



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 2, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Francis, Henry, Holland, Nelson, Prevo, Schueler, Shumer

Absent: Commissioners Alward, Wolfe

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Gregory Harper, representing the Stanton Street neighborhood, spoke about their recent efforts to have Stanton Street included in current paving operations, indicating that almost every other street in the area had been recently paved. He noted that there has been a significant increase in traffic on Stanton Street. He also mentioned difficulties in getting responses from City officials and staff. The chair invited him to keep tabs on the Commission's agenda items on street paving topics, such as later on this evening's agenda, and in particular, in the spring when the Commission may be adopting the annual update to the paving program.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting of September 4, 2008

Add to the second paragraph of Information Item #1: "The Work Group has discussed its materials with the Mayor and has subsequent plans to meet with various stakeholders and other local officials." The amended minutes were adopted (MSC Nelson/Shumer, with a vote of 7-0-0).

**CHAIR REPORT:** On the PWC's Rule 20A report to Council, this week the Secretary obtained comments from the City Manager's office, which were that additional emphasis should be placed on the fact that Ashby/Tunnel is unique in being perhaps the only street in the City that has a known potential funding source (Caltrans) other than Rule 20A, since it is a state highway. The

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**Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.**

only other state highway in Berkeley is San Pablo Avenue, which has already been undergrounded using Caltrans funds. Further, the City Manager's office suggested that there was a need to reiterate that the process to establish an order for the "priority streets," by way of a Council report, or possibly another Council work session, after the first of the year, will be followed, and that this present recommendation for Ashby/Tunnel would not affect that process. Commissioners indicated that they would prefer to modify their own report, rather than have a companion staff report for this purpose, even though it would delay it by about a month. The Undergrounding Work Group will work with the secretary on the revised report, to be brought back for a commission vote at the November 2008 meeting.

The Chair mentioned that there was a recent letter in the Daily Planet from Pamela Doolan, who has been a public speaker at a recent Commission meeting on her views about priorities for undergrounding in Berkeley. She continues to point out that she does not agree with the Commission's recommendations, and the Chair believed that she would wish to be involved further in the Commission's and the Council's process.

**STAFF REPORT:** The secretary indicated that considerable staff work is being done to lay out different scenarios of a 10-year Capital/O&M program for various options of a tax or of fees, property-related or not. It is tentatively planned to be placed on a ballot sometime in 2009. It has been suggested that the Public Works Commission could potentially play a major role in the related public participation process. Because of this, a full staff presentation to the PWC will be placed on the November 2008 agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Permeable Paver Proposal:** Commissioners have reviewed the packet materials. It was noted that pavers made from recycled materials are becoming available and that wheelchair accessibility tests have been successfully conducted in certain jurisdictions. Councilmember Wozniak has proposed a council work session in January 2009. Some Commissioners thought that this may be a little premature with respect to finalizing location(s) and details and the planned outreach activities. Consequently, a work session might be delayed a month or two. Finally, it was announced that a meeting with staff is scheduled for next week for further information sharing.

**2. Comments on Street Repair Policy:** The draft updated policy in the packet was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the opening edits seemed like an attempt at a "vision" statement. Commissioners thought this was a good idea and made further suggestions. First, it was pointed out that in a dedicated Public Right-of-Way (PROW), the paved roadway does not necessarily coincide with the extent of the PROW and that there are other uses, such as locating of public utilities and providing for stormwater runoff. A PROW does not always mean a paved roadway, and there are other uses such as providing for utility systems and storm water runoff. It was also questioned as to why there is a separate sidewalk policy that is not included here. Regarding concrete streets, staff explained that, when the original policy was developed, the Pavement Management System (PMS) was not capable of analyzing them. Now that the PMS has been upgraded to include concrete pavement, it no longer needs to be part of the discretionary category. Overall, based on this discussion, the Work Group will rewrite portions of the draft

**3. December 6, 2008 Retreat:** The draft agenda was reviewed and discussed. Whereas the agenda may be too broad and extensive for the time allotted for the retreat, Commissioners are requested to come to the November 2008 meeting with their individual preferences and priorities. The possible roles in new funding initiatives for storm water improvements mentioned above under Staff Report, and for the SSMP as discussed in Information Item 1 below, will be considered for the 2009 Work Program. The secretary will also provide an updated report on the outcome of PWC recommendations at the next meeting.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Overview of New Regulatory Requirements:** The secretary described the new regulatory requirement for a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) and its impending deadlines. Much of it has already been written, and a fuller presentation will be made to the Commission at its November 2008 meeting. The State regulations also require legislative action by the Council to adopt and commit to the Program, and staff is preparing a Council report for an upcoming meeting. There is also a requirement for a public participation element, and the Commission has been identified as possibly having a key role in that.

**FUTURE AGENDAS:**

- Nov:** Update on Municipal Regional Permits and Street Sweeping Implications,  
Updated staff report on Disposition of PWC Recommendations through 2008  
Revised Council Report on Rule 20A Undergrounding  
Revised Draft Agenda for December Retreat
- Dec:** Special Meeting (Retreat) – Annual Work Plan

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:22 p.m.