ACTION MINUTES of the
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION- REGULAR MEETING
September 18, 2003
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave. (at MLK)
Berkeley, CA
Thursday
September 18, 2003
7:00 PM
MINUTES
A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS
1. Call to Order
   Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call
   Commissioners Present: Alfsen, Wendy
   Campbell, Dave
   Greenhut, Marcy
   Haselsteiner, Fran
   Landau, Nathan
   Lydon, Peter
   Metzger, Dean
   Syed, Sarah
   Wrenn, Rob
   Staff Present: Hillier, Peter, Assistant City Manager for Transportation
   Chaicharn, Cherry, Transportation Planner
3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda
   Public Comment: Karen Craig

COMMISSION ACTION:
5. Approval and Order of Agenda
   Request from Commissioner Lydon for Item 5. Support for Translink Program to be postponed to the next meeting in October.
6. Update on Administration/Staff
   Staff Hillier reported that a new Office Specialist II was hired on Monday, September 15 to assist Karen Moore, Parking Manager.
The Supervising Traffic Engineer will begin on Monday, September 22, 2003. The Office of Transportation was also able to hire an Associate Traffic Engineer and an Assistant Traffic Engineer who will both start in mid-October. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Planner position have already undergone interviews and an announcement will be made shortly.

B. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS 7:20 PM
1. Bicycle Subcommittee (Campbell, Syed)
2. Pedestrian Subcommittee (Alfsen, Haselsteiner, Greenhut)
3. Public Works Commission Liaison (Campbell)
4. TDM Subcommittee (Metzger, Alfsen, Syed, Lydon, Landau-Alternate)
5. Traffic Calming Subcommittee (Campbell)
6. Transit Subcommittee (Alfsen, Haselsteiner, Metzger, Wrenn)
7. Other announcements and reports on Commissioners’ activities

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS 7:45 PM
The public may speak at the beginning of any item. Listed times are estimates and may be changed at the Commission’s discretion.

1. UCB LRDP EIR (Commissioner Metzger) 7:45 PM
The Commissioners discussed the notice of preparation for the UC Berkeley’s long range development plan (LRDP) environmental impact review (EIR) document. The Commission requested that certain items, such as a baseline study of current conditions be included in the EIR and stressed for more alternatives.

COMMISSION ACTION:

The Transportation Commission finds that the current list of alternatives in the UC 2020 LRDP EIR Notice of Preparation is inadequate.

1) The Transportation Commission recommends to the City of Berkeley that, in their comments to UC, they call for environmental analysis of a reduced or no new parking alternative that includes TDM programs designed to improve node split and reduce demands for parking with a goal of no net new automobile trips to and from campus.

2) The Transportation Commission supports referral of the transportation related issues raised in the U.C. Community Coalition comments to City staff.

3) The Transportation Commission also refers the individual comments made by Transportation Commissioners to staff.

2. **General Plan Policy T-35** (Commissioner Alfsen)  
8:45 PM

The Commissioners discussed the recent draft of the Arts and Cultural Plan by the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission (BCAC). One of the items in BCAC draft plan called for the elimination of the approved Transportation Policy (T-35) in the General Plan which specifically states utilization of existing parking and reducing the demand for parking.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

The Transportation Commission recommends to Civic Arts Commission and staff and copying the City Council and staff, that Policy 1.3 be eliminated from the proposed Cultural Plan for the City of Berkeley as it violates and is inconsistent with the City’s General Plan (Policy T-35).

Furthermore, the TC recommends that if the Civic arts Commission or any other Commission desires to recommend alterations of transportation polices of the General Plan that Council direct the Civic Arts Commission and or any other Commission to bring any such issues to the Transportation Commission as transportation policies are not in the purview of other Commissions.

Any alteration of General Plan policies require following the formal General Plan amendment process.

The Transportation Commission welcomes your input and will be happy to discuss transportation policies with you.


3. **Street Smarts** (Commissioner Alfsen)  
9:00 PM

The Commissioners discussed the importance of a pedestrian safety education program. Pedestrian safety education programs are important, especially for young school-aged children. The Commissioners discussed whether the Office of Transportation could handle the costs for this program, and since the costs would be minimal, it was confirmed as feasible by staff Hillier.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

The Transportation Commission recommends that the Office of Transportation purchase the Street Smarts educational marketing campaign for traffic (auto, bike, and pedestrian) safety in the City of Berkeley and make Street Smarts materials available for distribution to interested Berkeley organizations (such as Berkeley Unified School District, and neighborhood associations, etc.).

4. **Project Impact Upon Transportation in Berkeley** (Commissioner Metzger) 9:30 PM
Policy development for TDM, parking, and alternate transportation improvements. Adhoc subcommittee.

Chair Metzger discussed the need for an adhoc subcommittee in order to address the future projects developments in the City of Berkeley. It was noted that most projects in the City do not always adequately address potential transportation issues. It was agreed by all the commissioners that a member from each subcommittee should participate, in addition to a member of the Planning Commission and the Public Works Commission.

5. **Support for Translink Program** (Commissioner Lydon) 9:40 PM
Postponed to October 16, 2003, next month’s meeting.

6. **Traffic Calming Update** (Traffic Circles) 9:45 PM
Staff Hillier updated the Commissioners on the City Council’s compromise item to be decided on October 21, 2003, regarding designating $140,000 from the Bicycle fund for traffic calming purposes, to be specifically implemented on Bicycle Boulevards.

Staff Hillier pointed out that funding for Traffic Calming are limited and, in order to implement traffic calming circles, there was a proposal to balance monies available by moving funds from the Bicycle Fund to Traffic Calming.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

The Transportation Commission supports the City Council compromise motion to designate the $140K recently shifted from the Bicycle fund to Traffic Calming to be earmarked explicitly and solely for use for traffic circles on Bicycle Boulevards. In addition, the Transportation Commission recognizes that there is a widespread City-wide need for traffic calming and encourages staff and Council to prioritize identification of alternative sources of funding other than existing City transportation funds for traffic calming.


**COMMISSION ACTION:**

The Transportation Commission reaffirms previous action on installing semi-permanent traffic circles.

7. **Office of Transportation Budget** 10:15 PM
Staff Hillier verbally updated the Commission on the three funds. The handout included the following information:
1. Traffic Calming currently has $129K in funds
2. Bicycle Funds currently has $1.094 Million
3. Pedestrian Funds currently has $302K.

D. **INFORMATION ITEMS** 10:30 PM
1. City of Berkeley
   Berkeley Transportation Options Guide

E. **COMMUNICATIONS** 10:45 PM
This only concerns matters not on the agenda. (*Communications concerning matters on the agenda are grouped with that agenda item.*)
None.

F. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** 10:50 PM
Best Practices for Intersections
Bike Access to University
Bike and Pedestrian Safety Education
Implementation of BUSD Transportation Policy
Eco Pass Program for Citizens of Berkeley
Ed Roberts Campus (referral to TC when under ZAB review)
Gilman Roundabout
Hearst and Delaware Corridor – Traffic Calming
Parking on the Wrong Side
Parking Restrictions for Slab-sided Vehicles
Prioritizing Intersections for Improvements:
Criteria Applied
Public Process
School Zone Fines Doubled (*Fall*)
Taxi Code Revisions
Truck Routing Enforcement
Vegetation Management
Traffic Calming Planning Process
UC Development of Gayley Road and Hearst (Mid-Block Crossing between Gayley and LeRoy)
Translink Program

G. **ADJOURNMENT**

(M/S/C) The Transportation Commission moved to adjourn meeting. (Metzger/Haselsteiner).
*Ayes: Alfsen, Campbell, Greenhut, Haselsteiner, Landau, Lydon, Metzger, Syed, Wrenn.*
*Noes: None. Abstentions: None.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.