



Minutes
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
April 8, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Joe Bolte, Austin Brown, Timothy Csontos (Chair), Lizzy Hare, Jessica Jacobson (Vice Chair), Brook Ostrom (alternate), Ayush Patel, David Soule

Council Present: Josh Chapman, Gloria Partida (alternate)

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

Absent: None

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Soule, Bolte): Approve agenda

Brian Abbanat noted that Caltrans staff needed to cancel their presentation, so Item #6A will be postponed to a later meeting.

Motion carries, unanimously.

3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Bike/Ped Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio

- Bike Loop markers being replaced before the Loopalooza event. UCD being given markers to install.
- In-class school starting up April 12th
- Chavez bike swap on April 25th
- Wayfinding signs are starting to be installed in south Davis and east Davis

Commissioner Csontos suggested the BTSSC do a ride-along together.

Brian Abbanat stated this could be noticed as a Special Meeting.

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

Councilmember Chapman announced that on April 20th, City Council will vote for historic bicycle lane designations for four original bike lanes:

- Third Street from B Street to K Street;
- J Street from Third Street to Eighth Street
- Sycamore Lane from Russell Boulevard to West Eighth Street
- West Eighth from Sycamore to A Street

C. Other Staff Announcements

Brian Abbanat reminded the commission of the packet attachment regarding AB 922 Brown Act, use of social media. Also summarized recommended SACOG grant awards for City projects.

Commissioner Bolte inquired why SACOG did not fund the Tulip & Ponteverde project.

Brian Abbanat stated that SACOG usually provides explanations for their recommendations but that information is not yet available.

4. Public Comment

Alan Hirsch commented on the importance of the public to have ways of contacting commissions directly, including subcommittee members. Requested subcommittees be identified on the City commission web pages.

Todd Edelman commented that he would like to have all subcommittee names available on the website. A good way for the public to engage the subcommittees. Everyone on commission has seen issues with debris in bike lane. Continues to occur. Ultimately, it's the City's responsibility. Would like commission to send signal to Council that any transgression of this regulation is immediately defined as a hazard and moved to a priority list. City has a good law that's not being enforced. Would not be tolerated for any vehicle lane to be blocked by debris. Whatever commission can do would be great.

Nico Fauchier Magnan commented that Fifth Street between L Street and Pole Line is a big gap in the bike network. City can leverage the project currently under construction, to combine that project with bike infrastructure. Recognized that timing is short, Bike Davis has jump started a process to hire a consultant to prepare a conceptual design. Next step is to collaborate with staff and discuss next steps. Hope to have a more formal presentation to BTSSC next month.

5. Consent Calendar

Motion (Bolte, Hare): Approve consent calendar.

Motion carries, unanimously

6. Regular Items

A. I-80 Corridor Managed Lanes Project Presentation

Item postponed to a later meeting.

B. Update on Open Air Davis

Sarah Worley introduced the project and gave a presentation updating the commission on the Open Air Davis program. Presentation topics included:

- Overview
- Implementation
- Winterization
- Impacts
- How Long Will Outdoor Dining Continue?
- Considerations

Commission Questions

Commissioner Brown inquired how the Downtown Plan contemplates open air and car-free space and if there is geographic overlap with the Open Air Davis program.

Sarah Worley summarized the consistencies and differences between the Downtown Plan and Open Air Davis program.

Commissioner Csontos asked about the Downtown Plan's timing assumption for converting the E Street Plaza into a public square.

Sarah Worley responded that the Downtown Plan had a rigorous public outreach process. Open Air Davis was taken as an urgent action, and folks who would be less tolerant are accepting of it because of the pandemic and hardships experienced by other businesses.

Private property owners affect timeframe for implementation such as when and where they want to invest in redevelopment.

Commissioner Bolte inquire if parking removal complaints are coming from certain types of businesses and whether the City is collecting data that can shed light on this based on the Open Air Davis program.

Sarah Worley responded the City has not collected data. Davis Downtown staff have received complaints and concerns from businesses.

Commissioner Jacobson expressed interest in seeing data from the community and how to get feedback from the community to continue with some of the positive things we're hearing.

Public Comment

Alan Hirsch commented that trees are really important. Surveyed downtown and 80 places where trees are missing. Other locations where trees are inappropriate or are too small. Compared Davis

trees with Sacramento and Paris. We can do better. Trees are important to make downtown walkable and shopable.

Todd Edelman commented that repurposing of public car storage to people use has been amazing. Language is important: street is being opened, not closed. Hopefully signs can be changed to something more inviting yet compliant as regulatory for vehicles.

Nico Fauchier Magnan noted the contrast in public engagement between the Downtown Plan and this emergency program. Its clear people want to keep the space. Continue program through transition out of pandemic. Expects response will continue to be positive.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Brown stated the commission should think really hard about this as a potential opportunity. Free public parking is just about the worst conceivable use of public space. Hundreds of experiences and examples that business success increases when we take back some of the public space. The vast majority of our space is designed and intended for cars. There will be more of a fight to convert back if we don't continue it now. Think about using CARES act funding.

Commissioner Jacobson stated it would be a good idea to conduct a survey of the population. Can do long term outreach or as an alternative, can consider iterative design to build on the existing project.

Commissioner Bolte agreed with prior comments and that a lot of synergy exists with downtown Plan, traffic safety goals, and climate goals. Agreed with public commenter that signs should be welcoming. Would like to see efforts continue.

Commissioner Csontos commented that Davis is a smaller city and should be so much more nimble. There's a moment right now, to capture this opportunity to emphasize that we support this use of space. But we don't have a lot of data.

Brian Abbanat commented that the commission hasn't heard a wide range of community input, particularly from the downtown business community and encouraged the commission to weigh in when they have as informed an opinion as possible.

Sarah Worley added that the City would work with Davis Downtown and Chamber of Commerce in conducting a survey. Emphasized the importance of using an intentional process that incorporates all of the voices at a time when businesses can focus on it. There won't be an overnight termination of the program, because there's a strong interest.

Councilmember Chapman echoed some process concerns. Has spent 10 years in parking-related conversations. Supports process issues that are being raised. Different businesses have different needs. Lots of different opinions about use of open space. Encouraged coordinating with the DDBA.

Commissioner Bolte understands this is a touchy subject. Commented that the BTSSC advises on matters of safety, the things we're discussing are not controversial. Parking management is no

different than that. Commented that it seems like a deep sign of disfunction that this is a controversial matter, how much space is dedicated to motor vehicle parking.

Motion (Brown, Soule): Commission expresses support for Open Air Davis program as implemented and appreciate staff and community for bringing it about. Requests City Council consider process and engagement with commission before any effort to end the program.

Councilmember Chapman referenced Sarah Worley's BTSSC staff report excerpt on process moving forward.

Motion carries, unanimously.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar

Brian Abbanat summarized the Long Range Calendar.

Public Comment

Todd Edelman requested more information from Caltrans when they return for their presentation on the I-80 Managed Lane project.

B. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Bolte announced that Yolobus was awarded SACOG requested grant for double-frequency on the 42A/B routes. Service will increase from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes.

Commissioner Patel announced that the Unitrans Advisory Committee will be voting on service changes at upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Csontos reminded the commissioners about Bike Loopalooza on May 2nd. Staff will establish rules for the commission to do this together.

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

No comments.

8. Adjourn

Motion (Bolte, Brown): Adjourn

Motion carries, unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:29 p.m.
