



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes**

Thursday, May 5, 2005

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alward, Dacey, Holland, Jackson, Prevo, Shumer, St. John

Absent: Commissioners Edwards, Ongerth

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 7, 2005 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted (MSC Alward/Dacey) with a vote of 7-0-0.

CHAIR REPORT: None

STAFF REPORT: The secretary distributed a legislative summary of AB 1623 (Klehs) which would authorize Alameda County (along with several other counties) to impose a \$5 vehicle registration fee to finance transportation projects (including storm water runoff projects). This will be brought back to the next meeting as an action item to express the commission's support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Peter Hillier, Assistant Public Works Director, for Transportation, Engineering and Facilities, introduced himself and described his background since he was hired by the City of Berkeley in January 2002. His original objective was to consolidate transportation planning and traffic engineering, and then later more responsibility was added (parking meters, residential permit parking, sign maintenance). In response to commissioners' questions, although the staff transportation function is back in the Public Works Department, he predicted that the

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

May 5, 2005

Transportation Commission would remain, separate from the Public Works Commission.

STAFF PRESENTATION: Kenneth Emeziem and Wendy Wong of the engineering staff described the theory and implementation of the City's Pavement Management System and how the five-year plan for street paving is developed and updated each year. The different budget cutting scenarios were also described. Commissioners raised questions regarding the use of the excess transfer tax revenues and the City Manager's budget proposal for street paving.

Commissioner Shumer will work with Secretary Egeberg to present an action item on this subject for the next commission meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Sanitary Sewer System Study: Commissioners Jackson and Dacey reported on reviewing the actuarial study by Bickmore Risk Services for workers compensation rates. They agreed with the concept of each department being responsible for its own costs but would like more information on accident prevention measures. The subcommittee requested that the Secretary arrange a meeting for them with the Risk Manager. They also requested a survey of Public Works Departments in other cities on salary levels versus workers compensation rates and overall costs, and what other cities' policies are on distribution to various departments.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Report on use of biodiesel fuel in city vehicles: Commissioner Shumer raised questions on the experience of the Ecology Center, since they have been on 100% biodiesel for a long time and on why diesel fuel is less expensive than biodiesel. They would like to request that Bill Ivie, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, attend the next meeting of the Commission for this purpose.

2. Council action on UC Foothill Bridge: Council approved the permit but added the additional condition that the City be indemnified in the event of any lawsuits. The University representative stated that indemnification would require approval by the Regents.

3. Report on "Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths Linking Area Attractions" from West Berkeley Project Area Committee (PAC): Redevelopment staff Marti Brown described the potential project to develop bicycle access along Third Street from Addison to Hearst. She also indicated that it is actually outside the PAC (Project Area Committee) boundary. Commissioners pointed out that this might not be a priority issue for the Public Works Commission and of the difficulties of dealing with the railroads. It was also pointed out that there may be a trade-off between recreational uses and daily needs in the area from San Pablo to Sixth Street. This shall be brought back at the next meeting as an action item to make possible recommendations for their upcoming feasibility study.

4. Status Report on Creeks Task Force: The work plan and budget has been approved by the Planning Commission and will be considered by the Council on May 10, 2005. Staff reported that it had reviewed both Propositions 40 and 50, as suggested by Ann Riley at the last CTF meeting, but found little opportunity to apply for creek or storm water funding.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

May 5, 2005

5. Status of Council actions on sewer fees and private sewer laterals: Staff reported that the sewer fees and the sewer program budget for FY 2006 are predicated on UC paying amounts calculated and included by the City as its "fair share." There could be a significant shortfall, of up to \$2,000,000, if these are not paid. Commissioners questioned whether UC sewer connection permits could be withheld in this case. This and other questions shall be drawn up to be directed to the City Attorney as an action item at the next meeting.

6. Status of current Rule 20A and 20B underground districts: This report was carried over.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Update on Possible Relocation of Clean City Program (June 2005)
2. Possible Revision of the Agenda Process for Information Items (June 2005)
3. Remaining Staff Presentations
 - a. Sanitary Sewer System
 - b. Environmental Issues
4. Issues Being Deferred for Now
 - a. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
 - b. Recommendation regarding Street Cleaning Program
 - c. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
4. Reports from Liaisons to Other Commissions

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.