



# TRANSPORTATION and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 6:15 pm

*Mission: The Berkeley City Council established this Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to advise the City Council on matters related to transportation and public works infrastructure policies, facilities, and services in the City. In addition, the commission functions as the City of Berkeley's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).*

**North Berkeley Senior Center  
Aspen Room  
1901 Hearst Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94709**

## **A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Public comment on items not on the agenda
4. Approval of minutes from February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting
5. Approval and Order of Agenda
6. Update on administration and staff
7. Announcements

## **B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

\* Written material included in packet

\*\* Written material to be delivered at meeting

The public may speak at the beginning of any item.

1. 2024 Commission work plan \*

*Commissioners*

Commissioners to discuss [2024 work plan](#). Possible actions: Adopt 2024 work plan; create subcommittees and assign members; appoint liaisons.

## **C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Information items can be moved to Discussion or Action by majority vote of the TIC*

1. Subcommittee reports & assignments: verbal reports from subcommittees
2. TIC [Work Plan](#)
3. TIC Mission Statement (enclosed)
4. Public Works' [Top Goals and Projects](#) and [progress report](#)
5. Council Summary Actions 2022\*
6. [Link to Council and Committee Agendas and Minutes](#)

**D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**


**F. ADJOURNMENT 9:30 pm**

Agenda Posted: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission is scheduled for Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:15 pm.*

**A complete agenda packet is available for public review at the Main Branch Library and at the Transportation Division and Engineering Division front desks.**

**ADA Disclaimer**

 *This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.*

**SB 343 Disclaimer**

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Works Transportation Division offices located at 1947 Center Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.

**Communications Disclaimer**

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.*

Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Commission Secretary: Wahid Amiri, Deputy Director  
Engineering and Transportation Divisions, Public Works  
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TIC Work Items	Resources	Program Activities	Outputs/Products	Outcomes/Results	Work Plan Dev't Questions
<b>Plan/Policy Development or Update</b>		<i>Provide guidance on proposed policy updates; review for adherence to approved policies</i>			
– 5-year Paving Plan	<b>Subcommittee:</b> Walton, Yep, Raffanti	Review plan for conformance with paving policy	Recommendation to Council		
– Bike Plan Update	<b>Subcommittee:</b> Fixler, Lutzker, Parolek	Provide guidance on proposed plan and policy updates; review for adherence to approved policies	Recommendation to Council		
– Watershed Management Plan	<b>Subcommittee:</b> ?	Provide guidance on proposed plan and policy updates	Recommendation to Council		new
– Response to Legislation		Develop guidance on implementing new state and federal legislation requirements; includes new daylighting requirements in 2024	Recommendation to Council		new
<b>Plan/Policy Implementation</b>		<i>Provide guidance on implementation of plan/policy and recommendations on next steps</i>			
– Vision Zero		Provide guidance on implementation of plan/policy and recommendations on next steps	Recommendations to Council as needed		Is this a liaison job until the TIC is ready to gather policy update recommendations?
– Paving Policy	<b>Subcommittee:</b> Fixler, Lutzker, Nesbitt	Provide guidance on proposed policy updates	Recommendations to Council as needed		Does the TIC want to develop policy update recommendations this year?
<b>Project Review</b>		<i>When application of policy is in question; other projects can be presented for public and commission information as time allows</i>			
– BART sites development (Ashby + North Berkeley)					new
<b>Council Referrals</b>					
<b>Other</b>					
– ACTC/MTC Grant Proposal Review	Staff presentations and reports	<b>Required:</b> Review ACTC/MTC grant-proposals, as needed	Comments to Staff	Support successful grant funding	
– Funding Measures Implementation Review	Staff presentations and reports	<b>Required sometimes:</b> Review implementation of funding measures (T-1, BB, others) for adherence to policies; Review sewer consent decree	Comments to Staff and/or Council		
– Vision 2050 Presentation		<i>Presentation of the Vision 2050 plan with new Transp/Eng director and interim PW director in attendance</i>	Presentation		new
– TIC Priorities Presentation	<b>Subcommittee:</b> ?	<i>Collect and present TIC priorities to the with new Transp/Eng director and interim PW director</i>	Presentation		new
– City Management/Workplace Management Crisis					new
– Communication Strategy and Assistance					new

TIC 2024 Work Plan - DRAFT

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TIC Work Items	Resources	Program Activities	Outputs/Products	Outcomes/Results	Work Plan Dev't Questions
<b>Commission/Committee/Task Force</b>	<b>Liaison</b>				
Environment & Climate Commission	Lutzker				
Commission on Disability	Leung				
Council Policy Committee F.I.T.E.S	TBD				
Vision Zero Committee	Ghosh, Lutzker				
AC Transit	Fixler				
BART	Ghosh				
Police Accountability Board	Lutzker				
Zero Waste	Nesbitt				
Disaster & Fire Safety Commission	Raffanti				
Asset Management committee	Yep				

## **Transportation and Infrastructure Commission Mission Statement**

The Berkeley City Council established this Transportation and Infrastructure Commission to advise the City Council on matters related to transportation and public works infrastructure policies, facilities, and services in the City. In addition, the commission functions as the City of Berkeley's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

## **Plans and Policies related to the TIC's Mission**

[General Plan \(2002\)](#)

[- Transportation Element \(2001\)](#)

[- Transit-First Policy \(General Plan Policy T-4\)](#)

[- Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element \(2002\)](#)

[Vision Zero Action Plan \(2019\)](#)

[Climate Action Plan \(2009, 2022 update\)](#)

[Complete Streets Policy \(2012\)](#)

[Pedestrian Plan \(2020\)](#)

[Bicycle Plan \(2017\)](#)

[BeSt Plan \(2016, 2021 update\)](#)

[Age-Friendly Berkeley Action Plan \(2018\)](#)

[Electric Mobility Roadmap \(2020\)](#)

[Berkeley Resilience Strategy \(2016\)](#)

[Green Infrastructure Plan \(2019\)](#)

[Local Hazard Mitigation Plan \(LHMP\) \(2019\)](#)

[Watershed Management Plan \(2012\)](#)

[Municipal Fleet Electrification Plan \(2020\)](#)

## **Area Plans**

[West Berkeley Plan \(1993\)](#)

[South Shattuck Strategic Plan \(1998\)](#)

[Southside Plan \(2011, update in progress\)](#)

[Downtown Area Plan \(2012\)](#)

[Streets and Open Space Improvement Plan \(SOSIP\) \(2013\)](#)

[Marina Master Plan \(2003\)](#)

[University Avenue Strategic Plan \(1996\)](#)

[Waterfront Master Plan \(1986\)](#)

Ongoing Projects	Resources	Program Activities	Outputs/Products	Outcomes/Results
goBerkeley Program	Staff updates	Public meetings	Guidance on roll-out	Successful roll-out
Shared Mobility (Bikes, scooters, mopeds, etc.)	Staff updates	Policy Guidance	Policy Guidance	Successful shared mobility projects
Traffic Calming / Healthy Streets	Staff updates	Policy guidance on technical decisions	Recommendations to Council if needed	Successful delivery of program
Transit Agency updates	AC Transit; BART updates -OR- Public meeting liason updates?		Discussion	Inform the Transportation Commissioners; Improved coordination and collaboration
Traffic Bureau update	BPD updates	Public meeting	Discussion	Inform the TC
Southside Complete Streets and Telegraph	Staff updates	Public meeting	Provide feedback on design	Support project delivery
I-80 Gilman Interchange & Pedestrian Overcrossing Project Northwest Berkeley	Staff updates	Public meetings	Updates on construction	Successful project delivery (Ongoing)
Adeline Corridor Specific Plan follow-up	Staff updates	Information on projects within the corridor; Report back on summary of plan results and related activities	Commission feedback	Monitor activity in the corridor

**Completed**



To: The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission  
From: Bryce Nesbitt, Commissioner February 14th, 2024

In June 2022 Council voted to combine the Transportation and Public Works Commissions. Per the Council sponsor was to save staff time in meetings, and find common work areas & duplication. Has it worked out? This letter adds to several other open letters on this topic, such as the one by Rick Raffanti in August 2023.

The TIC Commission has a crazy big charter; nominally overseeing billions in assets & hundreds of millions in City spending. But from this viewpoint, the combined commission has yet to find a reasonable balance that ensures full and thoughtful advice and oversight for the Commission's very large mandate.

The actual work of the Commission in its first full year has been too narrow. It's called the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, but functions more like a **Bike Commission**. I myself have been a strong advocate for bikes, and in fact have served on and/or chaired bike commissions/advocacy groups in Cambridge MA, Somerville MA, Emeryville CA, Berkeley CA, and Kensington CA. Bikes are great, and I'd love to live in a City where many more people choose to cycle regularly, to meet the transit needs of their daily lives.. The operative question is how to get there in a way that works for all current and future, hoped-for cyclists and balances the needs of other community members in an inclusive, welcoming, and equitable manner. .

This is a city with diverse transportation needs. The Commission seems unwilling to consider how a delivery driver, contractor, personal assistant to a disabled person, housekeeper, late shift worker or a variety of other community members who need to move stuff get around. It's as if these people and their transportation needs are *invisible to the current commissioners*.

There seems to be little interest among the current set of commissioners for the entire portfolio of Infrastructure work. This is despite the fact that the portfolio represents billions of dollars of fixed assets, hundreds of millions of dollars in annual budget; and almost a billion dollars in unfunded liabilities, dozens of city council referrals and hundreds of projects. This portfolio has literally been reduced to a footnote <sup>1</sup>. The prior PW commission, by contrast, had members enthusiastic about broader infrastructure and Public Works topics and put in thousands of off-meeting hours on substantive projects including:

- Extensive analysis on undergrounding overhead utility wires. The conversion of street lighting to LED.
- Coordination with the Vision 2025 plan and process.
- Extensive analysis on the use of alternative paving materials, especially the use of pavers. The Allston Way demonstration project was installed and research was done with UC Davis.
- Background for the 5-year paving plan and *policy*. Deep dives on implementation of Measures M and T1.
- Pursuing updating of the Watershed Management Plan and promoting the use of green infrastructure.

There's been no comparable focus in the merged commission. I encourage Councilmembers to look carefully at the existing biography of Commissioners, and seek balance in future appointments, despite there being no statutory requirement to do so.

### Why is this important?

We've got really big transportation challenges coming up. There are thousands of units of largely market rate housing in the pipeline, and almost every building has a *private parking garage* ([link](#)). Yet there are no substantive public transportation projects underway, and no effective attention is being paid to the balance of jobs and housing or commute distance reduction. Housing costs and wages all but guarantee long commutes for lower wage jobs. The generated traffic from development will spill off our main streets and threaten the integrity of the **Bicycle Boulevard** network on which most of our current cycling takes place.

Electric Vehicles have *most of the externalities* of gas vehicles, but are less expensive to operate and generally heavier. Bigger, heavier and more blunt vehicles have the potential to significantly cloud progress toward *Vision Zero*. The term "Prius effect" is real with EVs, if people view that they're *saving the planet* with guilt free driving.

Electric bikes are heavy, fast, and becoming far more common. The externalities of this new class of vehicles will depend on our choices in where they ride, and how we handle integration into the existing and planned networks, as well as enforcement and socialization.

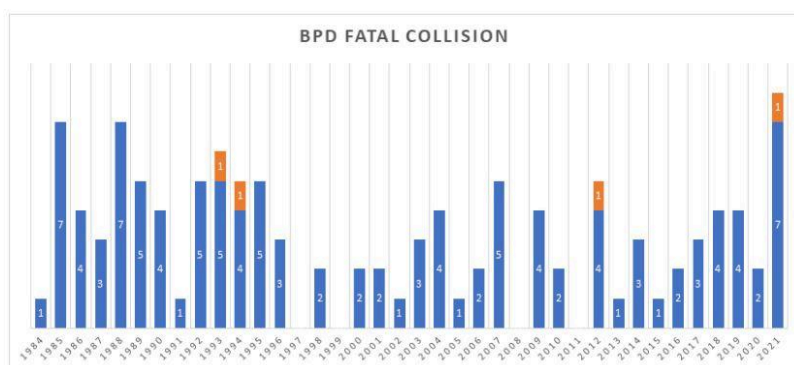
We want **safe & delightful** to be the norm for travel, not a constant drumbeat of risk. Yet social norms for, and enforcement of, traffic laws appear to be at an all time low. Speed limits are nothing more than a suggestion. Neighborhood/diverter cut through traffic has increased. These are problems “mountable curbs” “**speed humps**” and flexible barriers will not solve. A reluctance to enforce traffic laws has apparently *created inequity in outcomes*.

Crime is a significant risk to all forms of transportation, and people’s willingness to go out at night or use transit — the recent political efforts to fund chaperones for BART riders is a symptom of a *serious problem*.

On the infrastructure side, the City’s Western areas already suffer from high water tables, and rising average Bay levels threaten to tip the balance. And it’s not just sea level we have billions of dollars in deferred maintenance, and structural deficits in both capital and ongoing maintenance budgets.

### Where to go from here?

I think we as a commission need to define the spread of professional backgrounds and perspectives needed to operate such a commission, and communicate that to the council. We should consider whether it’s better to break out the statutorily required Bicycle Advisory Committee (or BPAC) into a working group or even a separate body to ensure this constituency has a clear voice, without dominating the agenda of the whole Commission.



And I feel that it’s time to focus commission efforts on evaluating the performance of projects: setting before each major project a set of metrics, seeking funding and attention to measure and evaluate. Then follow up. Under the former Public Works director Garland various metrics were tracked and published. The City Manager is now publishing statistics. As a commission we should stay on top of these metrics ([link](#)).

We need to start looking at the liability of bad paving, lest we end up with million dollar payouts like Oakland has for lives ruined. We need sharp pencils to get more road surfacing per lifecycle dollar.

It’s time to look seriously at the per-user cost of some of our bike infrastructure, and invest more wisely.

We need to find a way to give air to public works topics: lifecycle cost, repair and other “boring” things that actually need our attention.

We need to be looking at the development pipeline projects on San Pablo, and figuring out how to get matching transit service. The recent **Neighborhood-Scale Commercial initiative** (Robinson/Bartlett/Taplin) goes in a direction of trying to bring back nearby commercial activity: places that don’t need parking or traffic or meter maids. The commission did not review this, but perhaps it can have a role in making it happen.

But mostly it’s time to treat *all modes* of transportation as worthy of Commission time, and to restore the appropriate balance to this Commission’s important mandates.

<sup>1</sup> See the definition of “bikeshedding” in any online dictionary.

## Budnick, Noah

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**From:** Bryce Nesbitt <bryce2@obviously.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:49 AM  
**To:** Budnick, Noah  
**Cc:** sustainabilitymailbox; kmay@berkeleyca.gov  
**Subject:** For the commission: another e-Bike e-Scooter fire and SB712

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For the commissioner's background reading:

<https://www.berkeleyscanner.com/2024/02/22/berkeley-fire-department/berkeley-hope-center-lithium-ion-battery-fire/>

The Berkeley Scanner reports on yet another e-Scooter or e-Bike fire, this time the Hope Center. This one was quite serious.

As we've covered before SB712 prohibits prohibiting e-Scooters and e-Bikes from storage in residences, unless upgrades are made to a common bike room.

To the extent that one hope for the future of mobility in Berkeley depends on microobility, this is a serious issue. I suggest it's time for the commission to consider this issue, in concert with BFD, BPOA and various apartment business operators.

To see how fast this can happen, watch:

<https://youtu.be/Ka2hMktqoCY?si=ftsNP9vY1JsQWE4S>

## Budnick, Noah

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**From:** Bryce Nesbitt <bryce2@obviously.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** Budnick, Noah  
**Subject:** Of interest to the TIC: SPEC 23-11556-C (to forward to the commission)

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Relevant to the commission's work on infrastructure and streets both:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/doing-business/working-city/bid-proposal-opportunities/mrp-trash-capture-fy-2023-project>

The City of Berkeley is advertising the **MRP Trash Capture FY 2023 Project**, Specification No. 23-11556-C.

The Engineer's estimate for the work is \$450,000.

The work to be done consists of, but is not limited to:

Installation of connector pipe screens, inlet filter devices, retractable inlet screens, construction area signs, vehicular and pedestrian traffic control, drainage structure modifications, and other related work.