



Minutes
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
December 10, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Commission Members: Joe Bolte (alternate), Timothy Csontos (Chair), Todd Edelman, Lizzy Hare, Jessica Jacobson (Vice Chair), Mick Klasson, Ayush Patel, David Soule

Council Liaisons: Brett Lee, Dan Carson (alternate)

Staff: Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner

Absences: David Soule

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Patel, Jacobson): Approve agenda

Motion carries unanimously

3. Proclamations for Outgoing Commissioners

Commissioner Csontos recited proclamations for outgoing commissioners Edelman and Klasson.

4. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Bike/Ped Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio announced that the pre-construction meeting for the Phase 2 wayfinding project was recently held. Signs should be installed in late January/February. Also, staff have been coordinating with DJUSD staff on their campus re-opening plans and the need for crossing guards.

Commissioner Jacobson asked when may crossing guards return to service.

Jennifer Donofrio responded potentially February.

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

No comments

C. Other Staff Announcements

No comments

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2020

Motion (Jacobson, Hare): Approve minutes with revisions.

Motion carries unanimously

7. Regular Items

A. Bike Theft Prevention and Enforcement Discussion

Jennifer Donofrio introduced item, explained Bike/Ped Programs activities related to theft prevention including infrastructure, education and outreach. UC Davis bike theft statistics, over 1,000 stolen in 2019 for both the City and UCD.

Sergeant James MacNiven, Police Department in the Community-Oriented Policing unit. Described partnerships with organizations, including Bike Davis, who provided bicycles for bait bike operations, which started in August. They have completed 15 deployments, 9 arrests. Noteworthy cases:

- High end bicycle \$3000+ recovered
- Involved in bicycle shop burglaries. Made 6 arrests.

Unit continues to be aggressive. Balance education with enforcement. Send out useful tips on social media.

Deputy Police Chief Paul Doroshov emphasized importance of recording serial numbers. Without, they have difficulty tracking suspected stolen bikes back to owners. State of CA has made it difficult to enforce property crimes. City is hit economically, some positions are frozen, so affecting ability to enforce.

Commissioner Edelman inquired about information taken on theft reports.

Sergeant MacNiven responded that the quality of information given by owners sometimes is not great. Often no serial numbers, but sometimes they have very specific details about a bike which is helpful. Example: PD was able to return a distinctive bike back to an 8-yr old child based on detailed description.

Deputy Chief Doroshov added to seize a bike, they have to confirm it is the exact bike, which is less common.

Commissioner Jacobson expressed concern about this topic. Bicycle recovery is important. Asked if PD is using video technology to assist in tracking down thefts and recover quickly.

Sergeant MacNiven responded some of the best cases cleared have been a result of video. One of the greatest tools to assist with investigation. Videos are screened by public safety

specialist and disseminates to entire department. Bike shop burglary video helped make three arrests. We don't consistently get video, but we welcome it if available.

Commissioner Bolte commented he has experienced multiple thefts within his household. Asked about cost involved in scaling up bike bait program and if there is value in that?

Sergeant MacNiven responded PD is doing fine with two bikes we have right now. The point is for word about program to get out and drive down theft.

Commissioner Patel inquired about City/UCD coordination and information sharing.

Deputy Chief Doroshov responded if a serial number is provided in report, then it goes into the statewide system to which all law enforcement has access. Without serial number, it's logged into local system.

Commissioner Jacobon commented on suspicious activity related to bicycles & parts. What abilities do you have to investigate?

Deputy Chief Doroshov responded that to investigate, they need reasonable suspicion to apprehend. Then need to check the bike against records.

Commissioner Klasson referenced a known homeless encampment with 100 bikes in various stages of being parted out. Asked if action can be taken if criminal activity is suspected.

Deputy Chief Doroshov responded once they can articulate suspicion, they can go in and investigate, but it depends on circumstances.

Public Comment

Kelsey Fortune commented that some new developments require fees for secure bicycle parking that was a requirement of the development. Asked if existing apartment complexes could be required to provide secure bicycle parking.

Jennifer Donofrio responded that with private development parking is traditionally a free amenity. The City does not have a policy requiring apartment complexes to upgrade their parking.

Brian Abbanat added that the City's bicycle parking standards do not require developers to provide free secure bicycle parking but that could potentially be addressed with updates to the standards.

Jeffrey (last name not cited): Commented that bike theft is a major issue and keeping bicycling in Davis from becoming something very beautiful.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Bolte commented it's problematic that new bike parking standards only apply to new development. There is a lack of adequate, secure parking in apartment complexes. Is there a more formal method the commission could take to ask City Council to action on?

Brian Abbanat responded that the BTSSC could make a motion and vote on a recommendation and delegate a commissioner to speak before City Council during public comment. Alternatively, they could first establish a subcommittee, dig into the topic deeper, and make a more detailed recommendation for the BTSSC to consider.

Commissioner Bolte commented theft will always be a problem until would-be thieves believe its not worth the risk. He is interested in ways to make it much less likely to get away with taking a bike that isn't yours. The bait bike program is labor intensive, but effective.

Commissioner Hare commented there's an opportunity to clarify messaging around what individuals can do beyond locking their bike properly. There isn't widespread knowledge of value of having serial number and specific bike details. Clearer messaging would be helpful and to communicate it more widely.

Commissioner Jacobson stated we are working so hard to make a bicycle-friendly community. This is the number one risk to that. People are disheartened when their bike is stolen and should they commit to bicycling. Likes idea of finding areas for collaboration interdepartmentally and also with the public.

Commissioner Csontos summarized the discussion by saying Davis is trying to be a bike-friendly town. More information around serial number registration is key. Would like to see full participation from the community. Likes the idea of expanding the bait bike program, how to do that, and perhaps increase bait bike donations. Revising secure bike parking in standards. Need a subcommittee to focus on these things.

B. Public Comments / Communications Review

Brian Abbanat introduced the origin of this item and explained that the staff report represents comments received by the commission during the public comments item at meetings.

Commissioner Edelman commented that it's missing e-mails from people communicating with BTSSC. Would be more appropriate to have a collection of all of the comments.

Commissioner Jacobson agreed that it is valuable to aggregate all of the comments.

Commissioner Csontos commented that it makes sense to have this wrapped up with e-mail correspondence. Last year Mike Mitchell sifted through all of the correspondence, doesn't know what type of effort it requires, suspects it's a lot.

Brian Abbanat commented that this is normally a commission-led item with commissioners volunteering to assemble comments from both meetings and e-mail correspondence. A commissioner will need to step up to take this item further.

8. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar

Brian Abbanat provided an overview of future items coming to the commission. Would like to schedule a dedicated agenda item with the commission to determine if topics in the “TBD” section are still commission priorities.

Commissioner Csontos stated he’s hoping staff will bring traffic calming items to the commission on a regular basis. This is one area where commission can make real progress.

Joseph Garcia-Long responded that staff has plenty of traffic calming items to bring in the future.

Commissioner Bolte commented he would like to pull the UCD Transportation Services presentation off TBD as soon as possible. It can lay the groundwork for improving collaboration with UC Davis. Additionally, is interested in taking a global look at solving problems for wheelchair users.

B. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Edelman read a statement regarding political and professional violence exhibited against him by City Council. Council made an exceptional decision to not reappoint for another term and provided no explanation. He will fight corruption, lack of transparency, and sycophancy in the City of Davis.

Commissioner Klasson asked staff for a follow-up response to their recommendation on Catalina Drive.

Joseph Garcia-Long responded that the staff recommendation is to remove the multi-use path stop signs. Bicycles are required to yield, but not stop. Staff will take it on a case-by-case basis whether to remove stop signs at other locations.

Commissioner Klasson thanked commissioners, staff, Council liaison, and community members. Stated it’s been a great experience serving on the commission. Expressed optimism about future of commission and wished everyone the best.

Commissioner Bolte thanked departing commissioners for their service. Also, announced Yolobus is looking for applicants to its citizens advisory committee. There are vacancies for seats from each local agency, except Davis but two at-large vacancies which could be Davis residents.

C. Subcommittee Reports / Reports On Meetings Attended / Inter-jurisdictional Bodies / Inter-Commission Liaisons / etc.

No comments.

9. Adjourn

Motion (Bolte, Patel): Adjourn

Motion carries, unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.
