as the Webster Street Smart Corridor Update, I-880 and 23rd-29th Street Project and the Paratransit Program fare chart with the MRTIP fare update.

6. Announcements

None.

7. Adjournment

8:00 PM