



City of Davis
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
Minutes
Community Chambers, City Hall
September 14, 2017
5:30 p.m.

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

Council Liaisons: Brett Lee, Robb Davis (alternate)

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

Absent: Commissioner Bossard
Council Liaisons Lee and Davis.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

A. Bicycle / Pedestrian Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, highlighted the following activities:

- Hosted infrastructure ride for the City of Chico.
- Hosted Bicycling with Confidence class on 8/17.
- Cool Davis Transportation Task Force held a bike ambassador meeting.
- Held a bike rodeo at Chavez elementary school.
- Taught a tire changing class at the Senior Center.
- Created a tip card for Police Department to hand out to cyclists reminding them of safe cycling habits.
- Announced Car-Free October activities.

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

No announcements.

Commissioner Gudz:

- Inquired about the crosswalk at Villanova and Reed.

- Requested a thorough assessment of downtown bicycle parking scarcity.
- Requested an update on Senior Engineer recruitment.

Commissioner Watterson asked about the status of the Russell bike path.

Brian Mickelson responded that this requires coordination with UC Davis at a higher level and will look into the status of those conversations.

Commissioner Watterson noted traffic signal sightline confusion on Russell Blvd at Arthur.

Brian Mickelson responded that he would look into it.

Commissioner Fuchs thanked City staff for the US40 bike path cleanup.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired about potential for traffic signal synchronization on Covell Blvd.

Brian Mickelson responded the City is working on upgrading signals, but is short on funding.

4. Public Comment

Todd Edelman, Deep Streets Davis, requested secured parking for non-standard bikes at the Davis Train Depot. Suggested Bike Keep, such as at BART stations.

Nate Hartinger requested something be done about the Tulip and Ponteverde intersection. Stated it should be addressed prior to the Chiles Ranch subdivision build out.

John Poirier shared with the commission the difficulties of getting around in a wheelchair. Noted problem areas such as curb cuts on Fourth Street and many areas where bike racks prevent parallel parking.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Draft Minutes: July 13, 2017*

Motion to approve with revisions (Gudz, Andrews)

Motion carries unanimously.

B. Transportation Announcements & CIP Updates*

No action taken.

6. Regular Item

A. Traffic Enforcement Strategic Plan

A brief introduction was provided by Sergeant Ilya Bezuglov. However, due to a prior scheduling commitment, the item was deferred until the next meeting. Sergeant Bezuglove asked commissioners to review the strategic plan and send comments to him before the next meeting.

B. Unitrans Presentation

Jeff Flynn, Unitrans General Manager, gave an overview of Unitrans' operations. Key themes included:

- 50th anniversary in February
- Routes, service levels
- Uniqueness of Unitrans
- How Unitrans operates
- Ridership
- City partnership and oversight
- Funding
- Expenses
- Upcoming challenges: costs & revenues

Todd Edelman commented he lives close to Pole Line Road and Unitrans does not offer direct bus access to the train station. Stated buses should be synchronized with Capitol Corridor schedule.

Commissioner Hague inquired about the Unitrans business model. Also asked if there were opportunities for better service to the train station.

Jeff Flynn responded it is possible, but would result in a service tradeoff. At best, Unitrans is operating at zero sum right now and looking at service reductions in the future if projected revenue gap cannot be filled.

Commissioner Gudz stated that Olive Drive is underserved by transit, and is interested in understanding how Unitrans coordinates with Yolobus.

Commissioner Watterson commented he would like to see route evaluation to make train station an integral part of service.

Commissioner Fuchs raised the issue that Unitrans is student-centered. Considering access needs to the train station and downtown, how much harder should Unitrans try to serve the non-student community? Also inquired if Unitrans is considering increased student fees.

Jeff Flynn responded that the ASUCD student government is not supportive of this option. Thus, Unitrans is looking to the university to help close the funding deficit.

Commissioner Andrews suggested the City could consider putting some money into the service if it better served the non-student population.

Commissioner Dodge inquired why the Unitrans buses don't have bike racks.

Jeff Flynn responded that the buses operate on very short cycles and bike racks introduce an undesirable time delay. Also stated that since most Unitrans trips are very short, bicycle racks aren't needed because they can simply ride to their destination.

Commissioner Hague commented that more bus shelters are needed and could be an opportunity for revenue.

Jeff Flynn responded that grant funding is coming to expand and replace bus shelters. Advertising will need to be a community conversation as it will introduce a more urbanized feel to the service.

Commissioner Mitchell expressed frustration that the service is so oriented towards students and the campus. Would like to see the service become a city system and not just campus.

C. Yolobus Presentation

Mike Luken, Yolobus Assistant General Manager, briefly introduced staff and the major presentation themes. Jose Perez, Yolobus Senior Transportation Planner, presented the following themes:

- Routes
- Commuter services
- Intercity services
- Service map
- Fares
- Payment options (Connect Card)
- Popular destinations
- Yolobus Alert! (test message notifications)
- Yolobus Live! (vehicle locator)

Mike Luken stated Yolobus is facing the following three challenges:

- Decline in ridership due to economic recovery and low cost of driving.
- On-time performance to Sacramento due to traffic congestion on I-5 and I-80.
- Downtown Sacramento as center of events. Working with City of Sacramento to help improve service.

Todd Edelman commented that he'd like to know how Yolobus coordinates with Amtrak services.

Commissioner Andrews inquired how connections are considered.

Mike Luken responded they try hard not to duplicate services. However, they are hearing loud and clear about a desire for connectivity to the Davis train station. They will look into whether that can be provided.

Jose Perez added that SACOG is initiating an unmet transit needs process in November with a meeting scheduled for Davis.

D. Appointment of BTSSC Representative to Core Area Advisory Committee

*Motion to appoint Ryan Dodge as BTSSC Liaison to CAAC (Fuchs, Gudz)
Motion carries unanimously.*

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar

Request to add support letter for AB 1103 (“Idaho” stop) to Long Range Calendar.

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

Transit Subcommittee: Commissioner Gudz shared that the committee has been reaching out to transit service providers to initiate conversations. They hope to engage once the school year starts. George Hague added they are trying to find points of integration between Unitrans, Yolobus, and TAPS, and to identify unmet needs.

Traffic Calming Subcommittee: Commissioner Watterson shared they have scope areas they wanted to look at. They’re trying to get a hold on metrics. Looking at present policy and comparing with other communities. Commissioner Dodge stated they’ve all frequently been out of town, but they know their direction and will start working.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn (Watterson, Andrews)

Motion carries unanimously.
