



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, September 4, 2014
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA
Multi-Purpose Room

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM

Present: Abramson, Elgstrand, Henry, Kelley, Neal, Schueler, Swift, Yep

Absent: None

Staff: Sean Rose (PWC Secretary), Donald Irby (Project Manager), Reeve Battle (Project Engineer), Phil Harrington (Deputy Public Works Director)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Approximately 12 members of the public were present. The following comments were received:

Ms. Meryl Siegal: Had a question regarding the process for sidewalk repair in front of her property. Secretary Rose responded that once a notice to abate is issued to a property owner, the work is programmed for repair. Rose indicated that staff will follow up with Ms. Siegal to inform her of the specific schedule for her sidewalk repair.

Mr. Michael Katz: Questioned the need for the Allston Permeable Paver Demonstration Project. Expressed his opinion that the funds should have been spent on other priorities. Questioned why a 5 month road closure was allowed in the downtown area. Project Manager Irby explained that the project was coordinated with Berkeley High School, the Berkeley Fire and Police Departments, and others to minimize the impact of the closure.

Mssrs Dwight Jaffee, Hayne Leland and Michael Katz: Residents of Hawthorne Terrace asked why Hawthorne Terrace south of Vine is being paved but not the north side. Rose responded that the south and north sides are not in the proposed 2016 paving plan. Rose further indicated that staff will visit the street and evaluate it for the street rehab policy and Measure M scorecard, and follow up with the residents on whether the street will be added to the paving plan.

Ms. Toni Mester: Asked that the remaining portion of 6th Street be paved. Rose indicated they would respond as to whether this street could be added to subsequent years of the paving plan beyond 2016.

Mr. Ted Edlin: Indicated Marin from San Pablo to the Alameda is deteriorating after only 2-3 years. It appears much of the area referenced is in the City of Albany. Rose indicated it would look at the pavement. Rose further indicated sometimes this happens because base failures are not adequately addressed prior to surface paving. This is being carefully looked at in the design of paving in Berkeley.

Ms. Anna Avellar: Requested that staff take a close look at the following locations: Euclid from Bayview to Eunice – it appears the roadway may be collapsing. Shattuck and Cedar – a significant amount of storm water runs down Cedar towards Shattuck. Codornices Road – the street hasn't been repaved in many years and is in very poor condition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2014 were approved as submitted (M/S/C, Schueler/Neal, 7-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: None.

STAFF REPORT: Rose requested and Chair Yep approved that the LED lighting project update be moved up on the agenda. Reeve Battle of staff gave a brief presentation on the LED streetlight conversion program. Battle described the budget, schedule, scope, and other aspects of the project. The Citywide LED conversion is scheduled to be substantially completed by the end of November 2014. Most of the areas in the Berkeley flatlands have already been completed, work is now proceeding in the hills. Battle indicated that if the public have concerns about light intensity or other questions they can contact him directly. Battle's contact information is (510) 981-6336 and rbattle@cityofberkeley.info.

Rose informed the Commission that the Allston Permeable Paver Demonstration Project tours are scheduled for Monday, September 22 from 12-1pm and 1-2pm with Council, members of the Public Works, Transportation, Parks Recreation and Waterfront, Disability, and Community Environmental Advisory Commissions, and City staff. Irby provided an update on the progress of construction. Pavers have been laid at the west end of the street and excavation is still occurring along the eastern two thirds of the block. The current schedule calls for the street to be opened up in late October or early November.

PRESENTATION: Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) gave an informative presentation on their 2015 street field review and treatment refinement. NCE described the field review criteria including pavement distress, traffic loading, functional classification, drainage, and others, and their treatment selection methodology. The presentation included a discussion of sustainability through use of alternative treatments like rubberized cape seal and full depth reclamation. They discussed how to measure sustainability through various methodologies such as the one employed by Greenroads.org.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Review of 2016 Paving Plan:** The Commission discussed the 2016 paving plan. Chair Yep summarized the results of the August 7, 2014 Measure M and Paving Subcommittee Meeting. At that meeting, the PWC reviewed staff's preliminary work to identify additional green infrastructure sites for the 2016 paving plan. Yep described the work that staff and the PWC have done to develop and review the 2016 paving plan, including holding several regular and subcommittee commission meetings, and modifying the plan to include dead-end and cul-de-sac streets near other streets being paved. Based on further field review and evaluation, and feedback received from the Commission at the August 7, 2014 subcommittee meeting, Rose presented the Commission with two alternate green infrastructure sites, at University and Shattuck in front of the McDonald's restaurant, and at the intersection of Rose and Hopkins. The Commission had the following comments on the revised 2016 paving plan:

Elgstrand: Would like to see even more green infrastructure in future years of Measure M implementation.

Abramson: No comment.

Neal: Asked whether the Shattuck Avenue paving will be coordinated with the green infrastructure project at University and Shattuck. Rose indicated they would be coordinated to the extent feasible.

Yep and Swift: Thanked staff for their efforts. With the inclusion of the two additional green infrastructure sites, endorses the 2016 plan.

Kelley: Appreciates staff's efforts to develop the plan. Would like to see more green infrastructure in West Berkeley in future years. Green infrastructure will help obtain additional funding for paving and green infrastructure in the future.

After concluding the discussion, the following two motions were passed:

"Approve the 2016 paving plan as proposed by staff and amended with the addition of the two green infrastructure projects at Shattuck/University and Rose/Hopkins."
(M/S/C, Swift/Schueler, 7-0-0)

"Authorize the Paving and Measure M Subcommittee to write the Council report for the Commission's recommendation for the 2016 paving plan." (M/S/C, Kelley/Neal, 7-0-0)

1. INFORMATION ITEMS:

The following information items were discussed:

1. Update on water conservation referral – In the interest of time, this item was postponed to the regular October PWC meeting

2. Update on Measure M public outreach – Commissioner Neal provided a summary of the activities of the Measure M public outreach subcommittee. The minutes of the public outreach subcommittee are attached. Neal clarified the role of the Commission to ensure the public can provide meaningful input into the Measure M implementation process. The subcommittee can write short informative updates to Councilmembers and get the word out to other Commissions. City staff can continue to develop good project signage during and after construction. Neal offered for the Commission to assist at the City’s booth at Solano Stroll. Rose indicated he would get back to Neal on whether that it allowed under the Brown Act.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Water conservation update

ADJOURNMENT: 10:21 pm

Public Works Commission, Public Outreach Subcommittee
Thoughts/Workplan for PWC

- What is PWC's role in outreach to the public regarding the Public Works Department?
 - A catalyst to allow people to provide their input
 - Make PWD alive for people
 - What does the public think?
 - The staff is head down/tail up and don't really engage the people, and we could educate the staff on how to do so
 - **People can't provide meaningful input without knowledge, so we need to inform the public**
 - Need to spread knowledge to public
- How can PWC inform the public?
 - Press
 - The Berkeley Voice
 - Berkeleyside
 - Patch
 - Newsletters
 - Sierra Club, LWV, etc.
 - Monitor the different news sources' Twitter feeds
 - Public Meetings
 - An Annual Community Meeting; the winter season (Jan/Feb)
 - Outreach
 - City Council Newsletters
 - Subcommittee draft stuff
 - Encourage PWC members to share what they tell their City Council
- What can Berkeley/PWD do?
 - Signage at projects
 - This has definitely been improved and the PWD staff should receive acknowledgment for their work in this regard.
 - The PWD website
 - Who does the web work for the City? Why can't they improve the PWD website?
 - Newsletter
 - Is it in the works for Public Works?
 - We should learn from the police department.
 - There will be a Measure M public outreach consultant
 - RFP will include updates to website
 - Work on a Measure M newsletter
 - A program plan similar to the annual plan
 - Project and interpretive signs
 - Grant writing – GI projects

- Event planning
 - Press releases
- Public Meetings
- PWD should leverage other orgs to get the word out, including Transportation, CEAC, and what about ART. Have a more collaborative approach – want a beautiful, useful, livable city. Need everyone to accomplish this.
- Outreach at Solano Stroll, Sunday Streets, etc. – and GI and streets be promoted; could do a lot more than zero waste.