



Public Works Commission

Special Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, July 11, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

Roll Call: 7:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alward, Broderick, Holland, Perry, Piercy, St. John, Shumer

Absent: Commissioner Campbell

Vacant: Councilmember Shirek's appointee

Introduction of Assistant City Manager for Transportation: Peter Hillier described his experience to date and pointed out the large workload backlog that was awaiting his arrival. He is working on a staff development plan, which includes the recent hire of a Senior Planner and the re-recruitment of an Assistant Traffic Engineer. He has written an initial work plan that was submitted to the City Council in March 2002 and will provide copies to the Commissioners. Chair Piercy pointed out that a high priority for the Commission is maintenance of all the facilities, in particular pavement markings.

Comments from the Public:

Wendy Alfsen, "Walk and Roll Berkeley", P.O. Box 13143, Berkeley, spoke in favor of giving priority to the recommendations of the "Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Report" adopted in 2000, with respect to upcoming ballot measures.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of June 6, 2002 were approved as submitted (MSC Holland/Perry – Broderick abstaining) with corrections as follow:

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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Action Item 2B: add wording: "...working with staff to **develop criteria which will then be used** to select the priority streets."

Action Item 3: add wording: "...to take no action **at this meeting** regarding ballot measures."

Action Items:

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding street sweeping recommendations:** An ad-hoc subcommittee was created (MSC Shumer/St. John) for 6 months to work with staff and develop recommendations regarding street sweeping, creeks, and storm drainage. Its members are Commissioners Perry, Piercy, Shumer, and St. John.
- 2. Discussion and possible action regarding the Commission's draft report "Sanitary Sewer Program Study:"** Commissioner Piercy noted that there is still a "hole" in the report due to the lack of financial performance measure data. The report will refer to the staff work to develop such a system, but will not name specific software/systems. The report was approved for final editing and distribution for staff review (MSC St. John/Shumer). Staff is expected to submit its comments for the Commission's meeting on September 5, 2002.
- 3. Discussion and possible action regarding relevant November ballot issues, including street lighting/pedestrian safety and clean stormwater fees:** Commissioner Holland distributed some draft language, and the following statement regarding pedestrian safety was adopted to be forwarded to the City Council (MSC Broderick/Alward):

"The Public Works Commission urges the Council to redefine the pedestrian safety measure on the ballot for this November in order to provide funds to carry out the pedestrian safety priorities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety report and plan adopted in 2000. In any case, we consider pedestrian safety to be a basic universal service and should receive full funding within the budget."

The following statement regarding clean stormwater fees was adopted to be forwarded to the City Council (MSC Shumer/St. John):

"The Public Works Commission considers the Clean Stormwater fee increase to be important. It would provide a crucial increase in funding for needed repairs and improvements to our troubled storm drain system. We are, therefore, surprised and disappointed that it will not be on the November ballot."

Information Item:

- 1. Funding Status of Bay Trail and Spruce Street Reconstruction Projects:** Staff reported that temporary local funds in the amount of \$800,000, partly from Measure B reserves and from FY 2003

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street program contingencies, have been added to the Bay Trail Project due to the withdrawal of funds by CALTRANS. Staff is making efforts to replace this funding with alternative grant fund sources. Staff also reported that the Spruce Street federal aid project has tentatively been delayed until summer of 2003 due to lack of funds remaining in MTC's 2002 apportionment.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. **Utility:** The subcommittee will meet next week on the subject of private sewer laterals.
2. **Right of Way:** The ongoing development of a work program has been successful.
3. **Facilities and Equipment:** The subcommittee did not meet this month due to staff vacations.

Adjournment: 9:30 p.m.