



Minutes
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
November 4, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Timothy Csontos (Chair), Jessica Jacobson (Vice Chair), Krasen Kovachev, Debapriya Chakraborty, Timothy Hughes

Council Liaisons Present: None

Staff Present: Brian Abbanat

Absences: Brook Ostrom, Lizzy Griffith

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

2. Welcome New Commissioners and Oath of Office

Debapriya Chakraborty introduced herself. She is a professional researcher working at UC Davis ITS focused on electric vehicles since 2018. She is excited to be a part of the commission with her background and research.

Timothy Hughes is a graduate student at UC Davis Transportation Studies. He has experience working with City Council members in previous places he lived.

Both Debapriya Chakraborty and Timothy Hughes read the oath of office.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Kovachev, Jacobson): Approve Agenda.

Motion carries, unanimously.

4. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Bike/Ped Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio is on vacation and did not provide an update.

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

No update.

C. Other Staff Announcements

Brian Abbanat shared that the demonstration project for 14th Street will be installed tomorrow from Oak to B Street. This is a one-week temporary design to test the intersection of Oak and 14th Street and the two-way cycle track. There is a community survey to share your thoughts.

Commissioner Jacobson asked about collecting data. Brian Abbanat shared that consultants are conducting traffic counts, observations, and a community survey. Both qualitative and quantitative will be collected and evaluated.

5. Public Comment

Alan Hirsch invited members to Yolo Mobility Group and to join Yolo Mobility email. Alan has concerns with reimagine Russell and shared the importance of making Russell a transit corridor with a bus lane. He also suggested that DiSC project plan needs to rethink their transit and not slow down the buses.

6. Consent Calendar

Motion (Kovachev, Hughes): Approve Consent Agenda.

Motion carries, unanimously

7. Regular Items

A. Bicycle Share and Miromobility Presentation

Brian Abbanat introduced project, explained project including:

- JUMP launched in May 2018 in Davis as part of a regional service agreement. In March 2020 JUMP sold its bike share program to LIME. No bike share bikes have been in Davis since March 2020.
- Bike share supports City policies and provides missing link to last mile transportation need. Bike share can be an important part of transportation ecosystem.
- UC Davis ITS conducted research on bike share in Davis in 2019 and 2020. 82% of people traveling to UC Davis live within 5-miles of campus and 60% walk and bike to campus. This data reveals that there is more room for biking in Davis.
- JUMP was successful. The number of JUMP bike trips was two times the national average. However, availability of the bikes was a challenge, because of the limited number of bikes.
- In summer of 2019 the City initiated a community survey and found that parking was a problem. JUMP was not able to respond to problems and there was a lack of accountability. The survey showed that residents don't want bikes blocking the sidewalks or paths, the City does not have the resources to address the issues.

- City Muni Code requires that bikes be parked to bike racks, but availability of bike racks in residential areas is limited. Survey results shared that community members support people parking JUMP bikes like motorcycles on the street.
- Today the City is working with UC Davis and SACOG about how to get bike share back in Davis. Since JUMP launched in 2018 the economic landscape has changed and now operators of bicycle share only models require sponsorship or public subsidization. Another option is to add scooters.
- Scooters are needing to be part of fleet mix for economic stability. City Staff is hesitant about adding scooters to Davis. Managing bikes was challenging and adding another device type does not seem like a good idea until the City gets a handle on the bikes. UC Davis is interested in adding scooters on campus and evaluate what happens.
- The next shared mobility operator will be required to comply with the framework established by City of Davis and UC Davis.
- There are a few paths forward including an independent Request for Proposal or be part of SACOG partnership and re-enter negotiations with Lime.

Commission Questions

Commissioner Kovachev asked does the City have strategies to better manage bikes when you increase the fleet?

Brian Abbanat responded that we are requesting that field staff be based in Davis and not across the causeway. We are also wanting to change the bike parking policy to allow people to park bikes on the street.

Commissioner Csontos followed up with asking were citations being passed to the users?

Brian Abbanat responded that JUMP was not passing violations to users. A requirement in our framework is that the operator must pass through fines to the user.

Commissioner Csontos followed up with asking if the City is interested in exploring scooters?

Brian Abbanat responded that we would do the initial pilot with scooters on campus and see how things are functioning on campus and then ask the City Council about expanding scooters into the City.

Commissioner Chakraborty asked about safety and speed issues of scooters and bikes?

Brian Abbanat responded that the operator can limit speeds using geofenced technology. Jeff Bruchez from UC Davis shared that UC Davis can control its own facility and speed limits. Right now, campus is like the wild west with people having their own scooters. When UC Davis brings mass amounts of shared scooters on campus, then we can better control the environment.

Ingrid Stromberg from UC Davis shared that education will be a big component of the new system. Brian Abbanat stated that education needs to be structured to operate smoothly and we want to set this up for success.

Commissioner Csontos what was the satisfaction of JUMP users?

Brian Abbanat responded 72% of the community liked having JUMP bicycles available. Commissioner Csontos reiterated the importance that 72% were in favor of this.

Commissioner Csontos asked if there are financial benefits to joining SACOG's regional bike share program for pricing negotiations?

Brian Abbanat responded that other communities assess fees on the vendors and our community does not have these fees. We are not interested in profiting off of bike share. Sabrina Bradbury stated that a vendor in Davis would most likely want to operate in Sacramento as well and potentially working together could lower prices.

Commissioner Csontos what were the ridership numbers versus Sacramento and West Sacramento?

Sacramento and West Sacramento trips per bike per day were slightly higher compared to Davis. Downtown Sacramento with the highest density had the most trips per bike per day.

Brian Abbanat asked Sabrina Bradbury if this was seasonal data and compared when the students were in Davis. Sabrina Bradbury shared she would have to look into this.

Public Comments

Alan Hirsh stated that this solves the last mile to get people on transit. Hirsh stated the importance of having incentives to leave scooters and bikes at bus stops. He also noted having the ability to reserve scooters and bikes would be a great feature. He also emphasized that bike share is an important contribution to the CAAP.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Jacobson was excited about scooters and is disappointed that the City cannot figure out how to make scooters work. Commissioner Jacobson wants to support the majority that wants bike share and not focus on the minority that is complaining. Bikes and scooters support our mission and people need to use these devices beyond the campus. We are far behind the curve. She is in support of a resolution to make scooters work.

Brian Abbanat followed up that 77% respondents felt that bike share parking was a problem. Commissioner Jacobson stated that more people liked the system.

Commissioner Jacobson remembered that parking on the street is important. She also noted the importance of connecting devices to transit stops. Brian Abbanat stated that the City is looking at linking bike share to transit. He also shared that JUMP did offer incentives for bikes, but the economics are not influential to the users because people want to ride to their destinations and not to where the operator wants the bikes to go. Commissioner Kovachev shared that he never used the service, but he thinks it is awesome and needed. He did have to deal with bikes parked on the pathways. He wants to see a structured plan for dealing with parking. Commissioner Kovachev believes education and safety compliance is important. He wants incentives for parking.

Commissioner Hughes asked if the City works with SACOG then they will only have Lime. Sabrina Bradbury explained that the existing SACOG agreement is with Lime. Commissioner Hughes shared experience living in China where Lime did not incentivize rides. Sabrina Bradbury shared that operators are now getting this request and have the ability to do this now.

Commissioner Csontos shared that residents wants this and we are behind on bikes and scooters. We have had a lot of time to look at this stuff and know the pitfalls. We are unbelievably conservative in the City, but he appreciates staff's work.

Commissioner Csontos asked will this item come back to us?

Brian Abbanat stated that he did not know. This item will eventually need to go to City Council.

Motion (Jacobson, Csontos): Recommend that the City deploy bikes and scooters.

Motion carries, unanimously

B. Appoint BTSSC:

- Representative and Alternate to the Unitrans Advisory Committee. Commissioner Chakraborty will serve as the representative.
- Representative and Alternate to attend 11/29 NRC meeting focusing on EV Charging Infrastructure Project Implementation Commissioner Hughes will attend this meeting.
- Member to Traffic Safety Subcommittee Commissioner Csontos and Kovachev Kovachev.
- Member to DiSC 2022 Subcommittee Commissioner Csontos formally volunteered to serve.

Public Comment

Alan Hirsh stated that the Unitrans Advisory Committee is very important and the commission needs to take transit seriously. He shared that Davis need to get people out of their cars and using transit. He also brought up that the BTSSC should be diverse and be open to people who live outside of Davis and take transit to get to Davis. He suggested that the BTSSC pass a resolution to allow people living outside of Davis to be on the BTSSC.

8. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar

Brian Abbanat reviewed the Long Range Calendar with the commission.

Public Comment

Alan Hirsh shared that I-80 should be on the long range calendar.

B. Commissioner Announcements

No announcements.

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

Commissioner Csontos attended the NRC meeting last week. He will share CAAP Plan notes with the BTSSC. The NRC also provided comments on the DiSC project.

9. Adjourn

Motion (Kovachev, Hughes): Adjourn meeting.

Motions carries, unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.