



Minutes
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
Davis Senior Center, Valente Room (646 A Street)
July 11, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Commission Members: Frances Andrews (Vice Chair), Todd Edelman, Eric Gudz (Chair), Mike Mitchell, Lyuba Vosheva
Absent: Jessica Jacobson

Council Liaisons: Brett Lee, Dan Carson (alternate)

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 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Mitchell, Gudz): Approve agenda
Motion carries, 5-0

3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

Mayor Lee shared that two new BTSSC members Tim Sontos and Ayush Patel will be joining the commission. Tim Sontos was previously on the Public Art Commission and Ayush Patel is a UC Davis student. Sontos will serve as the regular commission member and Patel is the alternate member.

Mayor Lee also shared comments and observations from the Mace Boulevard meeting on July 10, 2019. He wants the commission to provide better education to the community about the benefits of biking and walking. Many of the people at the Mace meeting wanted to know why bikes and pedestrians need to access Mace Boulevard, because most of the audience drives a car. Mayor Lee stated that these folks think that bikes are for kids and not a transportation asset. He would like the commission to help spread the word about the importance of biking and walking. He would like the focus of design on the three major user groups and emphasized that this is a zero sum game. He referenced the arguments during the street standard process and how there were issues between the lane widths being ten feet or eleven feet wide. But that the street standards did not include intersections. Mayor Lee believes that we can design for cars, bikes, and pedestrians. We still have room for all. Mayor Lee shared that at 3rd Street and B Street he is asked to wait in the left turn lane while cars pass him going 30 mph. He does not like this and thinks we can do better designs.

Commissioner Mitchell asked the Mayor if the City is using NACTO designs. He wanted to know why we are repeating our own designs and not using NACTO designs.

Transportation Manager Brian Mickelson said that the City endorses NACTO design guidelines.

Commissioner Edelman noted that lots of people at the meeting did not live in Davis, they lived in the County.

Mayor Lee responded to Commissioner Mitchell's comment and said that the trouble with Covell and J Street and Covell and L Street is we did try to import designs, as a result both projects have issues with the configuration.

Commissioner Mitchell stated that we could make improvements to J Street to accommodate all users and make the intersection smaller.

Mayor Lee questioned Commissioner stated the design needs to be the right fit for the project. We need our engineer and design consultants to understand the nuances of the streets and intersections and use the correct tool for the project.

B. Bike/Ped Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio, the City Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator shared that Staff launched a bike share survey on June 9, 2019. So far, over 750 people have participated in the survey. The survey closes on July 26, 2019. She asked that commissioners take the survey and encourage others to share their opinions about JUMP satisfaction and parking solutions. Jennifer also shared that the wayfinding project is moving along. She requested bids from three companies to fabricate and install signs. Bids are due to Staff on July 22, 2019. The goal is to have the signs in place before UC Davis starts in late September.

Commissioner Vosheva shared that she took the survey and shared that she rides JUMP in Sacramento mostly and if she should consider her Sacramento experiences with parking JUMP bikes.

Jennifer Donofrio stated that we are interested in parking in Davis.

Commissioner Edelman was concerned about how the parking rules might be different in Sacramento and Davis. He also would like downtown to be excluded from any new parking rules.

Commissioner Andrews shared that the new JUMP bikes are not as nice as the older version. The locks do not work well, she experienced issues placing bikes on hold. She also had to check out three JUMP bikes before she found one that worked. She prefers the older model of JUMP bikes.

Commissioner Edelman thanked Jennifer Donofrio for sharing how to check out JUMP bikes without a smart phone during her update. Commissioner Edelman also voiced

concern about the new bikes and shared that he had issues with the locking mechanism. And had issues with six bikes in one day.

C. Other Staff Announcements

Brian Mickelson shared that there is no news to offer about the overcrossing of Covell and F Street. Commissioner Andrews said she liked the project status report in the commission packet.

4. Public Comment

Natural Resource Commissioner Alan Pryor delivered a letter to Commissioner Edelman regarding the Mace Blvd agenda item.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes: June 13, 2019

B. Approval of Transportation Implementation Plan Annual Report

C. Davis Pathfinder, Bike and Pedestrian Wayfinding Project Update

Motion (Andrews, Mitchell): Approved minutes

Motions carries, 5-0

6. Regular Items

A. Mace Blvd Design Revisions Update

Brian Mickelson shared the PowerPoint presentation from the July 10, 2019 Mace Boulevards meeting. Commissioner Gudz gave an overview of the presentation. They shared that 150-200 people attended the meeting held at Pioneer Elementary school. The meeting was led by Police Chief Darren Pytel. This was the third or fourth meeting about Mace Boulevard. Commissioner Gudz highlighted the main concerns from the meeting, which included travel lanes being reduced from two lanes to one lane and mapping tools routing people through residential neighborhoods. They shared good feedback from the project about support of the project from Pioneer Elementary school parents and students. Commissioner Gudz also shared that metering of Interstate 80 is creating backups on the streets. Recently, six independent design companies worked on a plan to redesign this corridor. The original design team is no longer a part of the process. Many of the people at the community meeting were from El Macero and very few people at the meeting were bicyclists.

Brian Mickelson shared that even if we improve Mace Boulevard we will still have the same problems if the metering is not addressed.

Jennifer Donofrio read a letter submitted by Alan Pryor.

In response to the letter, Commissioner Mitchell asked about seeing design drawings at an upcoming commission meeting.

Brian Mickelson said yes, probably in October. Brian Mickelson also commented that we need the modeling, which is based on recent traffic counts. Additional

traffic counts will be conducted to consider truck traffic during tomato season. This will also be included in the modeling.

Brian Mickelson shared temporary fixes that have been made the the cooridor including “Keep Clear” painted on the roadway at San Marino, temporary bollards to prevent drivers from passing one another, and staff is working on getting quotes to cut the islands and place barricades at certain locations.

Commissioner Andrews shared that this area is really a challenge. She understands that any changes take time and money and people want changes now. Agrees the roadway should be 2-lanes in both directions. Questioned how many people are going to Interstate 80 versus elsewhere on Mace.

Brian Mickelson explained that to save money the City used the existing curbs, gutters, sidewalks and made the bike lane wide. The orginial purpose of the project was repaving and the City did that.

Commissioner Andrews responded that people want Mace to be what is was before the project. She feels like there is a lot of wasted space. Overall she feels like people feel like this design is less friendly for cars and more friendly to bikes. Explained this project is geared towards elementary school kids and not bike commuters to Sacramento. Expressed concerns that Police and Fire cannot respond to calls along Mace because they are stuck in traffic.

Brian Mickelson shared that Police and Fire are not concerned and they can get through Mace in an emergency. Brian Mickelson then asked the commission to focus their attention on areas of concern related to design- projected bikeways, buffered bike lanes.

Commissioner Mitchell said he thought that the meeting tonight was just to give an update and not make any recommendations. Then he shared the execution of the protected bikeways was not great. He would be okay with buffered bike lanes and bollards. Commissioner Mitchell shared that he looked into the meeting minutes from older Mace meetings and he felt like the BTSSC did not make clear recommendations to Council. He requested that the commission make clearer recommendations in the minutes. He also said he felt the meeting minutes have been lacking when capturing what was said with regards to motions and information sent to Council.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if Waze does accurate and live tracking of the interstate to route people to local streets.

Commissioner Edelman responded that Waze shows when Mace is congested and then reroutes.

Commissioner Mitchell wanted clarification on having a traffic meter in town.

Brian Mickelson explained that is it legal and it would be a traffic signal that would operate during commute hours.

Commissioner Edelman asked if the BTSSC reviewed the Mace project before or after the new street standards were approved.

Brian Mickelson informed the group that the street standards were incorporated in the project.

Commissioner Edelman shared that there should be complementary measures in addition to the infrastructure. Commissioner Edelman proposed that Staff consider a park and ride lot on the southside of Interstate 80. He feels that a zero sum gain is a good goal, but in reality there is competition between active travel and not active travel. His concern is that we have to make some sacrifices. As a result, Commissioner Edelman proposed a motion:

Motion (Edelman, Gudz): The BTSSC requests that City Council explore complementary measures to the Mace project such as Park and Ride and transit services that will use Mace infrastructure.

There was general support of this motion by Commissioners Gudz and Andrews. Commissioner Andrews supports this idea, but wants to focus on what to do right now and does not want to muddy the waters with more things. She wants to focus on problem.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if we even know where traffic is going and is this problem caused by Waze. He suggested a Park and Ride on the east side of town to encourage drivers to get off Interstate 80 before the bottleneck.

Commissioner Edelman stated that an express bus, park and ride, and improved bike parking will help. He also shared that traffic counts might need to consider a potential park and ride. Commissioners voted on the motion.

Motion fails 2 ayes and 2 noes.

Commissioner Gudz read each of the general concepts on page 4 of the staff report.

Commissioner Mitchell expressed overall support for the concepts, but would like to see details.

Commissioner Edelman asked for the wording for the concrete islands to include optimize and reduce instead of remove. Commissioner Edelman also shared that we would like to retain the protected bikeways.

Commissioner Andrews added that in the letter received by Alan Pryor, he did not like the City making improvements in small bits, but that she preferred this method because you don't want to make mistakes.

Motion (Gudz and Andrews): The BTSSC supports the general concepts in the Staff Report and strongly supports modeling and infrastructure evaluation before more specific and permanent design changes are made.

Commissioner Mitchell shared his concerns that he does not want Mace to always be under construction. Commissioner Andrews shared that traffic modeling is very important.

Motion Passes: 4 ayes

Next the commissioners reviewed the Solutions section of the staff report. Commissioner Mitchell said that he is highly skeptical of the Mace Ranch Innovation Center traffic study.

The commissioners discussed reinstatement of the second travel lane on Mace. Commissioner Andrews supported the lane.

Commissioner Gudz stated they were a little sad about the reversal of the road diet, but understands the need to accommodate regional traffic within this corridor.

Commissioner Edelman shared that the City Attorney is looking at ways to discourage regional traffic from being routed onto Mace including removing Davis from Waze. He followed up with if regional traffic is removed, then there might be a way to have one lane in each direction.

Commissioner Andrews explained her concern with idling vehicles for one hour is not doing our part for the environment. And that this project will not stop people from using cars. She shared that people do not ride their bikes that much in South Davis and that the project design can be both better for bicyclists and drivers.

Commissioner Gudz stated that they do not think the project can benefit both bicyclists and drivers with everything being preserved.

Commissioner Edelman said that he would not support the project unless it included Class 4 bike facilities along the entire corridor.

Commissioner Mitchell wants to see 30% plans. Commissioner Gudz wanted to understand how much parking fills up at the Mace Boulevard park and ride lot. Brian Mickelson did not have numbers, but shared that he has not observed many vehicles parking on Mace.

Motion (Gudz, Mitchell): The BTSSC strongly supports the general concepts moving forward as presented in the staff report, and strongly supports the use of modeling and iterative evaluation before more specific and permanent design changes are made.

Furthermore, the BTSSC conditionally supports the direction of the design changes, after modeling, while reserving the ability at no later than 30% design to provide updated recommendations to city council.

Commissioner Mitchell had concerns about the motion because he feels like there is not enough details.

Commissioner Andrews advised the other commissioners to trust that Staff will bring back the plans to commission.

Commissioner Mitchell responded that the last time we saw Mace he thought Staff said it was done with little opportunity to comment on design.

Motion (Edelman, Gudz): The BTSSC supports Class 4 bikeways along the entire project corridor.

The two motions were drafted into one motion.

Motion Passes: 4 Ayes

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Commissioner Edelman asked for staff to share the results from the JUMP survey at the July 30, 2019 joint Council/ Commission meeting.

Commissioner Gudz explained that the joint meeting is for high level discussion between Council and the commission and that this is not the place for this discussion. Also stated they will ask Council at the shared meeting to allow the commission to review the JUMP data prior to going to Council.

The Commission also discussed moving Covell and L meeting. And moving the public comment review to November.

B. Commissioner Announcements

No announcements made by commissioners.

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

No reports made by commissioners.

8. Adjourn

Commission adjourned at 8:14 p.m.
