



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Agenda
Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Corporation Yard, 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA
Willow Room

7:00 pm CALL TO ORDER: Chair will call the meeting to order; Secretary will call roll.

7:05 pm PUBLIC COMMENT: Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

7:15 pm APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 7, 2015 Meeting *

7:20 pm PRESENTATION: Resilient Berkeley (Timothy Burroughs)

7:50 pm CHAIR REPORT: Annual Work Plan Review (Schueler)

7:55 pm STAFF REPORT:

1. Water reduction strategies
2. Public Works Budget
3. Skeo contract and public outreach for M **

8:15 pm ACTION ITEMS: (Matters for discussion and possible action)

1. Undergrounding Subcommittee Report (Yep) *
2. Council Request - watershed and resilience (Schueler)

9:15 pm INFORMATION ITEMS: (Action may be taken on any information item at this meeting if a majority of Commissioners votes to move it to an action item. This vote may take place at or before the time the item is scheduled to come up).

1. Paving Plan – (Rose) **

9:20 pm FUTURE AGENDAS:

9:30 pm ADJOURNMENT

June 4, 2015

Public Works Commission Meeting

* Indicates written material included in packet.

** Indicates material to be delivered at meeting.

A complete agenda packet is available for public review at the Engineering Division front desk.

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 981-6346(V) or 981-7075 (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 Department located at the address below.

Communications Disclaimer:

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of 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 the contact the Secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.

Commission Secretary:

Sean R. Rose, P.E., Engineering Manager/City Engineer, Public Works Engineering Division, 1947 Center St., 3rd Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704, Telephone (510) 981-6435, Fax: (510) 981-6390
TDD: (510) 981-6903 email: srose@cityofberkeley.info.



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2015
1326 Allston Way, Ratcliff Building

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 PM

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

Absent: None

Staff: Donald Irby (Public Works Engineering)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Three residents (Ms. Diane Sequoia, Mr. Roger Pritchard, and Mr. Marvin Snow) spoke on the topics of Measure M paving, the state of the City's infrastructure, and Utility Undergrounding. Ms. Sequoia requested information on the Measure M outreach consultant (Skeo Solutions). Mr. Pritchard expressed concerns regarding the condition of the City's infrastructure and expressed an interest in becoming a commissioner. Chair Schueler indicated there was a seat open for District 2 and directed Mr. Pritchard to the City's website for commission information. Mr. Snow thanked the commission for the work recently completed by the UUD subcommittee. Mr. Snow requested the City provide residents with a document which clearly outlines the 20B utility undergrounding process. Mr. Snow also requested information regarding noise and safety related to the Union Pacific Railroad lines which run through the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the regular meetings of April, 2015 were approved as amended. (M/S/C Swift/Elgstrand, 7-0-0)

CHAIR REPORT:

1. **Subcommittee meetings:** Chair Schueler spoke briefly about recent difficulties related to scheduling of subcommittee meetings. The commissioners discussed options for future subcommittee scheduling efforts.

STAFF REPORT: None

PRESENTATION: Mr. Richard Harris, EBMUD Manager of Water Conservation, gave an informative presentation on EBMUD's current water supply and recently adopted demand reduction goals. He provided an 8 page handout to supplement the presentation.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Paving subcommittee** : Commissioner Henry provided a handout which summarized the paving subcommittee review of Public Works current five year street rehabilitation plan. The commission discussed information in the handout and the need to develop a long range paving strategy with emphasis on more durable road surfaces, green infrastructure, and permeability. They requested that Staff provide currently available PCI data sorted by arterials, collectors, and residential streets. The commission deferred approval of the current FY 2016 and FY 2017 paving plans proposed by staff.
 - i. The commission passed the following motion: “Paving subcommittee should work with staff to develop a long range paving strategy to present to Council.” (M/S/C Swift/Yep, 7-0-0)

2. **Undergrounding Subcommittee Report:** Commissioner Yep discussed the draft report to council prepared in response to CM Wengraf’s referral to develop a comprehensive plan for the funding of the undergrounding of all utility wires on all major and collector streets in Berkeley. The commissioners discussed a number of proposed edits to the report. Commissioner Yep will update the report as appropriate to incorporate these edits.
 - i. The Commission passed the following motion: “Allow Utility Undergrounding Sub-committee to edit and finalize the current draft report and forward to the other commissions.” (M/S/C, Schueler/Swift, 7-0-0)

INFORMATION ITEMS: None

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

June
??

ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 pm



Draft – May 30, 2015

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 14, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Public Works Commission, Transportation Commission, and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: City Council Referral to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Funding of the Undergrounding of Utility Wires on All Major and Collector Streets in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve a work plan, as attached hereto, to develop a comprehensive plan (the “Undergrounding Plan”) for the funding of the undergrounding of utility wires for all streets in Berkeley. The Undergrounding Plan would be developed in coordination with the City’s existing related plans and activities, including the City’s Resiliency Program.
2. That Council establish a Utility Undergrounding Special Commission consisting of the Public Works Commission, Transportation Commission, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission representatives, and subject matter experts as needed to oversee the preparation of the Undergrounding Plan. The Special Commission shall be a manageable size and composed similar to for the commission that developed the downtown Street and Open Space Improvement Plan.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Implementation of the work plan will require staff resources. It may also require consultant services to prepare the economic and funding analysis for the Undergrounding Plan. The amount is not yet determined.

CITY POLICY

Berkeley has established policies that prioritize public safety and seek to create a ready, resilient and responsive community, and an infrastructure that responds to this policy objective. In addition, the City has recently funded and begun rebuilding its decayed streets and is experimenting with using green and adaptive infrastructure.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Many types of disasters can affect Berkeley and can occur in different parts of the City. These can include an earthquake, wildland-urban interface fire, gas line rupture, flooding, a railroad derailment carrying flammable crude oil, tsunamis, and other catastrophes. Above ground, aerial utility wires and equipment represent a significant risk to the community. When severed, they can cause fires and interrupt the access of emergency vehicles. Christchurch, New Zealand demonstrated the significant risk a city and its residents face with reliance on aerial utility infrastructure.

In addition, there are significant co-benefits from undergrounding utility facilities including better utility reliability, improved aesthetics and the opportunity to create appropriate street lighting. All these co-benefits work to increase public safety and the city's resilience.

There are approximately 21 miles of major roadways, 37 miles of collectors, and 157 miles of residential streets in the City. Some of the streets, in particular the major streets, have already been undergrounded. There are many more streets that need to be done. At the Public Works Commission (PWC) meetings in early 2015, citizens have attended and expressed their desire for the City to develop a long term funding plan and to consider a city-wide approach to undergrounding. Reference was made to the City of San Diego that has a CPUC approved city-wide undergrounding program.

BACKGROUND

The CPUC, in 1967, established Tariff Rule 20 for the conversion of overhead utility lines to underground. There are three levels of funding for electric lines, as follows:

- Rule 20A – ratepayers pay 100%
- Rule 20B – ratepayers pay about 20%; applicants pay about 80%
- Rule 20C – applicant pays 100%

For further information on Rule 20, please see "Summary of Undergrounding Program" in the following link: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/consumers/>

Currently, Rule 20A funding for undergrounding utilities is not available and it will be about five years before it will be available from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The City places a priority on its ability to prepare for and recover from a natural disaster and has reviewed the role undergrounding utilities could have on enhancing the reliability of emergency access routes and reducing the hazards of fallen power lines. The issue has been addressed in the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan and the General Plan and is being considered in its Resiliency Program.

The City has been struggling for some years to establish guidelines for using the meager 20A rate payer public funds in a way that provides the greatest public benefit. The following is a chronology of previous actions:

- December 2000 – City Council requested the PWC to establish priority streets and procedures for the use of Rule 20A monies.
- November 2007 – the PWC reaffirmed that major streets are the primary emergency evacuation routes and are the priorities for undergrounding.
- May 2008 – City Council held a work session on Rule 20A utility undergrounding projects. Council requested the PWC to work with staff to develop a multi-year program to address the recommended list of streets in priority order.
- March 2009 – The PWC recommended to City Council policies for the use of Rule 20A monies and a five-year plan for undergrounding in Berkeley.

Since 2000, about \$9.91 million of Rule 20A and \$2.34 million of 20B funds have been spent through 2014 on utility undergrounding. \$9,132,399 are committed to be spent on the Grizzly Peak and Vistamont UUDs.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposed city-wide approach to the Undergrounding Plan is based on community input at PWC meetings and upon giving the Council referral more thought. The Undergrounding Plan will include an evaluation of major roadways and collectors, which provide for emergency access during a natural disaster. It will also include an evaluation of residential streets. The city-wide approach will provide for more comprehensive planning.

Forming a Special Commission will help with the logistics of the three commissions and will expedite the overall schedule. The Council can review the need for the Special Commission on an annual basis or cancel it when the Undergrounding Plan is completed.

CITY MANAGER

TBD

CONTACT PERSON

Ray Yep, Public Works Commission
Terry Roberts, Transportation Commission
Bob Flasher, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

WORK PLAN

Prepare a comprehensive plan for the funding of undergrounding utility wires on a city-wide basis in Berkeley

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this work plan is to prepare a comprehensive approach to the organizing, planning, and implementation of an Undergrounding Plan for Berkeley.

PARTICIPANTS

The participants in preparing the plan shall include:

- A Special Commission of representatives from the Public Works Commission, Transportation Commission, and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
- Staff in the Public Works Department, Finance Department, and Fire Department
- Community input
- Consultant resources, as needed, to assist with financial, economic, and funding analysis
- City Council direction and oversight

PHASED PROGRAM APPROACH

Phase 1 – Program Development

Phase 1 will develop an overall approach to the undergrounding program. The activities shall include:

- Establish project goals – focus on public safety and coordination with the city's on-going street, sidewalk and pedestrian improvement programs. Ensure equity across the City and coordinate among the various City infrastructure projects.
- Develop baseline information – summarize Berkeley's status on undergrounding of utilities and estimate Rule 20A and 20B funding
- Review relevant programs – summarize the status of CPUC programs, the City of San Diego's program, Berkeley's resiliency program and other relevant programs
- Gather public input – hold public meetings and other methods for the public to provide input
- Establish priorities – review the priorities for major roadways, collectors, and residential streets
- Prepare preliminary cost estimate – prepare a preliminary cost estimate based on cost/mile of streets.
- Prepare scope of work – prepare a detailed work scope to prepare the comprehensive Undergrounding Plan. The work scope shall identify the effort by consultants and staff resources.
- Prepare program plan – prepare an overall plan of objectives, work activities, performance measures, and reporting schedules
- Coordinate with City Council – provide updates to Council as needed

Phase 2 – Prepare Comprehensive Funding Plan

Phase 2 will prepare the comprehensive plan for funding the undergrounding of utility wires. The activities shall include:

- Forecast availability of Rule 20A funds and consideration of 20B expenditures.
- Determine alternatives for funding, including: a) using the City’s long term bonding capacity to create underground conduit capacity and then require utilities lease space in it, b) increasing franchise fee surcharges as done by the City of San Diego, c) other options
- Develop the implementation priorities on major roadways, collectors, and residential streets
- Prepare a report with recommendations

Phase 3 – Program Implementation

Phase 3 will implement the recommendations.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

The following are estimated durations for each phase of the work (total of Phase 1 and 2 will be 24 months). Additional time may be required for agendaing for City Council review and for procurement of consultant(s).

- Phase 1 – 9 months
- Phase 2 – 15 months
- Phase 3 – to be determined