

Approved Minutes
Transportation Commission Meeting
Special Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 codified at Government Code Section 54953, Transportation Commissioners can attend the meeting via teleconference. The City allows public participation via Zoom.

Zoom Attendees: 11

Legistar Link (Agenda and Video):

<https://alameda.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1055586&GUID=8155944E-8AED-401F-A9C5-975E3B7E2015&Options=info|&Search=>

1. Roll Call

Present: Chair Soules, Vice Chair Yuen and Commissioners Kohlstrand, Johnson, Suthanthira and Weitze.

Absent: Commissioner Alysha Nachtigall

2. Agenda Changes

None.

3. LegiStar File #2022-2639 - Staff Communications

Lisa Foster, Senior Transportation Coordinator, made several announcements, which are available in detail at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5945754&GUID=349A3B46-C3A8-4B2C-96A5-B2988A666999&FullText=1>

4. Announcements / Public Comments

Commissioner Kohlstrand asked that when the Lincoln project came back to them if staff could also bring information on the Estuary Crossing Study and how it related to traffic congestion for the island overall.

Staff Member Foster answered that the plan was to bring that item to the February meeting.

Gail Payne, Senior Transportation Coordinator, seconded that plan of action.

Commissioner Weitze asked for an update on the plan for a short hop of Alameda Landing to Oakland.

Rochelle Wheeler, Senior Transportation Coordinator, said staff would be presenting a Status Update for the year at the next meeting that would cover many of these items.

Jim Strehlow asked that the Transportation Commission 2023 schedule be shared more easily, he was unable to find it online. He also wanted information and an update on the Transportation Demand Management Project, he discussed the information he wanted to see.

CJ Hirschfield was surprised that Bus Line 96 did not serve the main ferry terminal and wanted to know if there were any plan to bring the 96 to that terminal.

Cyndy Johnsen, Bike Walk Alameda, thanked the staff and commission for their support of the Final Draft of the Active Transportation Plan.

5. Consent Calendar

5A. LegiStar File #2022-2640 - Approve Meeting Minutes - October 20, 2022 (Action Item)

Chair Soules made a motion to bring back these minutes with more detail. Commissioner Kohlstrand seconded the motion. A vote was taken a by a raise of hands and the motion passed 6-0.

6. Regular Agenda Items

6A. LegiStar File #2022-2641 - AC Transit Update (Discussion)

Michael Eshleman, AC Transit, introduced this item and gave a presentation (*24:7). The staff report and attachments can be found at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5945756&GUID=5064452A-20B9-4E33-A6CF-C16856D90E34>.

Lucy Gigli, Manager of the Alameda TMA, also presented (*37:02).

Public Comment for #6A

There were no speakers.

Action for #6A

This comment added after minutes were reviewed and approved - "In the discussion of the Line 78 bus, Commissioner Weitze questioned why the 78 line had not made better attempts to publicize that a ride on the 78 bus was free with the purchase of a ferry ride. He suggested signage in the Seaplane Lagoon ferry parking lot, and that the Line 78 buses should include 'Bus Free with Ferry Ticket' on the bus marquee."

This item was a discussion item and no action was taken.

6B. LegiStar File #2022-2642 - Recommendation to Endorse the Ferry Terminal Parking Pricing Strategy. (Action)

Staff Member Foster introduced this item and gave a presentation (*1:13:49). The staff report and attachments can be found at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5945757&GUID=DA79352A-DE42-40DB-B970-BABD7A2F7222&FullText=1>.

Due to technical difficulties the meeting had to take a recess and then reconvene. The presentation for Item 6-B started at the 1:23:10 minute mark.

Kevin Connolly, Planning & Development for WETA, was also available to answers questions.

Public Comment for #6B

Christy Cannon spoke on the #78 bus line and her experiences riding that bus. She discussed her concerns about that line and how it didn't serve the ferry, it wasn't timed with the ferry. She agreed that the bus should promote it was free and that the bus drivers sometimes don't even know it's free. She thought that having someone attend the quarterly AC Transit Liaison meetings was a great idea.

Jim Strehlow pointed out where people were parking for free near the ferry but the city had painted private parking spaces in certain places. He then spoke on his frustrations on not finding any signage on getting out to the ferry terminal, the detour signs were confusing and wanted to know what the plan was to improve it.

Denyse Trepanier, Board President for Bike Walk Alameda, thought this was an excellent plan and giant step forward for Alameda to meet its mode shift goals. She discussed all the work that AC Transit had to done to make Line 78 a success. She hoped this Commission would also support this plan.

Elizabeth Tuckwell asked the commission to correlate the parking charge with who was actually using the ferry. She felt the people would use the parking lot with no intention of using the ferry. She discussed her experiences parking in San Francisco and how crazy the parking situation was. She added that as more homes were added to the point it would just get more difficult to park.

Commission Discussion for #6B

The Transportation Commission Bylaws allow commissioners to request written abstracts of their comments during Commission discussions. On March 22, 2023, the Transportation Commission approved adding this abstract provided by Commissioner Weitze: "In the discussion of the Line 78 bus, Commissioner Weitze questioned why the 78 line had not made better attempts to publicize that a ride on the 78 bus was free with the purchase of a ferry ride. He suggested signage in the Seaplane Lagoon ferry parking lot, and that the Line 78 buses should include 'Bus Free with Ferry Ticket' on the bus marquee."

Action for #6B

Chair Soules made a motion to endorse the Ferry Terminal Parking Pricing Strategy with the following additions. This would come back to the Transportation Commission on a quarterly basis to reevaluate the policy for any potential changes, there would be deliberate contemplation of disabled/handicap parking spaces being consistent with other city parking policies, a deliberate approach to the use of data, a low income program that leverages regional assets and consistent policies to the extent that make sense for the city, and when the Main Street comes up they would look for this program to be consistent with other ferry terminals unless there was a driver for it not to be. Commissioner Kohlstrand seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 6-0.

6C. LegiStar File #2022-2643 - Discuss Proposal for Rapid Response Program After Fatal Crashes. (Discussion)

Staff Member Foster introduced Emily Clayton who gave a presentation (*2:37:24). The staff report and attachments can be found at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5945758&GUID=79D43624-7995-43F3-85DE-1F7037F96DAF&FullText=1>.

Public Comment for #6C

Jim Strehlow stated that 150k for this program was a waste of tax payer's money. He believed the program would be a "bonanza" for consultants to make additional money. He also believed that most fatalities were due to human error, and not an opportunity for engineering. He objected to the use of certain terms without further study. He was against this program.

Motion for #6C

This item was a discussion item and no action was taken.

7. Announcements / Public Comments

Chair Soules thanked the commissioners, city staff, consultants and public speakers for all their hard work over the last year.

8. Adjournment

Chair Soules adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

*shows minute mark in video to hear comments in full.