



Minutes
Unitrans Advisory Committee (UAC)
****Special Meeting****
December 2, 2021
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Sheila Allen (Member at Large), Sergio Bercardo-Aguilar (Chair, ASUCD), Andrew Furillo (Member at Large), John Johnston (NRC), Elizabeth Lasensky (Senior Citizen Commission), Trisha Ramadoss (Member at Large)

Council Liaison: Gloria Partida, Dan Carson (alternate) (both not present)

Staff: Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner
Jeff Flynn, Unitrans General Manager

NOTE: Commissioners, staff and the public will participate in this meeting via teleconference or otherwise electronically. This meeting is compliant with AB 361 which allows for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act during a proclaimed state of emergency. In-person attendance will not be permitted.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call - 4:10 PM

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (John Johnston, Elizabeth Lasensky) Unanimous approval

3. Public Communications

At this time any member of the public may address the committee on matters which are listed on this agenda, or are listed on the consent calendar.

Alan Hirsch stated that the Brown Act does allow for general comments at special meetings, but the commission is not required to open public comment up to general comments.

4. Regular Items

Davis Innovation and Sustainability Campus 2022

- No official presentation. Brian Abbanat provided a general overview of the project. This item was not presented as a staff item and no specific

recommendations were drafted for the meeting. City of Davis Principal Planner Sherri Metzker stated she was available as a resource and is the lead City Staff person working on this project.

- John Johnston asked Brian if he provided the most up to date version of the NRC comments in the staff report. Brian Abbanat stated that he had the most recent version provided by NRC staff. John pointed out that the NRC comments in the staff report include a central transit center and that this is not part of the DiSC 2.0 proposal. Sherri Metzker shared that she has the most current version and she has not posted it on the DiSC website yet.
- Sherri Metzker shared the differences between the previous DISC project and DiSC 2.0. The project has to go through the same entitlements, formal review, planning commission and council approval. Then a vote by Davis electorate.
- The DiSC project team is pre-preparing the documents for submittal in January or February 2022. The CEQA documents are posted on the City website. The Biggest difference is the location of the transit plaza relocated to Mace Boulevard.
- Sheila Allen asked what the difference is between a transit plaza and a bus stop. Sherri Metzker stated the transit plaza will hold three buses and buses will pull off of Mace Boulevard into the plaza area.
- Sheila Allen followed up asking if the project would connect to the park and ride nearby. Sherri Metzker responded that it would. And reminded the commission that they should be focusing on zoning and land use. Not design review. The buffers, streets, and parks are probably where they will be located with final design. The rest of the project is just illustrative.
- Sheila Allen asked if Yolo Bus and Unitrans will be included in design review. Sherri Metzker stated that they would be and she has started discussions with Yolo Bus.
- Andy Furillo stated that Mace and 2nd Street is an important transfer point and wanted to know if the City had plans to upgrade the southbound transit stop. Sherri Metzker shared that the applicant would be required to improve both sides of the street. The south side would probably not be as big or stylized as the DiSC side.
- Elizabeth Lasensky raised concerns over left turns into the DiSC site and potential issues with traffic. Sherri stated that the EIR includes mitigations to traffic issues. The 2022 DiSC study includes an updated detailed traffic analysis and measures for improvements needed to address traffic delays and issues.

Public Comment

Alan Hirsch stated that there is a need for this project and he is overall supportive. He is concerned that the bus stop is not big enough and emphasized

that this location is an intercity transfer point and three bus spaces does not seem adequate. He would like the bus stop to serve east Davis to reduce intercity travel. Alan also shared that the developer has not promised enough transit “goodies” and wants them to promise them now. He recommended that funds should be given to Unitrans to improve connectivity. Alan also commented that the TDM plan needs teeth to make a difference and that there needs to be consequences for failing to get people out of their cars. Alan also suggested a carbon offset fee to make real changes.

Commissioner Comments

- John Johnston shared what the NRC discussed at their last meeting. The NRC is concerned about the distance between the transit plaza and the housing on the site. The NRC recommended that the transit center be moved into the site to be closer to the housing to increase transit use. The NRC recommends providing shared mobility devices for employees and residents connecting the transit plaza to jobs and homes. The NRC also wanted the applicant to consider an electric shuttle service.
- Trisha Ramadoss shared that this project is car focused and would exacerbate traffic problems.
- Sheila Allen asked about the scale of the project. John Johnston shared it is ½ a mile wide. Sheila likes the idea of bike parking and scooters.
- Andy asked John Johnston about the separate shuttle service and who would operate it. John Johnston shared it would be a separate shuttle service.
- Sergio Bercardo-Aguilar stated that Mace Boulevard bus stops on both sides need shelters, shade and seating. He also recommended access to the Davis train station is very important and Alhambra should accommodate a 40-foot bus.
- Sheila asked what happens to the comments presented today. Brian stated that the conversation is documented in the meeting minutes and that anyone is welcome to make a motion. The Council will see the meeting minutes. Councilmember Dan Carson stated that there is a council sub-committee for this project and he will make sure that comments are shared with Mayor Patida too. Comments and motions are both helpful to the project. Sherri Metzker shared other commissions are taking votes and making motions about this project. She stated that as an individual you can also make comments. John Johnston was concerned that informal comments would not be addressed in the staff report. Sherri Metzker stated that informal comments would not be included in the staff report and suggested that the commission make formal comments or motion.
- Trisha Ramadoss asked to see the NRC comments after the meeting. Sherri Metzker stated she will post them on the website.

Motion (Sheila Allen, Trisha Ramadoss): As DiSC 2022 project moves forward, Unitrans and Yolo bus system staff must be included to ensure highest function of transit stops and services.

Motion carries, unanimously

Motion (John Johnston, Elizabeth Lasensky): Unitrans Advisory Committee is concerned about the location of the proposed transit facilities in active transportation safety and accessibility to interior of project. UAC urges the applicant and city to investigate alternatives that are more centrally located and last mile transportation alternatives such as scooters and bicycle facilities.

Motion carries, unanimously

B. Climate Action Adaptation Plan

- Brian presented staff report on CAAP update. UAC appointed Trisha Ramadoss and Andy Furillo as an alternate to review and make recommendations on the CAAP transportation action items.
- Trisha Ramadoss and Andy Furillo attended the November 10, 2021 CAAP public meeting and NRC meeting on November 29th. They created a spreadsheet with all of the transportation CAAP action items and shared recommended new language for the plan.
- Item B1 and B2, no changes.
- Item B3, call out transit services and add explicitly short haul transit services to transportation hubs and popular destinations.
- Item B4, recommend changing “electric micromobility” to “micromobility”, because Trisha Ramadoss is concerned that electric micromobility would draw people away from using the bus.
- B5, discuss three strategies and formulate UAC recommendation. Three items: free transit, promote expansion of public transit, and increase frequency.
- Brian shared that these are parent recommendations that are used to create a road map. These recommendations need to be concise and digestible. These recommendations are “whats” not “hows”.
- Andy shared that he is wanting to elevate transit in the recommendations.
- Elizabeth Lasensky is concerned that there is no wording about people with disabilities. She recommended that this plan should include accommodating wheelchairs and people with disabilities.
- John Johnston suggested that our purpose is not to re-write these recommendations, but to provide comments.

- Item B6, supportive but add bus stop amenities and dedicated bus lanes. Add transit riders to safety.
- Item B7, stronger wording and rewrite text. Added service to Winters.
- B8 and B9, supportive, no proposed changes
- B10, need clarifying language on this. Seems very vague. No specific suggestions.
- B11, strongly support.
- Trisha Ramadoss wanted to also discuss parking minimums and upzoning.
- John Johnston asked if the parking minimums were within the provisions of the UAC. Trisha Ramadoss stated that since Unitrans competes with cars for parking it should be included. Andy Furillo shared that the purview of the commission is constrained and he believes there is room to elevate the role of transit and transits interaction with other modes. Brian Abbanat agreed there is room for this role, but the UAC cannot expand their own purview and the commission needs to stay within their lane.
- John Johnston asked what “no additional notes” meant on the handout. Trisha Ramadoss stated it meant that we agree with the item and have no additional comments.

Public Comment

Alan Hirsch shared that we should consider expanding bus service to Vacaville and the mega region. He also said the City needs a fulltime TDM coordinator. Alan suggested that bus rapid transit become a priority. He also stated that the plan included transit oriented development and that also needs to be included in the land use plan and housing plan. Alan emphasized the importance of one ticket for transit use and not separate tickets to ride.

Commissioner Comments

The commissioners went through all the action items and provided final comments. Below are their recommendations.

- B.1. Update and implement the Davis Electric Vehicle Charging Plan (2017) to determine public and private charging infrastructure needs, time frame, and implementation approach to enable all vehicles to go electric. Commission has no changes to this action.

- B.2. Develop an aggressive plan to transition the municipal vehicle fleet to alternative fuels (e.g., electric, battery electric vehicle, hydrogen). Commission has no changes to this action.
- B.3. Develop an Action Advisory Committee to address 'last mile' transportation needs with specific provisions for low-income or vulnerable populations; include specific action recommendations, **such as short-haul transit services to transportation hubs and popular destinations, developing a shared micromobility program** (including a charging plan for any electric micromobility) that is well-integrated with transit, considering a pedi-cab service program, providing additional resources for the Safe Routes to School program and transit connections to schools, or other actions. The Commission added section in bold.
- B.4. Develop financing/incentives for purchasing, using, and maintaining micromobility vehicles for personal use (such as bicycles, scooters, trailers), and include specific provisions for low-income and vulnerable populations. The word electric was removed from the action item.

John Johnston shared that electric was included because it is the expensive part of micromobility. Trisha Ramadoss is concerned this would take people away from Unitrans trips and is worried that this would increase emissions. Andy Furillo stated that Unitrans buses do not have bike racks and that electric mobility options can be a part of the plan, but it is not the whole thing. Brian Abbanat stated that not including "electric" does not mean you could not have financing/incentives as a eligible expense. The commission recommended to remove the word electric from this action item.

- B.5. Subsidize public transit so it is free for all to use and promote expansion of public transit routes and increased operation frequency within Davis to support day-to-day travel needs. The commission did not have any changes to this action item.
- B.6. Implement roadway infrastructure improvements in existing right-of-way, such as "road diets," narrower pedestrian crossing distances, **benches and shelters at bus stops, dedicated bus lanes**, green stormwater infrastructure, etc., to meet Green Streets standards and increase safety and reliability for pedestrians, **bicyclists, and transit riders** to encourage sustainable transportation. The commission recommended to add the bold text to this action item.
- B.7. Improve frequency and reliability of intercity transit connections (including Woodland, West Sacramento, Sacramento, Winters, etc.), leveraging Unitrans's resources and city seats on boards and advisory committees of regional transportation agencies. The commission recommended to add Vacaville to this action item.
- B.8. Revisit most recent parking pricing study (Downtown Paid Parking, City Council March 5, 2019) and implement pilot projects to test their effectiveness.

John Johnston is concerned that this item is not within the lane of the commission. Andy Furillo shared that he also felt it was not in purview and did not include comments about this item. The commission has no comments about this item.

- B.9. Create an Action Advisory Committee to address recommendations for developing, funding, and staffing a coordinated Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program to encourage and/or require all people, all trips' to implement TDM strategies, such as remote work opportunities, community education and outreach, micromobility, vanpool, rideshare, subsidized transit, employee parking cash-out, etc. The commission concurred with this action item.
- B.10. Establish a low-emissions vehicle program for Downtown Davis that disincentivizes travel by internal combustion engine vehicles. The commission provided no comment on this action as it is out of their purview.
- B.11. Develop incentive options so that any additional development would prioritize high density, transit-oriented and mixed use (especially office space and food service) and affordable housing options. The commission rewrote this item and recommended the new wording shown above. John Johnston explained that he supports high-density and mixed use, but is concerned that if you build a house you will not reduce trips. Brian Abbanat shared that the commute profile has changed and bay area families are moving to Davis and commuting. COVID is also changing how people commute.
- Proposed action item recommended by Trisha Ramadoss and Andy Furillo: Discuss the role of parking minimums and single-family zoning and the effect of eliminating either. John Johnston and Elizabeth Lasensky shared that this action item might be out of our lane. The Commission has decided to eliminate this suggestion as it is outside the UAC purview.
- Proposed action item recommended by Trisha Ramadoss and Andy Furillo to add B.26 to the recommend top 30 list. B.26. Utilize upzoning, mixed-use zoning, and/or relaxed single-family zoning to allow for additional multifamily development. Commission recommended elevating this action item to the top 30.
- Proposed action item recommended by Trisha Ramadoss and Andy Furillo: Modify the structure of city commissions to elevate the role of public transit in city transportation planning and policy. The commission is suggesting that the CAAP consider this comment, because transit is an important role in the CAAP.

Motion (John Johnston, Sheila Allen): Unitrans Advisory Committee approves the collection of amended recommendations.

Motion carries, unanimously

5. Adjourn 6:23pm

Motion (Sheila Allen, Elizabeth Lasensky): A motion to adjourn.

Motion carries, unanimously