

**Approved Minutes**  
**Transportation Commission Meeting**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 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: 32

Legistar Link:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1055639&GUID=511B300F-4B84-44DF-932B-C53D2F69D2C1&Options=info|&Search=>

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Chair Soules, Vice Chair Yuen and Commissioners Kohlstrand, Weitze, Nachtigall and Johnson\*.

Absent: Saravana Suthanthira.

*\*Commissioner Johnson arrived after roll call.*

**2. Agenda Changes**

None.

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

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5932322&GUID=E9396296-1822-43D5-95CB-9B0D782122C6&FullText=1>

**4. Announcements / Public Comments**

Jim Strehlow discussed the meeting about Lincoln at the Library. He discussed his frustrations about the “road diets” and that businesses’ needs were not being properly considered.

**5. Consent Calendar**

### **5A. Approve Meeting Minutes - September 28, 2022 (Action Item)**

Commissioner Weitze wanted clarification on Staff Member Wheeler's comment on item 6D, second paragraph.

Commissioner Nachtigall made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction and Commissioner Kohlstrand seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 6-0.

### **5B. Approve 2023 Meeting Calendar (Action Item)**

Schedule can be found at:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5932324&GUID=5302102A-5F16-490F-9C7D-C92AF993DAAF>.

Chair Soules made a motion to approve the calendar as is and Commissioner Weitze seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 6-0.

## **6. Regular Agenda Items**

### **6A. Recommendation to Adopt Street Classification Mobility Element Appendix General Plan Amendment (Action Item)**

Andrew Thomas, Planning Building and Transportation Director, introduced this item and gave a presentation. The staff report and attachments can be found at:  
<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5932325&GUID=769029CD-E78A-45B0-9E26-C9A19A0A23DF&FullText=1>.

Susie Hufstader, Fehr & Peers, also presented.

### **Public Comment for #6A**

Jim Strehlow said that there was not a link for the presentation online. He then discussed his frustrations about the classification of Gibbons, he believed it was more important than a "local street".

Alex Spehr encouraged having Santa Clara remain as a slow street until the Central Ave bike lane opened. She then discussed her concerns about the future greenways and making sure things were done in phases for safety reasons. She also wanted to see some attention on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

Vice Chair Yuen asked for clarification on the map, she noted different street classifications than originally discussed.

Director Thomas discussed the changes and versions of the map. He also discussed what qualifications that staff were looking for in each street and how the ATP (Active Transportation Plan) effected these changes.

Commissioner Kohlstrand discussed Gibbons Drive and wanted to continue the conversation about it having a greenway. She then highlighted definitions that were not clear and the transit priority language. She gave suggestions on language that was clearer.

Director Thomas was open to Commissioner Kohlstrand's suggestions.

Chair Soules made a motion to recommend adoption of the Street Classification Appendix to the Planning Board to then go to City Council to be an appendix to the General Plan Mobility Element. The motion has the following conditions: add a reference to Queue jumps in the transit street description, add a reference about Santa Clara and Lincoln as Priority Streets for transit investments and then clarify the curb use language for Greenway Streets. Commissioner Kohlstrand seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 6-0.

### **6B. Recommendation to Adopt Final Draft Active Transportation Plan (Action Item)**

Rochelle Wheeler, 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=5932326&GUID=9AC1C99E-56D1-4B02-A7E6-0D4DA9E266A1&FullText=1>.

### **Commissioner Clarifying Questions for #6B**

Commissioner Weitze asked about neighborhood greenways and wanted a clearer description. He was unsure about the idea.

Staff Member Wheeler explained greenways in detail, there would be no separation or barriers and cars and bikes would share the space. She also discussed what type of traffic was expected on greenways and what type of devices could be used for traffic calming.

Commissioner Weitze was curious as to why neighborhood greenways could not just have dedicated space separate from the vehicle lanes. He gave the example of Pacific as it entered Site A.

Chair Soules discussed how much more research would need to go into this and there were many tools to use as the Greenways evolved.

Chair Soules asked for clarification on next steps on the Greenways design and implementation and what this commission could expect.

Staff Member Wheeler discussed next steps and what plans were in the works for Greenways.

Commissioner Kohlstrand asked for clarification on the section of Santa Clara between Park and Broadway.

Staff Member Wheeler said that was a Class III bike route.

### **Public Comment for #6B**

Jim Strehlow felt that hidden inside the ATP were changes not previously discussed. He was curious that WABA was part of the “community advisory group” but neighborhood HOAs were not part of that discussion. He felt that community was not included due no one listening to the residents of Fernside. He felt this report was a “bait and switch” for West End residents. He wanted projects removed that had not been discussed with the community and felt the ATP was not ready for Prime Time.

Carol Gottstein was confused how a road would be classified as a “high injury corridor”, she then discussed her issues after being hit by a car. She was bothered by the term “visible injuries” because most of her issues were not visible and most pain came after the accident. She then discussed her thoughts on the improvements planned for Grand and she didn’t think there was data to back up it being a “tier 1 high injury corridor”.

Cyndy Johnsen, Bike Walk Alameda, hoped the commission would recommend this plan for approval. She gave suggestions on how to make this plan a success including more funding for staff and consultants.

Travis Morgan, resident of Gibbons Drive, supported this plan as is. He had experienced being hit by a car and was in favor of anything that made cycling safer.

Alex Spehr's comments from earlier were meant for this agenda item. – *“Alex Spehr encouraged having Santa Clara remain as a slow street until the Central Ave bike lane opened. She then discussed her concerns about the future greenways and making sure things were done in phases for safety reasons. She also wanted to see some attention on 8th Street.”*

### **Commissioner Discussion for #6B**

Commissioner Kohlstrand asked for clarification about “gateway” streets and wanted them defined clearly. She also gave suggestions on permitted treatments on transit streets on Table 5. She also had questions about the plans for the Bay Trail and discussed her issues with Gibbons being treated as a neighborhood greenway. She did not think it was a good idea. She also discussed her thoughts about redundancy in having all the east/west connectors as bike lines.

Staff Member Wheeler discussed those permitted treatments and what could possibly be in conflict. She discussed the requirements for facilities for the Bay Trail.

Chair Soules discussed Gibbons and how important reaching out to those residents were. The residents have made it clear that they don't want that. For now it's just classification but no concrete plans were happening yet.

Staff Member Wheeler discussed what Gibbons had been designated in 2020.

Chair Soules discussed modal equity and the importance of having data back up the need and the usage for something.

Staff Member Wheeler discussed mode shift and what was planned for achieving and monitoring that goal.

Vice Chair Yuen discussed the east/west bicycle network and the possible redundancy that was brought up. She discussed what was already in use and they were building from that foundation.

Commissioner Nachtigall agreed with Vice Chair Yuen and felt having redundancies in bike lanes made sense because they were trying to accomplish fairer access to all modes. This just means having more ways for people to travel.

Commissioner Weitze also agreed with Vice Chair Yuen. He believed the plan was very forward thinking and didn't change things as much as people thought it did.

Commissioner Kohlstrand believed this plan did make good changes for cyclist and pedestrians. She disagreed with the statement that these changes would make a mode shift however, there would still be trips on and off the island and there needs to be room for transit.

Staff Member Wheeler explained how they were keeping transit needs in mind.

Vice Chair Yuen discussed movement on and off the island and believed there was opportunity for both cars and bicycles.

Commissioner Nachtigall made a motion to recommend this plan to the City Council. Chair Soules made an amendment that the City Council staff report to include Transportation Commission comments tonight regarding specific projects. Commissioner Nachtigall accepted the amendment and Commissioner Kohlstrand seconded the amended motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 6-0.

**6C. Accept the West Alameda Transportation Management Association (WATMA) Annual Report and Provide Direction to Dissolve the WATMA and Transfer Responsibilities for Alameda Landing TDM Plan to the Alameda Transportation Management Association (Action Item)**

Vice Chair Yuen recused herself from this agenda item.

Director Thomas introduced this item. The staff report and attachments can be found at <https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5932327&GUID=5CD08237-23AF-470F-AF50-AC469F2A81E2&FullText=1>.

**Public Comment for #6C**

There were no speakers

**Commissioner Discussions for #6C**

Chair Soules made a motion to approve the report and to recommend to City Council to Provide Direction to Dissolve the WATMA and Transfer Responsibilities for Alameda Landing TDM Plan to the Alameda Transportation Management Association. Commissioner Kohlstrand seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 5-0 with Vice Chair Yuen abstaining.

After the vote Vice Chair Yuen returned to the meeting.

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

Jim Strehlow asked about the slideshow used in item 6A and that he was unable to find it. He was also unable to find anything about street classifications on the website and found nothing. He also wanted to know more about public outreach for Gibbons Drive since 2020, he didn't think the city should be doing changes like that. There needed to be more information.

Staff Member Foster explained that the information from the slideshow was in the staff report and the attachments that were available online. She added that they would post the slideshow.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Soules adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.