



Minutes
Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC)
Davis Senior Center, Valente Room (646 A Street)
November 14, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Commission Members: Frances Andrews (Vice Chair), Todd Edelman, Eric Gudz (Chair),
Jessica Jacobson, Mike Mitchell, Ayush Patel

Council Liaisons: Brett Lee, Dan Carson (alternate)

Staff: Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner

Absent: Commissioner Csontos

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Mitchell): Approve agenda.

Motion carries unanimously.

3. Censure of Commission Member

Motion (Gudz, Mitchell): Censure of Commissioner Edelman for behaviors outlined in packet letter, which will not be allowed in the room. If behaviors continue, progressive penalties will occur.

Commissioner Edelman read a prepared statement in response consenting to improved behavior and following the Chair's instruction.

Motion carries 5-0-1 (Edelman abstains).

4. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

A. Bike/Ped Program Update

Jennifer Donofrio, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, gave an update on the program's activity this past month:

- Discover Davis.
- Taught final Biking with Confidence class of the year.
- Taught bicycle education for second graders at Chavez Elementary School.
- Spoke about bicycle education at the Women in Transportation seminar at UC Davis.
- Organized a pathway cleanup event.
- Hosted final Davis Bike Party event of the year.

- Conducting final review for wayfinding signage. Next step is fabrication and installation.
- Attended a two-day Active Transportation Symposium at Sacramento State University.
- Partnered with Bike Davis for the Pedalfest event.
- Conducted a “Light the Night” event at Third & A Street intersection, giving out over 800 lights to bicyclists without them.
- Hosted a bicycling infrastructure tour for the City of Cupertino.

Commissioner Mitchell suggested re-starting the bicycling-focused articles in the Enterprise.

B. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

Councilmember Lee announced the City has a 2x2 meeting scheduled with DJUSD and will raise the topic of wanting greater opportunities with the school district about getting bicycle education in the schools.

Commissioner Lee also announced Dutch street design consultant, Maurits Lopes Cardozo is visiting Davis 11/18-11/20. Among the project that will be discussed are Mace Blvd, Fourteenth/Villanova, and Birch Lane WBAR Improvements.

C. Other Staff Announcements

i. Transportation Planning Announcements and CIP Updates

Brian Abbanat announced that UC Davis is currently interviewing for a new Director of Transportation Services and expect a decision to be made within the next few weeks.

5. Public Comment

Allen Lowry, architect and Historic Resources Commissioner, shared a detailed proposal for a shuttle that travels from the train station to UC Davis and connecting sections of Davis without downtown access.

6. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2019

Motion (Patel, Andrews): Approve with revisions.

Motion carries unanimously.

7. Regular Items

A. Review of University Commons and Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report

Eric Lee, Planner, gave a summary introduction of the project:

- 80 acre mixed-use redevelopment.
- In the draft EIR phase, comment period ends December 20th.
- Trader Joe’s & Arco sites will not be redeveloped.
- Project requires General Plan land use & zoning changes.
- Project EIR focuses on net change, not required to address existing conditions.
- 264 units, 150,000 sq/ft retail, 6-7 stories, 622 bedrooms, 864 beds, 600 parking spaces.

Greg Behrens, project consultant with Fehr & Peers summarized the EIR transportation analysis:

- High non-auto trip mode share to campus.
- Commercial automobile trips to development remain high.
- Adding project to existing conditions results in minor increases/less than significant impacts.
- Cumulative (existing + project + assumed City development) impacts will worsen traffic.
- Can mitigate project impact by changing signal time to reduce peak hour delay.
- Russell/Sycamore intersection: extend left turn lane from 300' to 375'.
- Evaluated bicycle facilities for level of traffic stress.

Commissioner Jacobson asked about effects on vehicle traffic near Chavez E.S.

Greg Behrens responded not a lot of new trips will occur in that direction that will impact delay.

Commissioner Patel expressed support for the low parking alternative. Stated City should limit car ownership, reduced GHG emissions and as a UCD-oriented development, compliments mission to reduce cars on campus. Low parking alternative meets commission's goals.

Commissioner Edelman expressed the following project problems:

1. UC Davis is not involved enough.
2. Preservation of parking. More housing should be built instead of parking.

Commissioner Mitchell stated the low parking option is good. Wants to make sure we see this project again. Asked what is the plan for spillover parking impacts.

Brian Abbanat responded that the surrounding residential neighborhood is a preferential parking district (update: excepting Wake Forest Drive, Guava Ln, Oxford Circle neighborhoods, which are also UCD-oriented residential uses).

Commissioner Mitchell stated project needs:

- Long term bike parking for bikes with trailers, cargo bikes.
- Protected bike lane on Russell.
- Solutions for intersections.
- Project should not proceed without addressing problems.

Motion (Mitchell, Edelman): The BTSSC cannot recommend that the University Commons project move forward because impacts to bicycle and pedestrian facilities and to study intersections, as identified in the draft EIR, remains significant and unavoidable.

Commissioner Edelman stated the elevator has to be large enough to fit bikes at least 10-feet long.

Commissioner Jacobson expressed concern about not having a project due to the strong motion. Like the idea of a bridge to move across Russell Blvd.

Commissioner Andrews suggested redistributing money from constructing parking to make more improvements to Russell Blvd.

Motion fails, 2-4.

B. Review of Draft Downtown Davis Specific Plan

Commissioner Gudz introduced the item and a discussion framework for providing project input. They stated there is a ton of information in the plan, including a focus on travel demand, downtown policies, circulation and parking, street changes, and lots of input from others.

Public Comment:

Allen Lowry commented he sees Davis as a transportation hub for Yolo County. Don't build a hotel near the train station, build transit. Make north/south tracks a light rail that connects to northern parts of the state.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Edelman stated that 20 mph target design speed is too fast for shared streets, and proposes 15 mph.

Motion (Edelman, Gudz): BTSSC recommends target speed design to be 15 mph

Commissioner Jacobson expressed hesitation and that 15 mph is too slow as a driver. Stated consultant team has a lot of expertise and commission should trust the consultants.

Motion fails, 3-3.

Commissioner Patel expressed support for the complete street model including curb parking occupancy rate like in San Francisco, unbundling parking costs from housing, maximum parking requirements, and cash-out parking programs.

Commissioners Gudz and Mitchell echoed support for these comments.

Commissioner Mitchell stated the project does discourage automobiles from downtown and is banking on rideshare. Davis needs better transit before we implement this project. Transit should serve all residents not just students, especially from west Davis to downtown. Not everyone wants to go to campus.

Commissioner Mitchell expressed concern about frequently used phrase, "to the extent feasible". Also concerned about pedestrians walking into traffic at intersections without yielding.

Greg Behrens, Fehr & Peers consultant, responded that downtown is a "pedestrian first" environment, but street design could be clearer regarding mode hierarchy.

Commissioner Edelman stated stop signs are a failure, wasting patience and time. Should eliminate stop signs as much as possible and implement priority-based design.

Motion (Edelman): BTSSC recommends stop signs are not used for control at non-signalized intersections.

Motion fails for lack of second.

Motion (Edelman): Pedestrians should be allowed to cross street on 20 mph street intersections at a diagonal. (Cited European examples)

Motion fails for lack of second.

Motion (Gudz, Mitchell): BTSSC reaffirms endorsement of “Idaho Stop” especially as it concerns stop signs in downtown Davis.

Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Gudz:

- Expressed support for complete streets.
- Expressed support for incentives for parking cash-out and other alternatives.
- Encouraged closely considering how modes will interact.
- Encouraged colleagues to consider that pavement may not be as important as today due to future technologies.

9. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long Range Calendar

Commissioner Gudz noted that elections for Chair/Vice-Chair should be added to the long range calendar for January.

Brian Abbanat noted that traffic calming items will begin arriving to the commission for review starting in January.

Commissioner Jacobson inquired whether there is a role for the BTSSC in Police Department messaging regarding recent robbery/carjacking warnings. Concerned messaging may inadvertently discourage walking and biking, stating that more people walking and biking make a street safer.

Brian Abbanat responded we can plug-in the Police Department at any time to have that conversation.

B. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Patel announced the UC Davis Med Center shuttle’s last day of service will be April 3rd, 2020. The new Causeway Connection’s first day of service will be April 6th, 2020.

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

9. Adjourn

Motion (Patel): Adjourn

Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Attachment: Public Comment: Allen Lowry Meeting Submittal
