



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Action Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Willow Room, Corporation Yard, 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 PM

Present: Ray Yep, Shane Krpata, Margo Schueler, John Hitchen, Sachu Constantine, Matt Freiberg, and Jackie Erbe.

Absent: Jim McGrath

Staff: Nisha Patel, Joe Enke, Andrew Brozyna, Christina Erickson, Elmar Kapfer, and Lisa Cronin

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Charles Clark – Charles expressed concern about the level of lighting on Martin Luther King Jr. Way between Ashby and Channing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the September 5, 2019 meeting were approved (Schueler/Krpata, 6/0/1, abstained: Freiberg).

CHAIR REPORT:

No report.

STAFF REPORT:

1. Nisha Patel reported that the request for an additional PWC Commission meeting on December 14 is going to Council on December 3. Nisha noted that the Workplan is now to be done by Fiscal Year rather than by calendar year, so any Workplan developed at the December 14 meeting will address the period through June 30, 2020.
2. Joe Enke reported that three proposals for sidewalk shaving were received. The contract will be going to Council on December 3.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Measure T1 planning for the Phase 2 outreach, criteria, and phasing – Andrew Brozyna and Christina Erickson gave a presentation on the T1 Infrastructure Bond Program. The presentation provided an update on Phase I, reviewed the proposed Phase 2 public process timeline, and offered three possible allocation options for the remainder of T1 funds. The three options are:
 - a. Option 1
 - i. Four year Phase 2, four year Phase 3
 - ii. Split remaining bond funds between phases
 - iii. Two public processes
 - b. Option 2
 - i. Six year Phase 2, no formal Phase 3
 - ii. Bond issuance every 3 years
 - iii. One public process
 - c. Option 3

- i. Four year Phase 2, no formal Phase 3
- ii. Spend all remaining bond funds in four years
- iii. One public process

Comments from Commissioners included:

- Sachu – with Option 3, would there be fewer bonds? (Per Andrew’s response, no; the money would need to be expended in 4 years instead of a longer period.)
 - John – I think we’ll have a major economic downturn in the next few years, so a longer time frame would be better to give construction costs a chance to come down.
 - Matthew – from a fiscal perspective, Option 3 is best. From a services perspective, though, it might not be. T1 was sold as a 3-phase process. If we drop one, we might need to have an additional “soft” public process.
 - Jackie –leans towards a more accelerated process because it’s good for people to see things come to fruition and 12 years is a long time. Also thinks a soft process will be needed with either Option 2 or 3.
 - Margo – because of limitations regarding the time length for a bond, 85% of the work would need to be done in just 3 years for Option 3.
 - Ray – the Subcommittee favors Option 2, both because of a desire to see more work getting done and because they don’t think it’s possible to get all of the work done in a 4-year cycle.
2. Nominations and vote for Commission vice chairperson – Ray Yep nominated Matt Freiberg and entertained additional nominations. No other names were put forward, so nominations were closed. Margo Schueler called for a vote and Jackie Erbe seconded. Matt Freiberg was elected as Vice-Chair (7/0/0).
 3. Review assignments for commission sub-committees – subcommittee assignments are deferred until the December 14 meeting.
 4. Updates on Adopt-a-Spot referral – Ray Yep suggested researching how the program works in other places and reporting to Council on the pros and cons. Jackie Erbe knows of a citizen who works on the program in Oakland. Matt Freiberg asked Jackie to see if the citizen would discuss their program with the Commission.
 5. Updates on 50/50 sidewalk program – John asked whether the 2017 draft revised policy should be updated or if new staffing and internal programs will address the issues in the draft. Can the sidewalks policy be added to the revised streets policy? Margo suggested postponing the discussion until the December meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Standing Information Item: Subcommittee Reports
 - Street Paving – Joe Enke noted that PWC has drafted a Companion Report to the PWC 5-Year Street Paving Plan Report. Ray Yep said he has met with Phil Harrington to discuss the reasons for the companion report.
 - T1 – Covered in presentation.
 - Utility Undergrounding – Ray Yep would like to end the Council Referral on Undergrounding, which has been going on for over a year. The Subcommittee is working on a Status Report for Council and will make that recommendation in the report. Ray met with Gordon Wozniak and Councilmember Susan Wengraf, and Phil Harrington to review funding. The undergrounding consultant, Bellecci & Associates, came in with an estimate three times the cost seen elsewhere; Andrew Brozyna will be following up with them. The next subcommittee meeting is on October 23rd.

- Street Lighting – Nisha Patel noted that an Off-Agenda Memo may be going to council regarding the process for getting approval for new street lights. Matt Freiberg said the Subcommittee could take this up.
- Sidewalks – Jackie Erbe mentioned closing the loop with the Transportation Commission referral on sidewalks. Ray Yep asked what the referral is trying to achieve. Margo Schueler said that this was initially a referral from Council to the Transportation Commission. John suggested sending Ryan Murray's response to the Transportation Commission as a way to respond to that Commission's referral to PWC. Nisha Patel noted that an accompanying memo would be needed. Ray commented that it might be better to call someone on the Transportation Commission to follow up. Margo will contact Tony Bruzonne.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. Undergrounding Report.
2. Adopt-a-Spot presentation.

Motion to ADJOURN – (Hitchen/Freiberg 7/0/0 abstain: none) 9:10 p.m.

Commission Secretary:

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