



REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 28, 2004
North Berkeley Senior Center
7:00 PM

1901 Hearst Avenue

AGENDA

1. *Roll Call*
2. *Order of Agenda*
3. *Public Comment Period:* Speakers are customarily allotted up to three minutes each. Speakers are encouraged to submit more extensive comments in writing. To ensure adequate time for action items on the Agenda, the Planning Commission may limit the number of public speakers during the public comment period.
4. *Chairperson's Report:* Report by Commission Chair.
5. *Committee Reports:* Reports by Commission committees or liaisons.
6. *Planning Staff Report:* Report on upcoming planning issues and recent Council actions.
7. *Approval of Minutes:* Approved Minutes of December 10, 2003; Draft Minutes of January 14, 2004 (copies for commissioners only).
8. *Future Planning Commission Agenda Items and Other Planning-Related Events* (copy attached).

Action Items: Matters for discussion and possible action.

9. **Presentation by AC Transit on Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives in Downtown and the Southside.**

AC Transit is proposing a significant upgrade to transit service in downtown Berkeley and the Southside as part of its East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. This project would construct bus-only lanes and light rail-like station structures along an 18-mile long alignment from downtown Berkeley and UC Berkeley in the north to Bay Fair BART in the south. This system would allow buses to operate much more quickly and reliably than they do today while offering riders a rail-like transit experience. AC Transit is currently in the midst of preparing an EIR/EIS for this project. AC Transit will present several alignment alternatives in downtown Berkeley and the Southside as well as options for how streets could be reconstructed to accommodate the system. These include possibly building a bus-only facility in the middle of Shattuck Avenue as well as a pedestrian/bus mall on upper Telegraph Avenue (immediately south of the UC campus).

AC Transit wishes to obtain the Planning Commission's feedback on its proposed BRT system and concurrence on the set of BRT alternatives to carry forward and evaluate in the EIR/EIS.

(Presentation information package attached)

Information Items: Action may be taken on any information report at this meeting if any Commissioner requests its placement on the agenda as an action item.

10. Memo from City Clerk: 2003 Statements of Economic Interests (Memo attached).
11. Council Report on General Plan Implementation: Request to Berkeley Unified School District Regarding Public Outreach for Land Use Decisions (Memo attached).
 - a. Staff Memo on Current Status
 - b. Copy of Staff Report from January 13, 2004 Council Packet

Communications: In compliance with Brown Act regulations, no action may be taken on these items. However, discussion may occur at this meeting upon a Commissioner request.

e-mail from Martha Nicoloff concerning the General Plan Housing Element, dated January 8, 2004

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Please refrain from wearing scented products to public meetings.

Written material may be viewed in advance of the meeting at the Planning and Development Department, 2118 Milvia Street, Third Floor, during working hours or at the Main Branch Library, Shattuck/Kittredge Streets, during regular library hours at the Reference Desk.

Accommodations Provided Upon Request. To request meeting materials in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter, assistive-listening device, real-time captioning or other accommodation for the meeting, call 981-7480 (voice) or 981-7474 (TDD). Providing at least five working days' notice will help to ensure availability at the meeting.

Note: If you object to a project or to any City action or procedure relating to the project application, any lawsuit which you may later file may be limited to those issues raised by you or someone else in the public hearing on the project, or in written communication delivered at or prior to the public hearing. The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge related to these applications is governed by Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, unless a shorter limitations period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 1094.6, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred.