



## Minutes

### Safety and Parking Advisory Commission April 7, 2011

- Commissioners Present:** Bill Bernheim, Chair, Dan Barcellos, Theodore Parks, Doug Waterman, Jim Watson
- Commissioners Absent:** Geoff Straw
- Staff:** Roxanne Namazi, Senior Civil Engineer  
Sgt. Rod Rifredi, Police Department - absent
- Chair:** Commissioner Bernheim called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
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**A. Approval of Agenda**  
Approved.

**B.1 Public Communications**

Residents from the Cal Aggie UCD student housing, located on the north side of Russell Boulevard across from California Avenue, expressed concerns regarding crossing Russell Boulevard. One of the residents said she was recently hit by a vehicle while in the crosswalk. The residents/students requested additional improvements including traffic signal, red flashing lights, additional signing and marking, reducing the speed limit to improve pedestrian/cyclist safety at this crossing. Staff has contacted the UCD officials and will be attending a meeting on campus to discuss safety at the crossing. Staff will collect counts at the crossing and evaluate additional safety improvements.

**B.2 Commission/Staff Comments**

Commission:

- Commissioner Parks expressed concerns for the amount of time that it would take for a resolution to be passed on to the Council.
- Commissioner Bernheim just back from a trip to Peru noticed great use of speed humps for traffic calming there.

- Commissioner Watson proposed to change the name of the Commission to be more reflective of the Commission's charge.

Staff

- Staff updated the Commission of the status of the proposed at-grade crossing of the railroad tracks from Olive Drive. Staff is in the process of finalizing the Draft Negative Declaration for circulation. Staff will submit an application to PUC for an at-grade crossing of the tracks with an emergency access at the south end of L Street, to Olive Drive. The Council will be asked to pass a resolution in support of the at-grade crossing.

**C. Consent Items**

**Approve and/or Correct Commission Minutes, Meeting of March 7, 2011.**

Approved.

**Approve and/or Correct Commission Minutes, Joint BAC Meeting of March 7, 2011.**

Approved with minor modification by staff.

**D. Discussion Items**

**D.1. Drummond/Cowell/Chiles Roundabout – Informational**

Staff provided background and information. The intersection is currently and all-way stop control. With the recent approval for development in the area, traffic volumes are expected to increase. The City's Major Projects Financing Plan had originally suggested a traffic signal for this intersection. Staff believes a roundabout will adequately address the traffic needs for all modes of travel and will minimize the delay and vehicle emissions. Staff explained the layout of the roundabout which is in accordance with the CAMUTCD and the other roundabouts in Davis. Commission inquired about bike safety and approach speed of the vehicles. Staff explained that cyclists are recommended to take the full lane as they approach the roundabout (signs to this effect will be installed), however, access ramps and wide sidewalks are available for the cyclists who do not wish to be in the travel lane. Staff explained that the advisory approach speed at roundabouts is 15 mph. Typically, speeding is not an issue at the roundabouts due to incorporation of lane deflection and splitter islands in the design.

**Action:** This was an Informational item and no action was necessary.

**D.2. Modifications to Bicycle Path along L Street, Between Fourth and Fifth, Concrete Contract 10-11, Program No. 7259**

Staff provided the background and information. Currently the asphalt bicycle path on the east side of L Street terminates midblock, south of Fifth Street, with a marked crossing at the termination point. Staff has included extension of the path to the south to Fourth Street. The existing crossing marking will be removed and a new crossing will be

marked on the north side of Fourth Street. ADA ramps will be installed on both side of L Street at the crossing. This modification will improve safety of the cyclists and pedestrians and provide for ADA compliance.

Commission was supportive of the project. Commissioner Watson expressed concerns for the speed of traffic from southbound L to westbound Fourth and inquired about reducing the corner radius to slow down traffic. Commissioner Barcellos suggested addition of an access ramp at the south end of the path. Staff will review these suggestion for possible incorporation in the design.

**Action:** This was an Informational item and no action was necessary.

**D.3. Mori Seiki Manufacturing Facility 3601 Faraday Avenue – Bicycle Path Options**

Staff provided the background and information. The Mori Seiki Manufacturing Facility was recently approved by the Planning Commission. The approval included two options to provide vehicle and pedestrian access to the adjacent Digital Technology Laboratories (DTL) property to the east. The access would require crossing the existing bicycle path between the two sites. One option would relocate the bicycle path east of the DTL site. The other option would provide access across the existing path, either temporarily or permanently. In response to a question, staff clarified that the bicycle path would not be removed or relocated until an equivalent easement was obtained and a new bicycle path was constructed. Commission made the following comments:

- The weight of vehicles crossing the path could create ruts. The foundation of the existing bike path might need to be strengthened to support the weight of the vehicles and to prevent ruts.
- It would be important to ensure adequate sight lines to avoid conflicts. A physical barrier might not be necessary for vehicles crossing the path and bike and vehicle issues would probably sort themselves out.

**Action:** This was an Informational item and no action was necessary.

**D.4. Speed Limit Increase – Update on Council Action**

Upon conclusion of the one-year pilot program raising the speed limit on the three streets (Anderson Road between Covell and Oriole, Sycamore Lane between Covell and North City Limits, and J Street between E. Eighth and Covell) staff recommended to maintain the 30 mph speed limit. The Council did not approve staff's recommendation and directed staff to propose traffic calming measures to reduce the speeds and maintain the 25 mph speed limit on these streets.

**D.5. Bike Path along Ponteverde Lane**

This item was included on the agenda per the request of Commissioner Watson at the previous meeting. Staff met with Commissioner Watson in the field and discussed possible safety improvements and access to the bike path at the corner of Ponteverde Lane. Currently, there are no signing or marking for the path. It was observed that the majority of the cyclists ride against the flow of traffic (in the eastbound direction) to enter the greenbelt at this location. Staff will install signing and marking to make the bike path connection more visible to the drivers. It was also observed that the drivers make wide turns at the “knuckle” and drive in the bike lane, in the westbound direction. Staff proposed markings at this location to channelize vehicles.

Residents attended the meeting and expressed concerns for the bicycle and pedestrian safety at this corner. They typically ride against the traffic or on the sidewalk to access the bike path and greenbelt from the west.

Commissioner Watson would like to have the bike path extended west to Tulip Lane as a long term solution. He asked staff for a cost estimate for this improvement. He is in favor of staff’s proposal for the marking and signing as a short term improvement. He would also like to have a marked crossing midblock on Ponteverde east of Tulip. Commissioner Barcellos suggested a marked crossing (diagonal) at the entrance into the bike path/greenbelt.

**D.6. Commission’s Goals and Actions – Review and update**

Commissioner Waterman proposed modifications to the Commission’s Goals and Actions. Staff will incorporate the proposed changes and bring this item back for further discussion at the June meeting.

**D.7. Monthly/Bimonthly Commission Meeting**

Commissioner Watson proposed Commission meet on a monthly basis. Staff explained that the Commission meets on a bi-monthly basis due to the staff’s workload and staffing shortage. In the event there are pressing issues, staff will schedule meetings on the alternate months. Commission was in favor of bi-monthly meeting, with the option to meet monthly on a need basis.

**Next Meeting:** Confirmed for a Joint meeting with the City Council on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at the Community Chambers.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Namazi  
Senior Civil Engineer