

**Approved Minutes**  
**Transportation Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 2021**

Time: Chair Samantha Soules convened the meeting at 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.

Legistar Link:

[https://alameda.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=811337&GUID=55BD7254-0A79-471E-9760-3C0E243F3935&Options=info|&Search=.](https://alameda.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=811337&GUID=55BD7254-0A79-471E-9760-3C0E243F3935&Options=info|&Search=)

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Chair Soules, Vice Chair Yuen and Commissioners Nachtigall, Hans, Kohlstrand and Weitze.

Absent: Commissioner Randy Rentschler

**2. Agenda Changes**

None.

**3. Staff Communications are as shown in the web link here:**

[https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5210433&GUID=7ABD3D66-2823-496F-8237-1570FE110518&FullText=1.](https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5210433&GUID=7ABD3D66-2823-496F-8237-1570FE110518&FullText=1)

**4. Announcements / Public Comments**

Chair Soules expressed her sadness and sympathy for the recent death of Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan who was killed in a vehicle-pedestrian collision. She spoke on the important work and accomplishments done by Supervisor Chan and of the urgency of the Vision Zero Plan.

Vice-Chair Tina Yuen also discussed the travesty of Wilma Chan's death and made a call for safety on Alameda streets.

Commissioner Rebecca Kohlstrand expressed her condolences and also asked that everyone be aware as you move about the city.

Commissioner Alysha Nachtigall also expressed her condolences and asked that everyone be safe.

Michael Sullivan discussed the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the estuary and wanted a status update as well as what the bridge landing options were in Oakland. He hoped there would be funding for this project in the Infrastructure Bill that had just passed.

Denyse Trepanier, Board President for Bike Walk Alameda, discussed the sad tragic passing of Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan and how she was now one of the too many people who have died in traffic collisions. She also discussed the Memorial Ride that was planned.

## **5. Consent Calendar**

None

## **6. Regular Agenda Items**

### **6A. Review and Comment on School Street Safety (Discussion Item)**

Lisa Foster, a Senior Transportation Coordinator, introduced the item and gave a presentation. The staff report and attachments can be found at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5210434&GUID=DABC0D0F-3768-4B1E-9039-4D56689524B8&FullText=1>.

### **Public Comments for #6A**

There were no public comments.

### **Commissioner Clarifying Questions, Discussion, and Comments for #6A**

Chair Soules asked where was the best place the public could engage on this topic.

Staff Member Foster discussed reaching out to the principal of your school or your child's school and saying you want to see the Safe Routes to School Program at your or your child's school.

Rochelle Wheeler, a Senior Transportation Manager, added other information about the Safe Routes to School Program and the importance of having schools that engage and advocate for this program.

Commissioner Nachtigall asked about bicycle education for 5th Graders and wanted to know if that included private and charter schools as well. She then thanked the staff for doing this important work. She also discussed Maya Lin since some students had reached out about having more crosswalks on Buena Vista, she thought some of those improvements could be integrated into this effort.

Staff Member Wheeler clarified that the goal was to include all 5th Graders but they did not have enough funding at this point, but it was for both public and private schools.

Staff Member Foster discussed what this report included and Buena Vista was outside of the area of the study. She did note that it was an important route to Maya Lin and they were still looking to add a crosswalk on Ninth Street when it would be resurfaced next year.

Commissioner Scott Weitze asked for clarification on what a High Visibility Crosswalk was. He also wanted to know why some crosswalks got push-buttons for flashing beacons. He also wanted to know more about the plan to make school drop off and pick-ups better, he was stunned that this was something that schools could decide or not decide to opt into.

Robert Vance, a Senior Engineer with Public Works, described what a high-visibility crosswalk was, wide bars through the center and painted with light-reflective paint. He added that they would be installing more Rapid Flashing Beacons at intersections near schools and those were evaluated on a case by case basis.

Staff Member Foster said that under the Vision Zero Plan, the action is to have City Transportation Engineers support schools in developing their own pickup and drop-off policies. It will be done on a school-by-school basis.

Staff Member Wheeler added that the city had also worked with the County-Wide Safe Route to School Programs on improving school pickup and drop-offs.

Commissioner Michael Hans was disappointed to hear that only a few schools were participating so far. He also discussed his role as a School Administrator at Lincoln Middle School and applauded APD for their continued efforts to keep everyone safe.

Commissioner Kohlstrand thanked the school staff who had participated in this work and linked important items back to the Vision Zero Plan. She discussed her concerns about Fernside Blvd., especially between Blanding and High Street, as well as her concerns about Buena Vista Avenue. She wanted to see more opportunities for the public to have input and not just use a systematic approach.

Commissioner Nachtigall discussed the pickup and drop-off rules at Nea Charter School.

Chair Soules expressed her concerns about Earhart School pick up and drop off; not just drivers who need to behave properly. She also expressed her concerns about road diets and diversions to adjacent parallel streets. She believed they needed to look into it and get a grander sense of where traffic was being pushed.

Commissioner Weitze added that Third Street by NEA was a good example of how preserving parking was part of the problem. If the parking were removed then there would be more places to pick up and drop off.

Commissioner Hans asked if there was a plan to bring back Crossing Guards for Secondary Schools. Funding now only allowed for Crossing Guards at elementary schools.

Staff Member Wheeler had heard more interest and conversation about having crossing guards at secondary schools but had not heard about funding. She discussed the growing costs of having Crossing Guards.

Commissioner Kohlstrand discussed protocols of pick up and drop off at San Francisco Schools and expressed interest in bringing those protocols to Alameda.

Staff Member Wheeler discussed the 17 schools that had signed up and what grant funding they had received.

Commissioner Weitze asked about the School Route Map. He pointed out that Nea had many roads marked as routes but he preferred funneling kids into fewer streets.

Staff Member Wheeler explained that this map had not been updated yet and then discussed what that process entailed.

Chair Soules praised city staff for their work and said she would take on a personal role to get the word out about this program.

Vice-Chair Yuen asked if the new Infrastructure Bill could help with funding for this project.

Staff Member Vance explained what was budgeted for this project and what projects could be supplemented.

## **6B. Review and Comment on the Draft Smart City Master Plan Recommendations (Discussion Item)**

Gail Payne, a Senior Transportation Coordinator, introduced the item and gave a presentation. The staff report and attachments can be found at

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5198417&GUID=0D6FDA4C-7B68-4DFA-898A-D30B6E00D7B4&FullText=1>.

David Huynh and Monique Fuhrman from Iteris also presented and made themselves available for questions.

### **Public Comments for #6B**

There were no public comments.

### **Commissioner Clarifying Questions, Discussion, and Comments for #6B**

Commissioner Weitze asked for clarification on the Deploy Public WiFi Map. He also wanted to know more about Traffic Signal Priority and how that would work in school areas.

Staff Member Payne explained the thought process and criteria behind the map. She also explained how the priority worked for the traffic signals.

Mr. Huynh added that pedestrian safety was always the top priority with traffic signal timing.

Commissioner Kohlstrand asked about equity for internet access and wanted to know how the homeless would be included. She also wanted to know how this new system would be integrated with all the overhead wires, and if there was a plan to move more underground. She thought this was a really good job and important to think about these things for the future.

Staff Member Payne discussed the facilities that would have resources available, and those facilities would have access to public wifi. She then discussed the undergrounding project lists that Alameda Municipal Power was working on.

Mr. Huynh added that the plan for all the fiber optic cables was to put them underground.

Commissioner Kohlstrand wanted to see a policy that showed they were working toward undergrounding all wires in the city.

Chair Soules also wanted to see a more documented policy on undergrounding all utilities in Alameda. She believed for the unhoused, cell phones were lifelines and cell phone dependence skews towards less education levels and equity priority communities so it is important to have public wifi, especially due to lack of an address. Data plans also are expensive so it is important. She discussed the importance of establishing the relationship between the ISP (Internet Service Provider) – owning the asset and leasing it out is better so as to leverage the investment for the long term. She did not want to turn over to the private sector and wanted the city to retain those rights. She then discussed how deliberate policies could help with cyber security with how this data was used. She did not want to see a misuse of data.

## **7. Announcements / Public Comments**

Chair Soules reminded everyone to be safe out there with the sun setting earlier and encouraged everyone to check out a reflective vest. She also wished everyone Happy Holidays since this was the last Transportation Commission Meeting of the year.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Soules adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.