

APPROVED MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF ALAMEDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Chair Soules convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Soules, Commissioners Nachtigall, Kohlstrand, Hans, Johnson, Weitze.

Absent: Yuen.

2. AGENDA CHANGES

A portion of Staff Communications was moved to the front of the agenda in order to allow the City Engineer to introduce new staff members and provide an update related to Vision Zero actions.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Scott Wikstrom, City Engineer, introduced two new engineering hires for the Public Works Department. Donya Amiri, Traffic Engineer, and Robert Vance who will be supervising many of the capital improvement projects that come before the Transportation Commission.

Staff Member Amiri introduced herself to the Commission.

Robert Vance, Senior Engineer, introduced himself to the Commission.

Rochelle Wheeler, Senior Transportation Coordinator, provided an update on the Transportation Choices Plan outreach process. She said the recent open house was well attended and a big success. She said the project webpage is now up at ActiveAlameda.org. She noted the City Council unanimously adopted the Vision Zero Policy at its November 5th meeting.

Staff Member Amiri reported on short term actions being taken in response to recent youth involved collisions, including refreshed crosswalks, daylighting intersections, adding advanced stop bars, replacing signage, and changes to signal operations to improve pedestrian safety. She said there would be a citywide speed survey completed soon which can provide opportunities to reduce speed limits and analyze flow characteristics.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

3-A Transportation Commission Meeting: Wed, Jan 22 at 7 p.m.

3-B Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 2020 Trainings: register on Fire Department web page

3-C Alameda Active Transportation Plan web page: www.ActiveAlameda.org

3-D Emergency Alerts for Alameda – Subscribe at AC Alert web page:
<https://www.acgov.org/emergencysite/>

3-E Regional Emergency Transportation Alerts – Subscribe:
<https://511.org/alerts/emergencies/511Alert>

3-F Clipper Card (adults) – order on line or at Walgreens or set up Autoload to add value automatically: <https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/getTranslink.do>

3-G Clipper Card Discounts for youth, seniors and people with disabilities -
<https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/discounts/index.do>

3-H Clipper Card senior sign-up event at Mastick Senior Center – Tues, Dec 17 at 1 p.m.
– Conference Room D

3-I FasTrak or new toll tag for upcoming I-880 Express Lanes scheduled to open late summer 2020: on line or at Walgreens (except not Park Street location) and then register on line: <https://www.bayareafastrak.org/en/signup/signup.shtml>

Laura Katz said her 15 year old daughter was struck in a crosswalk at Fernside and High St. by a hit and run driver on October 3rd. She said it has been a traumatic event for her family. She requested crossing guards and improvements along the entire corridor of Fernside from Versailles to High.

Andy Stoddard said he would like to see a light on Fernside at Harvard. He said people go too fast. He said they have been trying to address that area for at least 12 years. He suggested having the commissioners do a visit to the site.

Commissioner Kohlstrand said she walks that corridor regularly and that it is a very dangerous corridor.

Chair Soules noted that many of the recent collisions have been happening around the time change.

Commissioner Johnson said he lives near Fernside and understands the concerns there very well.

Maria Gallo requested the commissioners to come walk the corridor with the residents. She asked for stop signs and other measures to help slow cars down.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-A 2019-7469

Draft Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2019

Commissioner Kohlstrand moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Nachtigall seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5-A 2019-7470

Discuss the AC Transit Line 19 Promotional Pilot Program

Gail Payne, Senior Transportation Coordinator, gave a report. The staff report and attachments can be found at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4228445&GUID=E655A108-CE47-448B-B312-E6AC7D057282&FullText=1> .

Kristy Cannon said it was a good experience interacting one on one with residents and they learned a lot about barriers people have that prevent transit usage.

Chair Soules said she loved the model of this program.

Commissioner Nachtigall thanked the team for their efforts, noting that the team knocked on her door as well.

Commissioner Weitze said the Line 19 has a branding problem. He said the “BART Shuttle” branding is powerful and should be incorporated into the signage on the bus displays.

No action was taken.

5-B 2019-7471

Review and Comment on Draft Goals for AC Transit's Comprehensive Operations Analysis

Staff Member Payne gave a presentation. The staff report and attachments can be found at: <https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4228572&GUID=10E395B0-4726-44A0-9E74-EB10D2E078B7&FullText=1>

Commissioner Kohlstrand said that successful transit is dependent upon three factors in an area: income levels, automobile ownership, and density. She said we need to make our transit investments in concert with our land use decisions, focusing on our densest corridors. She said we are setting ourselves up to have to subsidize the services outlined in these goals that might not be the most efficient allocation of resources.

Chair Soules said there is a disconnect between the statements that we are well served by transit and the public's impression that they cannot get where they need to go in a given

amount of time. She said the goal is a high mark to set and a lot to rely on an agency that is serving many other communities. She emphasized that reliability is critical.

Commissioner Johnson asked what is happening with the free shuttle planning that was led by the Greater Alameda Business Association.

Staff Member Payne said they worked with GABA to design a crosstown route, which is also in the Transportation Choices Plan. She said to make it free, it would cost about five million dollars annually, which is not currently available.

Chair Soules opened the public comment.

Jim Strehlow said there is a difference between regular transit and bus rapid transit. He said loading and unloading disabled passengers causes long delays for the bus and rapid transit would necessitate discriminating against disabled passengers. He said you have to define whether you are providing transit for all or rapid transit.

Commissioner Weitze asked if the information for the existing service profile already existed somewhere.

Staff Member Payne said AC Transit may already have that information. She said they are just looking to update and compile the data available into a succinct analysis.

Commissioner Nachtigall asked to analyze and discuss transit services together and not in silos between agencies.

No action was taken.

5-C 2019-7472

Uphold Public Works Director's Decision to Not Install an All-Way Stop Control at the Intersection of Oak Street and Pacific Avenue

Staff Member Wikstrom gave a presentation. The staff report and attachments are available at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4228577&GUID=6C68EFAD-12F7-43FA-9B39-958BE86DD81A&FullText=1> .

Chair Soules opened the public hearing.

Mirabelle Reyes, appellant, said she started keeping track of the crashes at the intersection since 2016. She said drivers are speeding to try and make the light at the next intersection. She said there are many kids, elderly and people pushing strollers at this dangerous intersection. She said the intersection needs a four way stop.

Commissioner Nachtigall asked Ms. Reyes what she meant by a systems issue.

Ms. Reyes said that Oak Street is a high injury corridor with lots of speeding and the traffic flow is not being contained correctly.

Commissioner Kohlstrand asked if Ms. Reyes had evidence that there have been five or more collisions in the past 12 months.

Ms. Reyes said she shared some images with Public Works staff.

Chair Soules asked Staff Member Wikstrom to explain the warrant process and data discrepancies.

Staff Member Wikstrom said they use the police logs, which only include incidents that generate a police report. He said that Oak Street is a common bypass for Park Street. He added that collision numbers have been mostly stable in Alameda over the past ten years.

Commissioner Johnson said he biked through the intersection in order to evaluate the safety. He said the visibility at the intersection was now pretty good. He said he did not believe there were crosswalks marked across Oak Street, which he thinks may help in that area.

Staff Member Wikstrom said that creating uncontrolled crosswalks imply a degree of safety when the vehicles on Oak do not need to stop. He said they are mindful to limit the number of those, but might want to install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at those types of crossings.

Commissioner Kohlstrand said this intersection would be a good candidate to return to in six months or a year to see if the visibility improvements have reduced collisions.

Chair Soules asked that staff give more information at a future meeting about what Vision Zero is and what the effort is about to provide context for the community.

Commissioner Hans said we need to improve how we collect data on minor traffic incidents.

Staff Member Wheeler explained some of the ways they will be collecting data for the Active Transportation Plan.

Chair Soules summarized the Commission's feedback: staff will look for ways to improve the ability to report and how that impacts the warrant process; report back on how the daylighting improvements are working at Pacific and Oak.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to uphold staff's decision not to install a four way stop at Pacific and Oak. Commissioner Weitze seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

5-D 2019-7473

Discuss Electric Vehicle Adoption

Staff Member Payne gave a presentation. The report and attachments can be found at: <https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4228580&GUID=2C474DDF-F4DD-4A03-B091-CC1E8E09A727&FullText=1> .

Sonia Manrique, Alameda Municipal Power, continued the presentation.

Commissioner Weitze asked about the fleet replacement policy and whether replacing existing vehicles with new electric vehicles was a net benefit.

Staff Member Payne said they are replacing vehicles that are beyond their useful life. She added that charging capacity is the main limiting factor to the number of EVs they can purchase at this time.

Commissioner Weitze asked what would happen to the green energy surcharge once the shift to 100 percent clean energy occurs.

Rebecca Irwin, Alameda Municipal Power, said they will be repositioning the Alameda Green program to allow people to green up the regional grid instead of just their individual home.

Commissioner Weitze asked if the rebate would apply towards the infrastructure or just the charger.

Staff Member Irwin said that the rebates can be applied towards infrastructure, but that multifamily units present unique challenges that can dramatically increase the cost of adding individual chargers. She added that AMP staff will come out and talk through the issues for any particular site.

Commissioner Nachtigall asked if the rebate would apply to leased EVs.

Staff Member Irwin said that AMP is focusing on rebating used vehicles, saying that the market is already taking care of encouraging new vehicles.

No action was taken.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Potential Future Meeting Agenda Items

1. Annual Report for the Transportation Choices Plan and the Climate Action and

Resiliency Plan

2. Annual Report for the Alameda Transportation Management Association (TMA) and the Alameda Landing TMA

6-B Future Meeting Dates for 2020 – Meetings start at 7 p.m.

1. Wednesday, January 22
2. Wednesday, March 25
3. Wednesday, May 27
4. Wednesday, July 22
5. Wednesday, September 23
6. Wednesday, November 18

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Strehlow said that not everyone in the Fernside area would be agreeable to changes to Fernside that would favor neighbors on the north side of Fernside. He said the center turn lane solves a lot of needs for people that live on Fernside. He asked that all neighbors be included in a meeting on the issue.

Chair Soules asked that the Fernside HOA be included when staff arranges a site visit for commissioners and neighbors of Fernside and Harvard.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Soules adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.