



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

Thursday, October 4, 2001, 7:00 p.m.  
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

*ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE REMINDED THAT OTHER ATTENDEES MAY BE SENSITIVE TO VARIOUS ODORS, WHETHER NATURAL OR MANUFACTURED, IN PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS. PLEASE HELP THE CITY RESPECT THESE NEEDS.*

**Roll Call:** 7:10 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Piercy, Alward, Broderick, Holland, Shumer

Absent: Commissioners Perry, Lofton, St John

Staff Present: Jeffrey Egeberg (Secretary), Reh-Lin Chen

**Comments from the Public:**

Tom Kelly spoke on the culvert and creek at Strawberry Lodge. 1320 Addison, and stated that the property owners had not yet received letters from the City. He also proposed a public/private grant sponsorship to help pay for the repairs.

Emily Wilcox, Commission on Disability, provided information in support of the Council report from that Commission on traffic signal accessibility.

**Announcements:** None.

**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 981-6406 (voice) or 981-6903 (TDD) as soon as possible. Providing at least five (working) days' notice will help to ensure availability at the meeting.

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### **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting of September 6, 2001

The first sentence of Information/Discussion Item 4 was changed from "...pulled from Council..." to "...being held...". The minutes were approved with this one change (MSC Holland/Shumer).

### **Presentation:**

Jeff Egeberg gave a brief staff report on attendance at the APWA national conference, noting that a main benefit of attending was the opportunity for "networking" with other Public Works professionals, and noting that the national disaster significantly disrupted the proceedings.

### **Discussion and Possible Action Items:**

- 1. Draft council report from the Commission on Disability on traffic signal accessibility:** In response to questions about funding, Reh-Lin Chen, Acting Traffic Engineer, indicated the possibility of funding from outside sources such as grants and from the ADA program. The Commission still had a concern about lack of adequate funding for operations and maintenance. Voting for the expression of support: Piercy, Alward, Shumer, Holland; abstaining: Broderick. The Commission adopted an expression of support for the Commission on Disability's recommendation (MSC Holland/Shumer, Broderick abstaining).
- 2. Staff recommendations on revisions and expansions to the Clean Stormwater Program and fees to include creek maintenance and street sweeping:** A ballot measure is now targeted for the November 2002 election, but recent court actions indicate that there is a possibility of an exemption from Proposition 218. Maintenance of creeks on private property may be at least partially funded from the formation of assessment districts. Street sweeping revisions are still being developed by staff; preliminary concepts should be available by the next Commission meeting.
- 3. Staff proposal for increased capital street pavement spending and necessary engineering sources:** The paving of Russell and Oxford have been added to this year's program to expend the AB 2928 funds. No additional engineering resources have been approved; some other element of the Engineering work program may be delayed.
- 4. Continued development of a Commission work plan:** No progress has been made, but emphasis will be given to the subcommittee work plans.

### **Information Items:**

- 1. Status of staff proposals for increased street maintenance and repair activities:** In addition to improved Class A patching operations, staff has been evaluating the employment of

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the existing paving machine for bicycle purposes. However, the lack of a grinding capability is an obstacle. Also, it appears that crack sealing would be useful. Staff should have some draft recommendations by the next Commission meeting.

**2. Responses from Traffic Engineering staff regarding construction and maintenance of traffic signal projects:** Much of this was discussed under the accessible traffic signal item above. There remains a significant concern that many traffic projects are approved without considering the added operations and maintenance requirements. Staff indicated that staffing levels are determined by available funding, rather than determining the extent and numbers of different types of equipment.

**3. Staff information regarding retention procedures applicable to essential City documents and drawings:** The letter from Jennifer Pearson was submitted for distribution to Commissioners for discussion and action at the next meeting. This letter requests the Public Works Director's assistance in obtaining record drawings from the Planning and Development Department.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

The Right-of-Way subcommittee is deliberating (a) the Transportation Commission's motion regarding the Street Repair Policy, and (b) maintenance of bicycle routes, with recommendations expected at its next meeting.

No other subcommittees met this month.

### **Items for Future Agenda**

1. Continued discussion of a Commission Work Plan.
2. Staff report on status of GASB 34 compliance and related development of a Geographic Information System (GIS).
3. Retention of record city documents and drawings
4. Road maintenance operations, including bicycle routes.
5. Clean storm water program update

### **Adjournment:**