



Minutes
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
Davis Senior Center, Valente Room (646 A Street)
January 9, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Commission Members: Frances Andrews (Vice Chair), Timothy Csontos, Todd Edelman, Eric Gudz (Chair), Jessica Jacobson, Mike Mitchell, Ayush Patel

Council Liaisons: Brett Lee, Dan Carson (alternate)

Staff: Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner

Absences: None

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Mitchell, Csontos): Approve agenda

Motion carries unanimously

3. Proclamations for Departing Commissioners

Proclamations were read for departing commissioners Gudz and Andrews.

4. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Bike/Ped Program Update

No update this month.

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

No announcements.

C. Other Staff Announcements

Commissioner Edelman inquired about timing of Fourteenth Street demonstration project.

Brian Abbanat responded staff is targeting the last week of February to launch.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired whether the road rehabilitation item represented all the streets and paths that would receive resurfacing.

Brian Abbanat responded that the pavement rehabilitation program is comprised of three different packages: road rehabilitation (repaving), slurry seal to extend pavement

life, and multi-use path rehabilitation (repaving). The item referenced in the update road rehabilitation package.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2019

Motion (Mitchell, Patel): Approve with revisions

Motion carries unanimously.

7. Regular Items

A. Chair / Vice-Chair Elections

Commissioner Gudz introduced the item, giving an overview of responsibilities for commission leadership positions.

Chair Election:

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Vote result</i>
<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Gudz</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>6-0-1 (Edelman abstaining)</i>
<i>Csontos</i>	<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Declined</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Commissioner Mitchell was appointed Chair for 2020 calendar year by a 6-0-1 vote (Edelman abstained).

Vice-Chair Election:

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Vote Result</i>
<i>Csontos</i>	<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>5 (Gudz, Mitchell, Andrews, Jacobson, Csontos)</i>
<i>Jacobson</i>	<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Patel</i>	<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>1 (Patel)</i>

Commissioner Edelman abstained.

B. Russell Blvd Bike Path Design Review CIP No. 8286

Bob Clarke introduced the item with the following significant points:

- City's original intent was to rehab the path as-is in the existing location.
- Partnership with UCD explored moving the alignment further south with two primary benefits:
 - Get the path away from the black walnut trees to reduce surface root intrusion.
 - Construction staging will be easier since the existing path can remain open while the new one is being constructed.

Bob Clarke explained exhibits. Current proposal widens the path to 12' plus 2' "soft" recovery areas, consistent with City standards. Staff will propose an alt-bid item that would convert the recovery areas to concrete, resulting in a 16' path with recovery areas delineated.

Total project cost is estimated at less than \$1.7 million, with UC Davis is contributing \$500,000 and the City contributing \$1.0-1.2 million. Project will be bid in February or early March. UC Davis plans to plant trees to the south.

Commission Questions

Commissioner Edelman inquired whether it was better to consolidate path maintenance to one entity than split the responsibilities.

Bob Clarke responded that neither UCD nor the City wanted assume more maintenance costs than under the current arrangement.

Public Comment

Mick Klasson commented on project needs including:

- Preserving some existing pavement where southbound Lake Blvd meets the path, since Davis Bike Club meets in this location regularly
- Add southbound sidewalk on Lake Blvd
- Repaint bike lane to position it between the travel lane and turn lane.

Collin Walsh expressed appreciation for fixing the path. Stated the project needs improved crosswalks. Inquired what measures are being taken to protect the trees during demolition and should go to the tree commission. Inquired whether the \$500k from UCD was coming from the LRDP MOU.

Diane Swann commented the path should be wider, suggesting 18 feet. Pedestrians have taken over the multi-use path.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Jacobson is aware of evening crime occurring on the path and whether any improvement in illumination will accompany the project.

Bob Clarke responded not at this time, though they could look at increasing the wattage of the existing fixtures as a stand-alone item. Community has expressed concerns about effects on wildlife with the citywide LED switchover, so has some hesitation about increasing brightness.

Commissioner Andrews stated she has waited a long time for this project and surprised a major accident hasn't occurred. Supports moving path to the south. Cited issues with lighting maintenance being a problem, including burned-out bulbs or blockage from tree limbs. Prefers no decomposed granite in recovery zone.

Commissioner Edelman commented the design wasn't available until 1/3. More time and field trips could help inform. Short review time prevents from making the project as best as can be. No diagrams or visualizations for everyday citizens to understand. Stated 12 feet isn't a wide enough path, most UCD paths are wider. Path is not future-proofed for the needs of people using e-bikes. The separated ped zone won't work. City should slow down Russell Blvd in general. Project is taking character of a linear park and needs amenities such as water fountain, benches, and entrance feature.

Motion (Edelman): I propose that as before the individual elements can be supported on their own, or multiple ones, or some rejected. The Bicycling, Transportation and Street Safety recommends that the Russell Blvd bike path design is modified to include:

- 1. A physically-separated path, ideally with a permeable surface for people running, walking, using wheelchairs and other typical users of a sidewalk or path where cycling is not allowed;*
- 2. A cycling path - i.e. a Class IV facility - wider than 12 ft;*
- 3. Within the project itself or as a subsequent measure creating a slower design speed compared to the currently posted 30 mph modifications to Russell Blvd ;*
- 4. As narrow as possible pedestrian crossings of Russell Blvd.;*
- 5. That some features should be included: Namely a welcoming feature at the west end for cyclists arriving from that direction, a off-path waiting, bench, water fountain and porty-potty for recreational cyclists who congregate near Lake, and a second water fountain at the eastern end near Arthur, plus some additional south-facing benches.*
- 6. That the Staff Report created for the review of this proposal by the City Council includes visualizations.*
- 7. That the final approval is a Regular Item, rather than a Consent Item, for City Council and that any bid the goes out reflects any updates to the 2016 Street Standards which are adapted by that time.*

Bob Clarke added that items requested by commission could be considered as stand-alone enhancements. Expressed a desire to not delay bidding as bids are lowest at this time of year and become more expensive later. Staff sees this project as a state of good repair project and not a major enhancement/improvement project.

Mayor Lee addressed public comment question regarding UCD project contribution source, stating the \$500,000 was separately earmarked in the MOU for this project.

Bob Clarke addressed public comment question regarding tree protection during existing path demotion by stating staff is working with the City arborist.

Motion fails (lack of second).

Commissioner Mitchell recommended addressing crosswalks.

Bob Clarke responded ADA improvements will be required, which will include truncated domes at crossings and refreshed striping at crosswalks.

Commissioner Mitchell also stated a preference for 16 feet of pavement. Does not like

decomposed granite. Recommended reaching out to the running community and potentially explore keeping existing paths for pedestrians as the ideal is to separate bikes & peds.

Bob Clarke summarized commission comments:

- Paved and recovery area should be 16 feet wide.
- Look into lighting
- Future project enhancements
- Bid alternative for pedestrian facility on Lake Blvd to cross Russell Blvd

C. Discussion of Forthcoming Traffic Calming Items

Bob Clarke opened the item with the key topics to discuss:

1. Interpretation of recently approved traffic calming program guidelines criteria.
Specifically:
 - Vehicle speeds
 - Collision history
 - Street segment on SRTS route
 - Street segment on transit route
 - Proximity to specific land uses
2. Intent to jump start implementation at locations with well-known traffic calming needs.
Program guideline timing of twice per year could be applied after addressing the significant existing backlog.

Public Comment

Jon Watterson commented that the BTSSC Traffic Calming subcommittee spent six months developing a quantitative approach to traffic calming. Look at what many other cities are doing and ended of with a hybrid of those. Program guidelines were intended to emphasize speed, proximity to schools, institutional uses, which would elevate prioritization. Applying the criteria would reflect the relative danger.

Commission Discussion

Mayor Lee commented that the prior traffic calming program was overly simplistic and arbitrarily filtered out locations based on average daily traffic volume. The intent of the new traffic calming program criteria was to immediately test on street segments and see if the weighting works for prioritizing. Program was never tested for any differentiation.

Commissioner Csontos commented this could be a long discussion and should have a smaller group discuss and then bring back to the commission.

Commissioner Andrews supported reconstituting the Traffic Calming subcommittee.

Commissioner Mitchell stated that the program was a work in progress and could be modified as we go. Suggested not trying to tackle tonight but come back in a relatively short time.

Commissioner Edelman inquired if the guidelines address traffic impact displacement.

Bob Clarke commented that ideally, they would look at “corridor”/spillover effects, even if just 3-4 blocks.

Commissioner Edelman referenced future state legislation that would allow for local control to lower speed limits.

Bob Clarke summarized that the Traffic Calming program exists as a CIP and is generally funded at \$100,000/year. Emphasized the difference between traffic calming and traffic safety, and that most of the 100+ requests are the latter. Traffic calming was intended to deal with speeding and high volume cut-throughs in residential neighborhoods. Staff is currently filtering the traffic concerns received and a decision tree will be shared when this topic returns to the commission.

Commissioner Gudz asked for staff to explain how some locations made the cut and others didn't, when the item returns to the commission.

Commissioner Edelman commented that there is no traffic calming reference on the City website and whether development fees can be increased or earmarked for traffic calming.

Mayor Lee responded that no major changes in development fees except using bedrooms as the metric rather residential unit. Added that existing funding amount can be adjusted, if needed.

Bob Clarke added that the General Plan Update is a typical process for reconsidering impact fees, which the City intends to initiate in the next year or two.

8. Recommendation of Commissioner Dismissal

Commissioner Gudz introduced the item. Stated the topic was discussed at length in the November meeting and the issue has taken a lot of the commission's time.

Public Comment

Alan Pryor commented this commission has a long habit of challenging the status quo and sees Todd as representing that vision. This commission is not as active as others. Todd does not go along to get along. Referenced Brown act issue and stated to be careful what you wish for. Questioned whether proper procedures are being followed.

Jon Hess commented that Todd is a valuable commission member who has a wealth of knowledge. Does not support removal.

Collin Walsh commented Todd is an important member of the commission. Chair should act as a neutral arbiter. Commission should support different points of view.

Roberta Millstein read a prepared letter and commented commissioners should be tolerant of each other. Stated Todd is sincere, knowledgeable and the last person who should be dismissed. Stated Todd has not been given time since the censure for a decision to be made.

Trish Price commented this is an extraordinary step and is irreversible. City needs people like Todd and him, specifically. Stated appreciation for the expertise he brings.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mitchell stated that, to the public, this may seem like a sudden move but has been a longstanding issue. This is not a question of knowledge or different point of view. Stated as chair he spent hours trying to help commissioner Edelman prepare motions that could be supported and to effectively participate in the commission. Stated the commission is at a tipping point.

Commissioner Andrews stated that she respects commissioner Edelman and appreciates his knowledge. Noted that commissions meet once a month and has to be able to accomplish things. When commissioners feel their time is not respected and other peoples' time is not respected, it doesn't feel like a commission.

Commissioner Csontos stated the commission is not getting things done. Meetings should be condensed, quick, and working in smaller groups.

Commissioner Edelman stated the item proposed had no detail for people to understand and he is asking for information. He offered this meeting as an example for improvement. Stated an apology was made in November. Feels he has been productive in forming 2-3 subcommittees and has had good interactions at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Jacobson echoed the need for getting things done. Appreciates commissioner Edelman's contributions and leans to giving more time since today's meeting was effective.

Commissioner Edelman commented that topics being delayed on the long range calendar are erroneous to attribute to him.

Commission Patel stated he shares frustrations with commissioners.

Recommendation to dismiss Commissioner Edelman vote follows:

<i>Vote Type</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>
<i>Aye</i>	<i>Gudz, Mitchell, Csontos, Patel</i>
<i>No</i>	<i>Jacobson, Edelman</i>
<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Andrews</i>
<i>Final Vote</i>	<i>4-2-1</i>

Commissioner Edelman inquired how this item goes forward.

Mayor Lee stated the action taken by the BTSSC is a recommendation to Council. It is up to Council to consider. It will not be on this Tuesday's agenda.

9. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Add Traffic Calming to TBD list.

Add Mace Blvd 30% to list.

Add Transportation Services Director presentation to list

B. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Patel shared he met with the new Transportation Services Director, Perry Eggleston. Believes he has a collaborative approach and is willing to come speak to the commission.

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

No reports.

10. Adjourn

Motion (Andrews, Csontos): Adjourn meeting

Motion carries, 7-0.
