



**Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
Community Chambers
23 Russell Boulevard
Thursday, March 10, 2016
5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Commissioners: John Berg (Chair), Earl Bossard, Elisabeth Bourne, Mike Mitchell (Vice Chair), Raoul Renaud, Jim Skeen, Doug Waterman, Jon Watterson

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

Council Liaison: Brett Lee, Robb Davis (alternate)

Absent: Dan Fuchs

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously.

2. Commission and Staff Announcements

Commissioners Renaud and Watterson commented they liked the new striping on Lake & Covell. Slows speeds down. Kudos to staff.

3. Council Liaison Comments

Councilmember Davis provided the commission with an explanation for why he voted against the MRIC mixed-use alternative.

Councilmember Lee emphasized that commission input is valued and heard by the City Council.

4. Public Communications:

Matt Williams commented on the Sterling Apartments project stating he's happy the Negative Declaration was extended but unhappy the transportation commission was not going to hear the item due to traffic conditions. Is asking to learn from the fits and starts of the process. Let's take our time and do projects and processes that are quality, not in piece meal fashion. Build trust with the community.

Alan Hirsch commented on ADA issues with Temple Coffee House. City needs to work on plan checks. Expressed concern about Cannery bike connection and the commission should hear an

update. Stated he's worried about parking and bus users for the Mace Ranch project; the process was convoluted. All sides should be heard and have an opportunity to speak.

Michael Harrington stated the schools are over capacity. Lobbied for curbing growth. Stated he doesn't like all the traffic from projects going through disadvantaged communities. Commission has big responsibility to just say no to projects. Opposes Sterling housing project. Stated he was unhappy with Embassy Suites and that it did not go through the commission; his traffic engineer went through the traffic report. Regarding the Sterling project, does not like the mid-block crosswalk. Davis does not have an owners protection ordinance for mobile homes.

5. Approval of Minutes: 2/11/16 Meeting

Minutes approved unanimously.

6. 2100 Fifth Street: Sterling Fifth Street Apartments Project

Eric Lee, Planner, gave report. Noted mistake to commission in staff report: 244 total units, 203 market-rate, 41 affordable units.

Josh Vasbinger, applicant, stated his business is family owned and does not have any outside influence. Is heavily into sustainability. They are the largest privately held off-campus housing firm in the country. They are working on getting support letters from other project cities. Followed with presentation.

Paul Deering, landscape architect and local resident, gave presentation. Access for cars at back of the property to structure. Fire Department requires 25' for stall widths which reduces vehicle storage. Fifth Street emergency vehicle access goes out but bikes can use the path. Worked with Fire Department on bollards at emergency vehicle access for placement. Circulation allows for biking to all major destinations.

Ken Anderson, applicant traffic engineer, described project trips and traffic impacts as less than significant. Stated crosswalk can be relocated on the plan.

Alan Hirsch commented he wants structural soil for the trees around the site, grass pavers for road around the back.

Don Sherman, Rancho Yolo resident expressed project concerns including, access impacts into Rancho Yolo, traffic on Pole Line Rd, safety & delay existing Rancho Yolo. Commented there are exaggerations and errors in the traffic report. Wants a restart of the CEQA process with an EIR required. Feels the Negative Declaration is inadequate.

Commissioner Bossard inquired what work was done on estimating bicycle trips. Asked staff to address bicycle projections in future projects.

Commissioner Watterson inquired if they looked at adjacent apartment complexes to estimate.

Ken Anderson responded they do not have bike or ped counts.

Commissioner Renaud stated the City should improve the path to campus. It's 2.1 miles and would be used.

Commissioner Skeen inquired if bike parking is secure.

Eric Lee responded affirmatively.

Josh Vasbinger stated some are external and locked and the rest are internal and locked in a room.

Josh Vasbinger stated they're looking at incentives to get people not to use their cars. Maybe a bike program.

Commissioner Watterson inquired about height limit.

Eric Lee responded the project is within zoning limits.

Eric Lee stated staff is aware of traffic concerns at Rancho Yolo.

Commissioner Mitchell asked how they will prevent students doubling up to save money.

Josh Vasbinger responded they are working to come up with a restriction to prevent this. They manage the property to help control this issue.

Eric Lee and Josh Vasbinger added the units will be single occupant rates and that is effective at controlling the total number of occupants.

Commissioner Mitchell stated that Alvarado is currently over parked. Zipcar, bike incentives and other ways to encourage non-auto use should be shown on plan. Financial incentives should be offered. Noted the mid-block crossing of four lanes. Referenced Anderson Rd and the difficulties crossing. If MRIC comes in, he is skeptical of the crossing.

Paul Deering responded a pedestrian refuge island would be constructed.

Commissioner Watterson stated it's critical to have a bike path / lane on Fifth Street between L Street and Pole Line Rd.

Roxanne Namazi, City traffic engineer, stated the project is planned and funds requested for next year's budget.

Commissioner Watter stated he wants cargo bikes accommodated, automatic lowering bollards, and bike/ped/transit data.

Commissioner Renaud stated the secured bicycle room should be easily accessible.

Commissioner Berg inquired if anyone has looked at bicycle access to Second Street.

Eric Lee responded that hasn't been specifically discussed, but would require crossing other properties.

Commissioner Renaud stated he is fine with the Negative Declaration, there is some detail that needs to be addressed but supports the project.

Commissioner Watterson appreciates the information provided by applicant and supports project.

Commissioner Bossard inquired if the project is required to analyze bike/ped traffic.

Eric Lee responded no, they're not considered the same as vehicles from CEQA purposes.

Commissioner Mitchell stated he's okay with the peak hour explanation, thinks right now the crosswalk with flashers & island on Fifth Street feels inadequate.

Roxanne Namazi stated she's bringing the Fifth Street project to the commission in the next couple of months.

Commissioner Mitchell suggested exploring using the Sudwerks parking lot as an access.

Commissioner Skeen stated Fifth Street needs work

Commissioner Berg concluded no need for a vote. Support for project is obvious and that commissioners would like more information on bikes, transit, and peds.

7. Downtown Circulation

Deferred to future meeting.

8. Long Range Calendar

Commissioner Mitchell requested a Dutch Junction evaluation and to look at other items in the minutes and get them on the long range calendar.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned.