



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

Commissioners Present: Joe Bolte (alternate), Timothy Csontos (Chair), Todd Edelman, Lizzy Hare, Jessica Jacobson (Vice Chair), Mick Klasson, Ayush Patel

Council Liaisons Present: Brett Lee

Staff: Brian Abbanat, Bob Clarke, Jennifer Donofrio, Joseph Garcia-Long

Absences: David Soule, Dan Carson (alternate)

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: 6-1 (Edelman dissents)

3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Bike/Ped Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, gave an update on program activities:

- Final walkthrough of e-lockers at train station for second floor of lockers. Racks have been operational since June.
- Update on wayfinding project: fabrication and installation are coming soon.
- Bicycle-friendly community application is due October 1st

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

Brett Lee commented he's glad to see the commission is moving forward with a lot of items.

C. Other Staff Announcements

No additional comments from staff.

Commissioner Edelman commented on Transportation staff's presentation to the NRC. Seemed like something a missed opportunity for the BTSSC given many of the commissions' goals are in alignment.

Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner, responded that the presentation given to the NRC is nearly identical to the one that was scheduled for the September BTSSC meeting, but which is postponed to November.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Minutes: July 9, 2020**
- B. Transportation Implementation Plan Final Report**
- C. Davis Amtrak Access and Connections Study**
- D. League of American Bicyclists Bicycle-Friendly Community Application**
- E. BTSSC Facilitated Discussion with Commissioner Edelman**
- F. Proposed No Parking Restrictions on Berryessa Lane**

Commissioner Edelman pulls Agenda Items #5D and #5E.

Agenda Item #5D: Expressed concerns about inconsistency with responses in the City's LAB application.

Agenda Item #5E: Commented that the topic was a super serious thing that still has some loose ends. Does not characterize process as a success. Wants to make sure the ideas are incorporated into the Commission Handbook update process. Wanted to go on the record about his feelings. Hopefully can re-engage with YCRC and departed commission members.

Motion (Patel, Bolte): Approve consent agenda.

Motion carries unanimously.

6. Regular Items

A. Proposed No Overnight Parking Restrictions on segment of Marina Drive

Joseph Garcia-Long, Asso introduced the agenda item. Original request was for permit parking. Staff recommendation is to establish no-overnight parking restrictions.

Commissioner Bolte inquired how the recommended parking restriction relates to the problem raised and whether restrictions here will shift the problem to other locations.

Joseph Garcia-Long responded that overnight parking is closely associated with noise. However, staff does not want to be too restrictive to public parking access during the day. Shifting the problem to adjacent block faces is a concern.

Commissioner Klasson asked about residents' preferences.

Joseph Garcia-Long responded that staff held a community meeting where residents favor the staff recommendation. Something is better than nothing.

Public Comment:

Stu Ross: 506 Marina Circle, favors the proposed changes. Stated it may also help with cars making quick right turn onto Marina at night where visibility is reduced. Parking is spillover from apartment buildings.

Sevgi Leno: Original complaint. Explained conditions and need for requested parking restrictions: Night time parkers come 6-8pm and will leave cars multiple days. Blocks residence frontage parking. Coming and going all through the night. Making noise complaints has been ineffective in the past because resources are stretched too thin. Solution will improve conditions.

Michelle Byars: Expressed concerned when we limit civic access to civic spaces. Can't imagine going to City Council requesting parking restrictions due to car doors opening and closing. In favor of new parking on Lake Blvd

Stu Ross: In favor of new parking on west side of Lake.

Commission Discussion:

Councilmember Lee provided some background context, recalling that the Trees Apartments started charging for parking. He also referenced that the Council just approved UMal development where the BTSSC recommended to limit amount of residential parking, to tilt towards a car-lite lifestyle. However, this doesn't work if people can just park in adjacent neighborhood. UMal is surrounded by permit parking, whereas this location is not, causing spillover effects.

Commissioner Bolte commented that City Council has made important decisions to go car-free. If it's open season on adjacent parking, there will be more competition for parking. This is a textbook problem and a textbook solution.

Commissioner Klasson understood the concern brought to the BTSSC. Many in Davis face this problem. Believes that on-street parking is public space but thinks this is a fair approach.

Commissioner Edelman commented that preferential parking district is likely a more appropriate tool, but if it can't be enforced in more distant areas, that is a problem that should be addressed, potentially with high fees, or parking methodology updates. There's a larger discussion of bicycle and car parking in existing apartments that needs to be addressed in the long term.

Motion: Establish no overnight parking on Marina Circle (Patel, Klasson)

Motion carries: 6-2 (Bolte, Edelman dissenting)

Commission discussion focused on relative safety of angled versus parallel parking on Lake Blvd.

Staff believes stated that angled parking is accompanied by accepted safety implications due to reduced sightlines and adjacency to bike lane.

Commissioner Klasson expressed concern about angled parking at this location. Inquired if this is a candidate location for back-in angled parking.

Commissioner Edelman noted that providing angled parking results in a non-standard bike lane width. Combined with backing vehicles is a non-starter for angled on-street parking. Narrowing bike lane to below standards, with high speeds, and cars backing out is not a good recipe.

Commissioner Jacobson commented that overnight parking restrictions and replacement location issues are linked. If we don't provide additional parking on Lake, then we are pushing the problem to other block faces.

Bob Clarke, Public Works Engineering & Transportation Director, commented that staff's intent was to see if parking could be replaced somewhere. The diagram shows it's possible, but with tradeoffs. Preference is to pursue the no overnight parking restriction and see what happens. If evidence shows parking impacts spill deeper into the residential neighborhood, then staff could bring the item back to the commission to consider pursuing adding parking on this section of Lake Blvd.

Commissioner Edelman commented he would have liked this item to have had more publicity, more exposure to Davis Bike Club. Convenient parking is nice, but safe cycling is more important and should be prioritized. Apartment complex should not export their impacts onto the street.

Commissioner Jacobson departs meeting.

B. Request to Change Permit Parking Restrictions on South Campus Way

Joey Garcia-Long introduced item.

Commissioner Klasson stated it was noteworthy that the solution for a similar complaint was almost the diametric opposite of the solution favored at Marina Circle. Proposed an extension of the designated preferential parking hours to 6:30 p.m. to allow most people to park after work without the streets being crowded by non-stickered parkers. If that proves inadequate, we could consider it again for a later extension up to the 10 p.m. in the original request or another intermediate step.

Commissioner Bolte expressed concern about doing transportation policy street-by-street or segment-by-segment. Would like to examine which other similar districts should also be changed to similar restrictions.

Bob Clarke commented that staff can bring back a separate topic of preferential parking districts. The issue of having a consistent time restriction misses the factors that created the districts. However, it's a good topic for a broader discussion in the future.

C. UC Davis Proposed widening of Russell Blvd MU Path at SR-113

Bob Clarke introduced item. Described design tradeoffs, short-term benefits versus long term visioning that will look at the corridor more comprehensively.

Commissioner Edelman asked about this project's relationship to the Russell Blvd Corridor Study, it's timing, and funding.

Bob Clarke responded that no funding is provided for implementation of the Russell Blvd Corridor Plan and that three years is likely the soonest any component of that project would break ground.

Public Comment:

Michelle Byars: Anything to improve that right of way I approve. Why is it not on the north side also.

Bob Clarke responded that campus interest is on south side and project is a mitigation for their Long Range Development Plan.

Kurt Wengler, UC Davis Design and Construction Management, added that they want to make the existing multi-use path safer by adding a sidewalk. The north side doesn't have a bi-directional path. Project focus is on connectivity for West Village residents.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Klasson stated support for the design and does not want to preclude on-street bike lanes in the future. Proposed changes would be an excellent improvement.

Commissioner Edelman expressed concern that we're going forward with fixes at same time we are starting a long term vision. Questions going forward with projects without necessary discussion and revisions of street design standards. Doesn't understand why traffic lanes are still so wide. Would support if bikeway was a couple feet wider and street was narrowed.

Commissioner Bolte supported comments about lane narrowing.

Bob Clarke commented the lane width is 13' from 17' to widen path by 4'. Could ask UCD to paint a white edge stripe for an 11' lane. Restriping Russell Blvd travel lane widths would be addressed in a broader project.

Kurt Wengler offered to paint a white edge stripe. However, pushing the path further out limits future options.

Commissioner Edelman commented the design doesn't make sense as presented.

Bob Clarke responded the primary reason for bringing to commission is to ask if this beneficial to the community while we work on the larger corridor plan? Staff believes so. We wanted to see if commission had strong reservations. Current street standards say bike lanes and multi-use path for an arterial street. That type of conversation will fit into Russell Blvd Corridor Plan. UCD is proposing some safety and mitigation and touches City's area of influence in a very small 200' stretch.

Commissioner Edelman doesn't want to stop the project but doesn't like the way this has been handled. Commission should have seen design earlier. Traffic lanes should be standard width.

Councilmember Lee commented that on Russell Blvd there is a desire for vehicular cyclists to have some sort of a shoulder. Many cyclists, particularly Davis Bike Club uses the shoulder. The issue is reminiscent of Covell/L situation.

Motion (Edleman, Bolte): BTSSC recommends implementation of design in the report with one modification to narrow #2 traffic lane to street standards and add width to bikeway.

Motion Fails, 3-3. (Csontos, Patel, Klasson dissenting)

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar

Brian Abbanat gave an update on the Long Range Calendar.

Commissioner Edelman raised the topic of the Open Letter by commissioners & public members asking for changes in City process. NRC approved a version for the City Council, who has already responded and will look into agendizing it. BTSSC had issues with how DISC was handled. City Council subcommittee refused to meet with BTSSC subcommittee. Would like to agendize open letter for brief discussion at next meeting.

Commissioner Edelman also raised continuing items. Existing Long Range Calendar items keep getting pushed back. Essential to look at street design standards/intersections before the Russell Blvd Corridor Plan starts. Propose having a discussing about this sometime soon.

Commissioner Hare stated the subcommittee to work on DISC baseline features worked well and could be applied to the street design standards/intersections.

Commissioner Bolte supports the idea of addressing long term issues in subcommittees. Have discussion about big picture priorities.

Motion (Edelman, Hare): BTSSC would like to discuss support of NRC's support of open letter on improving City of Davis decision-making and agendize as soon as possible.

Bob Clarke commented the City Manager is working to bring this item to City Council. Perhaps CMO initial staff response might be instructive prior to discussing as a commission.

Friendly amendment (Patel): Wait until we hear City Manager's report to Council on this topic.

Friendly amendment accepted by Commissioners Edelman and Hare.

Motion carries unanimously

Add subcommittee for street design/intersection standards to October agenda.

B. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Klasson stated the BTSSC received e-mail from member of public on bicycle theft. Several thefts occurred recently on camera. Impression is Police Department cannot do much because County DA will not prosecute.

Jennifer Donofrio responded the County DA confirmed they are absolutely prosecuting bike thefts. Police Department is initiating a bike bait program. Activities are occurring to help curtail bike theft. Jennifer also responded to the resident directly giving suggestions for better bicycling security. Starting to see better bike parking at schools.

Commissioner Edelman commented he invited people to write to the commission. An issue remains of different bicycle standards at existing and new developments. Apartments all over town with inadequate parking facilities and are inviting to thieves. Will there be political support for requiring existing apartments and commercial centers to convert to parking standard rather than putting the burden entirely onto bicycle users. Want to help solve this as best as we can. There is a public complement to this issue. Need to reestablish subcommittee for this purpose.

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

Commissioner Patel shared that UAC renewed Title VI assistance (language translation services) at their July meeting. Unitrans received \$2 million through CARES act and will put the funding toward electric buses.

8. Adjourn

Motion (Patel, Bolte): Adjourn

Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.