



**Minutes**  
**Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)**  
**September 9, 2021**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Timothy Csontos (Chair), Jessica Jacobson (Vice Chair), Francois Kaepelin, Krasen Kovachev, Brook Ostrom

Council Liaisons Present: Josh Chapman

Staff Present: Brian Abbanat, Bob Clarke, Kevin Fong, Daniela Tavares

Absences: Lizzy Griffith

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**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Motion (Kovachev): Approve Agenda.*

*Motion carries, unanimously.*

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons**

**A. Bike/Ped Program Update**

Jennifer Donofrio is on vacation and will provide an update next month.

**B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements**

Councilmember Chapman encourages to promote Healthy Davis Together to fight COVID-19. There has been significant drop in testing. Council meeting importance of testing whether vaccinated. Action on Tuesday for 5 month . Date project applicant dates are already set out. A lot of construction in City Traffic calming measures. Construction happening with work.

**C. Other Staff Announcements**

Brian Abbanat introduced Daniela Tavares as the new Safe Routes to School Coordinator.

Daniela Tavares briefly shared her background and happy to be part of the team.

Brian Abbanat reminded commissioners of the Davis Innovation and Sustainability Center memo that explained the development process. Commissions will have an

opportunity to establish a subcommittee to review, but the BTSSC will have to wait until October since the announcement was made after the agenda and packet posted. Also, an open recruitment is out to fill vacancies on City commissions. Unitrans Advisory Committee and the BTSSC have one and two vacancies, respectively.

#### **4. Public Comment**

No Public comment

#### **5. Consent Calendar**

*Motion (Kovachev, Jacobson): Approve Consent Agenda.*

*Motion carries, unanimously*

#### **6. Regular Items**

##### **A. Richards / I-80 Interchange Update**

Kevin Fong introduced project, explained projects goals including

- Project is reconfiguring clover leaf configuration. Modifying the intersection, Richards Park.
- Existing bus stop relocating north side, no tree removed. Existing WB I-80 ramps, clover leaf orientation of on/off ramp.
- Overpass heading southbound 2-3 lane 7' bike land Type 4 multi-use w/ Bicycle/pedestrian separation.
- Timeline

#### Commission Questions

Commissioner Jacobson inquired on the timeline.

Kevin Fong responded that 95% Submittal will be submitted November to Caltrans, 100% for June-August, bid/construction 2023, completion date.

Commissioner Kovachev asked about the on-ramp removal at Olive Drive.

Kevin Fong responded the existing off-ramp is closed due to the Pole Line Road / Olive Drive connection. Considering leaving it closed.

Commissioner Csontos inquired about the path on the west side. Asked if the path is going underneath the highway or going over.

Kevin Fong responded that is will be a tunnel.

Brian Abbanat added the path will be comfortably wide facility for those who are not comfortable to riding in Class II bike lane. This was based on prior input received from the BTSSC.

Commissioner Jacobson commented supported the grade separated crossing without interacting with freeway off-ramp.

Commissioner Csontos commented on the proposed design as world class and great design.

Commissioner Kaepplin stated that he is looking forward to how the project turns out.

### Public Comments

No public comments

### **B. Pole Line Road Intersection Design Concepts**

- Donner Ave
- Picasso Ave
- Loyola Dr

Bob Clarke stated that he is aware of community concerns and is staff looking at these intersection and safety improvements before the northern part of corridor repaved next year. Want to get input before design team gets too deep into design to capture all the issues. Opportunity to see design as it progresses, a final opportunity to review this winter. Want to get ideas and issues up front.

Bob Clark introduced the three intersection locations, issues the design concepts are trying to improve, and short-/long-term options. Stated after receiving commission input, staff is getting ready for a design consultant to start looking at design details. These concepts are a starting point, but staff is interested in commissioners' comments to pass on to consultants.

### Commission Questions

Commissioner Ostrom inquired about the Loyola Dr. wayfinding paint, an all stop phase for bike traffic.

Bob Clarke responded the signal phasing has an all stop for motorist, allowing bike/pedestrians make movements. Commented about markings, stating too much can confuse people.

Commissioner Jacobson inquired if there would be opportunities to turn around at the intersection.

The geometry of the roadway will not ideally support the movement of a U-turn. Something to consider and/or provide No U-turn signage. U-turns are not typically high demand in this location (staff note: U-turns are prohibited from SB to NB Pole Line Road).

Commissioner Csontos inquired if Donner Ave short term improvements assume paint and to explain the timeframe between short and long term.

Bob Clarke responded that nothing is proposed, just starting the design effort. Need to move forward on design to coordinate with pavement rehabilitation project, but depends on cost of preferred design concept. Design will move

forward in the fall and bidding this winter. Limited window to make safety design.

Commissioner Csontos about the Loyola Dr. intersection. Part of Commissioners recommendations in part projects has been have to take out trees. Is there an opportunity to add greenery on east side of Loyola Ave for planting? Convert to add shrubs/trees?

Bob Clarke responded this is an excellent point. There is an opportunity to do more than just bicycling. Clara Lane has already been closed off, has mature trees, and opportunities to plant more trees and a bench. Always a challenging issue with Parks and Community Services, not enough resources to maintain, but will look into that.

Commissioner Kovachev expressed that proposed Picasso Ave. and Donner Ave. designs with lots of current traffic will make all intersections safer. Has personally used it a lot. Loyola Dr. is his only concern.

Commissioner Csontos expressed that the designs are great and improve safety. Prefers to pursue the long-term objective, painting just is not enough, shorten the throat. Drivers do not like to hit curbs.

Commissioner Csontos expressed he appreciates this presentation.

#### Public Comment

No public comment

### **C. BTSSC Subcommittees**

Bob Clark introduced the item and staff reasoning for expanding the scope of the existing Traffic Calming and Residential Permit Parking subcommittee and establishing a new Traffic Safety subcommittee in the staff recommendations.

- Traffic Calming and Residential Permit Parking Subcommittee Scope Revision

#### Commission Questions

Commissioner Csontos confusing seems to be going to what we were doing before with some committees.

Bob Clarke added that the wording changing is in red, with deletions with strikethrough, for consideration. Full commission to agree with the full scope and amend for the subcommittee.

Commissioner Csontos supported get these subcommittees back on track.

#### Public Comment

No public comment

### Commission Comments

No commission comments.

*Motion (Ostrom, Csontos): Approve language changes/recommendation #1,*

*Motion carries, unanimously.*

- Establish Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review and make recommendations to update Chapter 22 of the City's Municipal Code

### Commission Questions

Commissioner Jacobson inquired how efficiently is this done where and how will public provide input and how that could occur.

Bob Clarke responded most of the issues come from the community already and are directly in contact on site or involved. Staff reach out with traffic calming and work with nearby neighbors. If it is a larger community issue, it should be brought to public forum or staff create a public neighborhood meeting. Staff would exercise judgment. List shows small streets, smaller neighborhoods. Would not involve larger design. Easily implemented and if not can easily bring to commission.

Bob Clarke added that small committee will help will scoping the process, consultation will help define those lines.

Commissioner Kaepelin volunteered for subcommittee.

Commissioner Csontos volunteered. Can also sign Commissioner Griffith up since she is not here, will check off-line.

### Public Comment

No public comment

*Motion (Csontos, Kovachev): Approve scope and need for ad hoc subcommittee*

*Motion carries, unanimously*

## **7. Commission and Staff Communications**

### **A. Long Range Calendar**

Brian Abbanat reviewed the Long Range Calendar with the commission. New items will include a return of Pole Line Road intersections design and option to establish DiSC development subcommittee.

Brian Abbanat also added that he and Jennifer Donofrio are working with UC Davis on how a Request For Proposals would look on bicycle share and micromobility. Hope to bring this to the BTSSC in November-December timeframe.

## **B. Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Jacobson inquired about biking on Pole Line Rd and the construction going on and all the painting. Barriers are in and with orange poles which really felt as a good separation for children from traffic, even though they are plastic. Any thoughts to take busier streets such as Eighth and Fifth Streets and provide dividers between bike and traffic.

Brian Abbanat responded that the City looks at corridors more holistically and their appropriateness depends on several criteria. They are challenging to install in single-family residential neighborhoods because of the number of driveways, impacted sight lines for residents backing out, and effect on parking. We have been hesitant to install protective features on those streets. He referenced projects where Class IV protected bike lanes are included in the design assumptions, such as Fourteenth Street and Anderson Road. Maintenance is also a challenge as they get knocked over and need to be replaced. We don't have the staff to have to go out there and continuously replace.

Bob Clarke added that the street context is important. Covell Blvd, for example, does not have a lot of driveways so could be a candidate for Class IV protected bike lanes, but a segment of the bike community was not supportive since cyclists wanting a lower stress option can use the multiuse path. Cyclists comfortable on the street feel it is important to get out of the bike lane if a hazard is in the lane, which is more difficult with delineators. Agrees with maintenance, fiscal and commitment issue and conversation. Staff is open to a discussion with the commission on this topic.

Commissioner Jacobson announced she returned from Fort Collins Colorado where she got in touch with the Bike/Ped Coordinator. Education program at school has a stock of bicycles that is taken to school. Was impressed with the variety of bikes they had available for students (cargo bike, quads). They also rent a parking lot from church and provide it as a training area on how to manage different traffic situations.

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

Brian Abbanat mentioned that Unitrans has a shortage of drivers due to the COVID pandemic. Unitrans will adjust the schedule and have Yolobus substitute service on three routes Unitrans usually travels on. However, staff just learned Yolobus does not have the capacity to do the three routes, so further discussions are pending.

Commissioner Kaepelin commented that Yolobus will adopt their new schedule on November 2. Route 42 will stay on Fifth Street MU all the way to Alhambra before turning onto Mace Blvd and I-80 to Sacramento. One-hour headways will be increased

to half-hour. Brian mentioned that it was brought to the BTSSC back in Spring.

**8. Adjourn**

*Motion (Csontos, Kovachev): Adjourn meeting.*

*Motions carries, unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm