

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 10, 2020
TO: Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission
FROM: Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: BTSSC Facilitated Discussion with Councilmember Edelman

Recommendation

Informational

Background and Analysis

In January, 2020 the City Council directed the BTSSC to engage in mediation to resolve issues of meeting productivity in response to the BTSSC's recommendation to dismiss Commissioner Edelman. Commissioners are referred to the January 28, 2020 City Council staff report and video archives for more information.

Because three commissioners resigned in January, four commissioners remained (the new appointees were not yet sworn into the commission). Since four commissioners participating in mediation would represent a quorum and the mediation sessions are appropriately held in private, only three commissioners could participate. Staff invited the following three commissioners to participate along with representatives from Yolo Conflict Resolution Center (YCRC): Todd Edelman, Tim Csontos (chair), and Jessica Jacobson (vice-chair).

Between mid-April and late May, the group met three times to discuss BTSSC challenges and potential solutions. While the conversations themselves are confidential, the group did complete the process with a desire to improve BTSSC meeting management procedures, commissioner participation, and meeting decorum & conduct. As the group approached formalizing specific procedures, staff learned in internal discussions that limitations exist for commissions and, ultimately, City Council, to change meeting management procedures for a commission independent of all commissions.

While formal, documented changes to BTSSC meeting management cannot occur, this process illuminated a need for better guidance to all commissions on commissioner training, meeting procedures, and rules of conduct. As a result, the ideas generated from the BTSSC facilitated discussion will help inform forthcoming revisions to the Commissioner Handbook.

From a BTSSC perspective, the facilitated discussion process is resulting in better communications from all and meeting effectiveness has improved. From that standpoint the process can be considered successful.

In recognition of the commitment made by all participants in this process, this topic is brought back to BTSSC as an informational item to close out the process. The City appreciates the efforts of Commissioners Csontos, Jacobson, and Edelman as well as the Yolo Conflict Resolution Center to improve the effectiveness of the BTSSC and City commissions.