



City of Davis
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
Minutes
DAVIS SENIOR CENTER, VALENTE ROOM (646 A Street)
December 14, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Commission Members: Frances Andrews, Earl Bossard, Ryan Dodge, Todd Edelman, Daniel Fuchs (Vice Chair), Eric Gudz, George Hague, Mike Mitchell (Chair), Jon Watterson

Council Liaisons: Brett Lee, Robb Davis (alternate)

Absent: Commissioners Andrews, Bossard
Councilmembers Lee, Davis

Staff: Brian Mickelson, Assistant City Engineer / Transportation Manager
Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Oath of Office: Todd Edelman

Todd Edelman was welcomed to the commission and sworn into office.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda (Watterson, Gudz).
Motion carries unanimously.

4. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

John Evans, Police Corporal and traffic enforcement supervisor introduced himself to the commission.

Commissioner Gudz:

- Inquired about the status of the Civil Engineer vacancy.
Brian Mickelson responded that the position was offered to a candidate, who ultimately declined. Position is again in active recruitment
- Stated he'd like to see the equity component of the Traffic Enforcement Strategic Plan developed further.

- Invited the traffic enforcement supervisor to arrive at commission meetings with a more relaxed appearance, such as without law enforcement kit, citing Chief Pytel's example.

Commissioner Watterson complimented staff and consultants on the Anderson Road Improvements Workshop #2 held on 11/29.

Commissioner Edelman inquired why the Fourteenth/Villanova project was not following a similar process as Anderson Road and considering protected bicycling facilities.

Brian Abbanat responded that the project is considering protected bicycling facilities and two design concepts will be brought to the BTSSC (at a minimum).

A. H Street / Tunnel Phase 1 Project

Brian Abbanat explained the challenges encountered with starting construction of this project. He described the lessons learned regarding outreach and traffic control/bicycle detours and processes the City has established to prevent a recurrence.

B. Bicycle / Pedestrian Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, described her activities over the past month, including:

- Bike Share
- Lights in a Pinch program
- Purchase of electric-assist surrey (quadricycle) for community use
- Status of additional e-lockers at the train station
- Status of Davis Pathfinder (wayfinding) project
- Safe Routes to School Art Show

C. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

No Council Liaison comments were made due to absence.

5. Public Comment

Darrell Dickey stated he loves the idea of a dockless bike share system. Suggested a CRV-type system where anybody can return bikes to a desired location for a small reward.

6. Consent Calendar

A. Draft Minutes: November 9, 2017

Motion to approve with revisions (Gudz, Hague).

Motion carries unanimously.

B. Transportation Implementation Plan: December Addendum

Motion to approve (Fuchs, Gudz).

Motion carries unanimously.

7. Regular Items

A. Plaza 2555 Located at 2555 Research Park Drive

Ike Njoku, Planner/Historical Resources Manager, described the primary project features, and explained the development process as applicable to the project.

Skip Mezger, developer representative, described the site plan and circulation plan.

Brian Abbanat described staff recommendations regarding street frontage improvements/configuration on Cowell Blvd.

Brian Mickelson explained the traffic dynamics occurring on Cowell Blvd and some of the options considered to reduce traffic speed and improve the intersection at Research Park Drive.

Commissioner Hague stated he liked separated bike facility. Stated a need to manage additional bike traffic. Also suggested pavement ribbing in street to reduce speeds.

Commissioners Watterson and Dodge inquired about a roundabout and mini-roundabout, respectively.

Brian Mickelson responded the geometry doesn't fit at this intersection.

Public Comment

Darrell Dickey commented half the site is covered with car parking. Also stated that stop signs (such as at Cowell and Research Park Drive) are not for traffic calming, as drivers will accelerate even faster to make up for lost time caused by the stop sign. Streets need to be designed for slow speeds.

Homayoon Barekat inquired 1) if a traffic study was conducted for this project, and 2) if Caltrans was contacted about the possibility of a soundwall.

Rachel Reeves, Green Terrace neighborhood resident, stated anything that can be done to slow cars is needed. Also encouraged pro-rated rents for residents who don't bring cars.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Hague stated the project's success will be defined by how the circulation is addressed. Supports all-way stop at Cowell & Research Park Drive and relocation of Unitrans stop to east side of Research Park Drive.

Commissioner Gudz stated this project could be a pilot candidate for the new traffic calming project in development. Supports bike lane separation.

Commissioner Watterson stated the bike path connectivity to the multi-use path at Albany as well as a mid-block crossing to the Playfields Park bike path is critical. Supports bus-pull out and bulb-outs for crosswalks.

Commissioner Edelman stated 1) project should include more housing and less parking, 2) car share should be close to residential units, 3) should do a mini-roundabout at Research Park Drive

instead of separated bike lanes, 4) project should include cargo bikes that can be shared by residents.

Commissioner Mitchell expressed support for applicant's second design concept and the staff recommendation. Need to find a way to slow down traffic. Feels mini-roundabouts are being dismissed pretty fast.

Brian Mickelson responded that a roundabout depends on compatible traffic volumes at all legs of the intersection. Since roundabouts rely on traffic gaps to enter into the intersection, accessing Cowell Blvd from Research Park Drive could worsen due to existing Cowell Blvd peak traffic volumes.

Commissioner Mitchell recommended uncoupling parking costs from beds, concurred with the need for a mid-block crossing to Playfields Park path.

Commissioner Watterson suggested preparing for future electric bike charging capabilities.

B. Nishi Development Project

Ash Feeny introduced the project. Stated significant revisions from past iteration of project include 1) reduction of commercial space to 25,000 square feet, 2) 2800 beds in 700 apartment units, 3) parking ratio of approximately .5 spaces per bedroom.

Ash Feeny reviewed the site plan and provided an overview of the process. Stated the project will return to the commission when the final site plan is complete and has received Measure R voter approval.

Public Comment

Tim Ruff, project developer, stated they are trying to address concerns expressed by the community during the last Measure R vote. Stated removal of at-grade crossing at Old Davis Road is why Union Pacific Railroad has been cooperative regarding an undercrossing to UCD.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Dodge asked why there is any car parking at all. Says he supports no car parking and that parking will induce the traffic that the community fears.

Commissioner Edelman stated that 700 spaces is still a lot of parking. Car share or rental facility can substitute for parking. Residence halls can't have cars. Access to cars is what is important, not ownership.

Commissioner Watterson stated we have an opportunity to do something innovative. Why go through the usual route regarding parking. Suggested considering remote parking. Supports emergency access through Olive Drive. Should consider higher bike parking ratio.

Commissioner Gudz stated the project should strive for innovation, boldness. Need to connect Unitrans to Olive Drive for feasible service to disadvantaged community. Autonomous vehicles are 10 years away, which will seriously disrupt transportation. Project is smart for residential and

commercial uses to share parking. Recommended reaching out to UCD-ITS and air quality experts on campus.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired if UCD has agreed to the undercrossing.

Tim Ruff responded they are working on an MOU now.

Commissioner Mitchell stated he was glad to see vehicular access from Olive Drive off the table, but Olive Drive should be built-out for transit and emergency vehicles. Undercrossing should be terraced to reduce slopes for bicycles. Decouple parking from units, and charge a lot. Limit access to vehicles within satellite parking facility. Envisions a cycle track on Olive Drive to Lincoln 40 project.

8. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Commissioner Edelman suggested Safe Routes to School and discussion of Waze on City traffic.

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

Reports deferred to next meeting.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn (Dodge, Gudz)

Motion carries unanimously at 9:07 p.m.
