

Transportation Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 26, 2017

Commissioner Michele Bellows called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Roll was called and the following was recorded:

Members Present:

Michele Bellows (Chair)

Jesus Vargas

Gregory Morgado

Thomas G. Bertken

Samantha Soules

Michael Hans

Members Absent:

Christopher Miley (Vice Chair)

Staff Present:

Jennifer Ott, Base Reuse and Transportation Planning Director

Liam Garland, Public Works Acting Director

Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator

Rochelle Wheeler, Transportation Planner

2. Agenda Changes

None.

3. Announcements/Public Comment

Austin Lee, AC Transit Transportation Planner, said they received a lot of comments about the Line 19 particularly at the Buena Vista and Stanton bus stop. He then provided some background and gave a brief update. He said, originally in 2015, staff looked at reinstating the bus stops at Grand Street yet due to some operational difficulties staff moved this bus stop towards Minturn Street because of the truck route and emergency vehicle access. He explained that since the bus stop was moved away from Grand Street, staff had some difficulty in naming the time point. Consequently, the time point was moved to Buena Vista and Stanton and residents began complaining that the buses were dwelling too long. He further stated that AC Transit's ultimate goal would be to move the time point to Buena Vista and Entrance Road. Additionally, he hoped with the new commercial development planned at the intersection they would get a STOP control or some signalized intersection. He said in the meantime they adjusted the scheduled, so bus

operators should not dwell there anymore. Line 19 is one of the shortest routes (approximately 6.5 miles) in their system, so they were encountering “hot periods” where the buses arrive too fast.

Jim Strehlow, Alameda resident, stated he was glad this was being addressed in some form at tonight’s meeting. He explained that with the assistance of *Commissioner Morgado* he was able to get a hold of someone who could help him with the Buena Vista and Stanton bus stop issues. He further explained that temporary problems at the Sheriff’s office were currently corrected. He also exclaimed that up until tonight AC Transit had not responded to his inquiries when earlier he contacted them through various outlets. In addition, he filed a request for information from Public Works about the Buena Vista and Stanton bus stop and he wondered how long it would take staff to respond with information. Regarding the stop itself, when the Alameda police officer attended the Transportation Commission in February he stated that the traffic activity around the Buena and Stanton bus stop was unsafe. He hoped that Public Works would repaint the left-hand turn lane and double yellow line near the beginning of the left-hand turn lane towards Arbor Way so motorists can legally pass the bus.

Commissioner Bellows asked staff about how long is the required time to respond to an inquiry.

Staff Payne replied ten days.

3.A. Resolution of the City of Alameda Transportation Commission Recognizing the Service of Gregory Morgado (Information)

Commissioner Bellows read the declaration recognizing the service of *Commissioner Morgado*.

3.B. Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) Staff Recommends \$35 Million for City of Alameda Transportation Projects

Staff Payne announced that on April 27 the Alameda CTC Board has been asked to approve the staff recommended projects for the countywide Comprehensive Investment Plan 2018 effort, which includes \$35 million for City of Alameda transportation projects.

3.C. Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Plan – Round 1 Workshop: Tuesday, May 9 at 6 p.m. – Metropolitan Transportation Commission in San Francisco

3.D. Bike to Work Day: Thursday, May 11

3.E. Bike Festival & Rodeo: Saturday, May 13- 12p.m. to 4 p.m. – Edison Elementary School

3.F. Transportation Commission Meeting: Wednesday, May 24 at 7 p.m.

Staff Payne replied that there are not many items on this agenda, so the May meeting could be cancelled. Staff would review their workload, but they will keep the Commission and public posted.

4. Consent Calendar

4.A. Transportation Commission 4.26.2017 – Approve Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2017 Minutes (Action)

4.B. Transportation Commission 4.26.2017 – Approve Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2017 Minutes (Action)

Commissioner Vargas made a motion to approve the minutes with the minor changes noted at the last meeting. *Commissioner Hans* seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0.

5. New Business

5.A. Approve Transportation Projects in Alameda’s 2017-2019 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Provide Input on 2019-2027 Transportation Projects (Action)

Staff Garland, Acting Director of Alameda Public Works, presented an overview of the process to adopt a capital budget and the recurring projects in the transportation component of the CIP. *Staff Payne* finished the presentation by going over the longer term projects.

Commissioner Bertken asked about the Seaplane Lagoon Ferry Terminal project and wondered if the \$18 million received is in addition to the \$10 million developer commitment.

Staff Payne replied approximately half will come from Alameda CTC and the developer is required to fund the remaining half. Thus, between the two entities they will receive \$18 million.

Commissioner Bertken replied the total cost would be \$18 million.

Commissioner Bellows replied \$8.2 million is coming from Alameda CTC.

Commissioner Soules said staff did some serious work to secure funds and she thanked them for the hard work.

Commissioner Bellows echoed *Commissioner Soules* comment.

Commissioner Vargas complimented *Liam Garland* on the layout of the document. Furthermore, he appreciated the project sheets, cases of responsibility and the budget sources. He explained to staff that with the increase funding coming into the department they will have to cover the peaks and find the appropriate hires, even if the duration is for one to two years. He also asked about the pavement condition and what is the department’s target goal for a healthy pavement.

Staff Garland said the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has a preferred Pavement Condition Index of 84. Alameda would have to spend approximately \$60 to \$70 million dollars to get to that level, so reaching that preferred level is probably not attainable. However, compared to other neighboring cities such as Oakland, Berkeley and San Leandro who have a rating of 60 and below, Alameda looks good at 74.

Commissioner Vargas referred to the backlog of sidewalk repairs averaging around 5,000. He asked staff if that was a good number and wondered what the target is compared to the funding projected.

Staff Garland replied staff is making tremendous progress to reduce the backlog and he explained that staff had not broken \$1 million on yearly sidewalk repairs until 2014. He said currently they are at \$1.5 million for sidewalk repairs per year. He went on to say that between 2001 and 2013 they did not have enough funding for sidewalk repairs and that is where the backlog began. However, he felt it would take a few budget cycles to reduce the backlog unless there is a big investment of money into sidewalk repairs.

Commissioner Soules made a motion to approve staff recommendations. *Commissioner Morgado* seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0.

5.B. Approve programming of \$348,196 in TDA Article 3 funds in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, for the Cross Alameda Trail: Main to Constitution Project (Action)

Rochelle Wheeler, Transportation Planner for the Alameda Planning Division, presented the report.

Commissioner Vargas asked staff if there is an update to the Cross Alameda Trail (CAT) Atlantic Gap project concept.

Staff Wheeler replied that staff would be incorporating the recommendations from the Transportation Commission to the CAT Gap concept. On April 18, staff presented the project to the City Council to get their approval. The Council provided some input and asked to have staff present again with easier to read drawings and concepts. Essentially, they had a hard time understanding the plans because staff provided more limited information than what was brought to the Commission. The City Council said they would like the mid-block crossing included. Staff is going back to the Council on June 6 with the responses to their questions including the improved renderings.

Commissioner Bertken asked *Rochelle Wheeler* if she would come back to the Transportation Commission to present the recommendations from City Council.

Rochelle Wheeler did not plan to come back to the Commission because they are including the TC recommendations.

Commissioner Vargas made a motion to approve staff recommendations. *Commissioner Bertken* seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0.

6. Staff Communications

6.A. Potential Future Meeting Agenda Items

1. Accept the Annual Report on the Alameda Landing and Marina Shores Transportation Demand Management Program and Progress on the Citywide Transportation Management Association

Staff Payne explained that staff has just a couple of agenda items for the next meeting and they want to present the draft Alameda Transportation Plan in July. So, most likely the May meeting will be cancelled.

7. Announcements/Public Comments

Jim Strehlow would like to have more information about the Estuary Shuttle because it is going to be ended. He would like to know if there will be a plan to have free transportation on AC Transit only between Webster Street and Atlantic Avenue and say 8th Street and Harrison Street. He wants to know if there will be a policy or will bicyclists have to pay to go through AC Transit lines. With the shuttle being gone, he wants to know if there will be some sort of granted exception for these segments and if that happens how will that be advertised to the general public.

Commissioner Bellows replied you could still ride your bicycle through the tunnel.

Jim Strehlow stated that a lot of people will not and they have been riding the shuttle.

Commissioner Bellows asked staff to address this.

Staff Payne replied that staff included a similar recommendation in the draft citywide transportation plan on how to get cyclists between Alameda and Oakland. It is a request to AC Transit of a policy change that bicyclists would ride the bus for free just through the tube. In the interim, bicyclists can still use the tube and could use their bikes on the bike racks for AC Transit buses along Webster Street. There are buses traveling during peak times every few minutes through the tubes and AC Transit can accommodate many of those bicyclists.

8. Adjournment

7:44 p.m.