



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Agenda**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2016 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.

7:10 pm APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of January 7, 2015

7:20 pm CHAIR REPORT:

7:25 pm STAFF REPORT: Final Paving Plan to Council 2/9/16

7:30 pm ACTION ITEMS: (Matters for discussion and possible action)

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
2. Undergrounding Subcommittee \*
3. PW Funding Needs \*
4. Subcommittee objectives statements and target completion dates

9:00 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. Standing Information Item: Subcommittee Reports

9:25 pm FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Portland's experience with GI (proposed by Swift)

9:30 pm ADJOURNMENT

- \* 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.**

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**Commission Secretary:**

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Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
Action Minutes  
Thursday, January 7, 2016  
1326 Allston Way, Ratcliff Building, Willow Room**

*(Just prior to Call to Order, Henry read and signed the Oath of Office)*

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:02 PM

Present: Henry, Elgstrand, Schueler, Kelley, Roland, Yep, Dominguez, Swift, Freiberg

Absent: None

Staff: Sean Rose (PWC Secretary)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Roger Pritchard asked about how the City is crack sealing pavement seams and regulating trenching. Secretary Rose requested that Mr. Pritchard send his inquiries to him directly for a response by Public Works staff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 5, 2015 and December 7, 2015 PWC meetings were approved as amended. (M/S/C Yep/Dominguez, 9-0-0)

**CHAIR REPORT:** Schueler expressed she enjoyed her term as Chair and thanked the Commission for their support. Yep indicated he would like the Commission to consider formal recognition from the Commission of outgoing Chairs.

**STAFF REPORT:** Rose stated the 5-year Paving Plan item is scheduled to go to Council at the Special Meeting on 1/12.

**PRESENTATION:** None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **Review draft PW Funding Needs Report:** Commission discussed the purpose, timing and other aspects of the report and passed the following motion: “Send the draft letter to the PWC Funding Subcommittee for revisions” (M/S/C Dominguez/Freiberg, 9-0-0)
2. **Nominations Round 2:** The Commission discussed nominations for Chair. Commissioner Henry withdrew from being nominated citing his prior service as Chair. The following motions were passed “Nominate Kelley for Chair and Swift for Vice Chair” (M/S/C Schueler/Yep, 9-0-0) and “Close nominations” (M/S/C Swift/Kelley, 9-0-0)
3. **Review and finalize 2016 Work Plan and Subcommittee Assignments:** Commissioner Yep submitted a table of Work Plan priorities for discussion. Rose indicated staff would be able to attend and support actions from the Paving, Undergrounding, and Streetlighting subcommittees and would not be able to provide staff support for others. The following motion was passed “Establish the following seven subcommittees: Undergrounding, Funding, Paving, Mission Statement, Streetlighting, Watershed Master Plan, and Sidewalks” (M/S/C Yep/Schueler, 9-0-0). The Commissioners discussed having a Chair for each subcommittee and the following chairs were selected: Undergrounding (Yep), Funding (Elgstrand), Paving (Kelley), Mission Statement (Roland), Streetlighting (Swift), Watershed Master Plan (Schueler), and Sidewalks (Dominguez).
4. **Calendar of meetings:** Commission discussed the 2016 PWC meeting schedule. Rose submitted the following meeting schedule: The regular meeting schedule is the first Thursday of each month, 7-9:30pm, no exceptions, every month except August and December. The following motion was passed “Approve meeting schedule as submitted by Rose” (M/S/C Schueler/Kelley, 9-0-0)

**FUTURE AGENDAS:**

1. EBMUD Resiliency Presentaiton (March)
2. Chair and Vice Chair Elections (February)]
3. Report back on 1/12 Council Meeting

**ADJOURN:** 9:27 pm



CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 29, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Public Works Commission, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, and  
Transportation Commission  
Submitted by: Andy Kelly, Chair, Public Works Commission  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair, Transportation Commission  
Subject: Updated Workplan for the Development of a Comprehensive Plan for the Funding of  
Undergrounding Utility Wires in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve an updated work plan, as attached hereto, to develop a comprehensive plan (the “Undergrounding Plan”) for the funding of undergrounding utility wires in Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no fiscal impacts of the recommendation.

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.

BACKGROUND

The City Council, at their meeting on December 16, 2014, referred to the Public Works Commission, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and Transportation Commission to develop a comprehensive plan for the funding of the undergrounding of utility wires on all major and collector streets in Berkeley. The commissions responded with a workplan and it was approved by Council on September 29, 2015. Since that time, Public Works staff has contracted for the support of a specialty consultant, Harris and Associates. The commissions, Public Works staff, and the consultant have met to review the work scope and schedule and have prepared an updated workplan.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The updated workplan more accurately reflects the project work scope and schedule to prepare the Undergrounding Plan. It incorporates input from the commissions, Public Works staff, and the consultant.

Undergrounding of utility wires

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 29, 2016

CITY MANAGER

TBD

CONTACT PERSON

Ray Yep, Public Works Commission

Bob Flasher, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Tony Bruzzone, Transportation Commission

**WORK PLAN**  
**Prepare a comprehensive plan for the  
funding of undergrounding utility wires 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:

- The Public Works Commission (lead commission), Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, and Transportation Commission
- Staff in the Public Works Department, Finance Department, and Fire Department
- Consultant resources
- Community input
- 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 objectives – The primary driver is to provide reliability of utility service and safety to Berkeley’s residents in an emergency. The scope of the study shall be all of the City of Berkeley. Implementation of the plan shall be prioritized to the streets that will have the greatest benefit to all of Berkeley. These will be the arterial and collector streets.
- Incorporate past studies and decisions made in Berkeley.
- Learn from other cities that have studied and implemented programs to underground utilities.
- Incorporate new concepts (such as utility corridors) and work with various utility pole users (such as cable TV, power, telephone) to find cost effective solutions.
- Determine a range of alternatives for funding the program.
- Prepare preliminary cost estimate to implement the program.
- Prepare a report of the Phase 1 findings, including the priority for implementation, funding alternatives, and a Phase 2 work scope, if needed.
- Provide updates to City 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:

- Collect public input
- Develop details to fund the program

- Prepare an overall implementation program, including priorities, cost, schedule, approval process, and implementing organization.
- Prepare a report with recommendations
- Provide updates to City Council.

Phase 3 – Program Implementation

Phase 3 will implement the recommendations.

**ESTIMATED SCHEDULE**

The following is a timeline for the implementation.

- December 2014 – City Council referral to commissions
- Phase 1
  - September 2015 – City Council approval of response from commissions
  - January 2016 – Consultant authorized to start work
  - September 2016 – Phase 1 report to Council
- Phase 2 – 15 months
- Phase 3 – to be determined



CONSENT CALENDAR  
January 26, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Public Works Commission  
Submitted by: Margo Scheuler, Chairperson, Public Works Commission  
Subject: Public Works Funding Needs

RECOMMENDATION

[Refer to Request](#) the City Council to investigate and identify funding sources for infrastructure projects, including but not limited to the watershed, streets, facilities, and/or undergrounding.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown. Varies depending on action of Council.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley's aging infrastructure is having noticeable effects on the reliability and safety of such infrastructure. Examples include the Berkeley Pier, which was closed in 2015 due to safety concerns, consistent flooding in West Berkeley during storms, and deteriorating conditions in public buildings such as Old City Hall and the Veterans Building.

Funding from Measure M, the streets and watershed bond, is expected to run out in a couple of years. After this, funding for those areas will be reduced from \$10.7 million to \$4.7 million. The resulting reduction will cause the PCI to stall around 65, with it potentially lowering over the coming years. While funding from new sources such as Measure BB will help stabilize the conditions of the streets, there is not enough funding to achieve the goal of a PCI of 75. Currently, the average PCI for the Bay Area is 66.

BACKGROUND

**Streets**

In November 2012, Berkeley voters passed Measure M, a \$30 million bond for streets and related watershed improvements. At that time, the average PCI for Berkeley roads was at 58, which is categorized as at risk. [On October 27, 2015, the Public Works Department provided an update on Measure M. According to the report, d](#)uring the 5 years of Measure M funding being injected into street repairs and maintenance (2014-2018), approximately 51 miles will be paved. Compare this to 17 miles paved in the previous 5 years, which is three times less. Additionally, with the funding from Measure

M, 17 Green Infrastructure projects are expected to be completed by 2018. Most of these are bioswales, but there are also cisterns and permeable pavers included. In total, \$22.4 million will be spent on paving, and \$7.6 on watershed related projects. This investment is expected to save the City \$15 million in future street repairs.

## **Watershed**

The Watershed plan aims to preserve creeks, mitigate flooding, and filter water before reaching the Bay. Pilot projects such as the Allston Way permeable pavers are serving as demonstrations as to how to achieve such goals. As data is received from these projects, the City should look into expanding the usage of these watershed projects.

Over the last few years, California and the Bay Area has witnessed a shift in weather patterns as a result of climate change. With the exception of El Nino events, dryer conditions and drought has become commonplace, and is likely to become a permanent fixture of our climate. Because of this, more investment is needed in drought resistant and water retention infrastructure. For example, proposed cisterns should have the ability to store water than can be used for irrigation, rather than just slowly letting it out to the Bay.

## **Undergrounding of Utilities**

At the December 16, 2014 City Council meeting, Council voted to refer to the Public Works Commission to develop a comprehensive funding plan for the undergrounding of utilities on arterial and collector streets. The Public Works Commission, along with the Transportation and Disaster and Fire Safety Commissions, created the Utility Undergrounding Work Plan that would be used for the undergrounding of utilities for all streets.

At the September 29, 2015 City Council meeting, Council voted to direct the City Manager to return with a report detailing the budget and staffing needed to implement the Utility Undergrounding Work Plan. Phase one of this plan, which develops an approach to such a program, is currently underway. Undergrounding all the streets will likely cost tens of millions of dollars, if not more, and take at least a couple of decades to complete.

## **Facilities**

In an April 2014 Informational Report, it was estimated that the unfunded seismic retrofit for facilities totaled \$118 million, with the Center Street Garage, the Veterans Building, and Old City Hall making up half that amount. Work is moving forward on the Center Street Garage, but many buildings, including those that will be useful in the event of an emergency, remain seismically unsafe. Additionally, deferred maintenance of buildings in both Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront and Public Works, has resulted in a net cost of over \$21 million. Since the report in 2014, the Berkeley Pier has closed, with the cost

of a replacement adding millions more to that unfunded list. While the passage of Measure F in 2014 did help provide funding for maintenance of facilities in parks, there still is a huge unfunded gap remaining.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Varies depending on action of Council. Improving streets and promoting complete streets can help improve car mileage and increase alternative forms of transportation. Increasing funding for watershed projects can improve the water quality of creeks and the bay. Maintaining and improving facilities can help reduce water and energy consumption.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Years of deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure has placed a strain on the current funding needs for these projects. Failure to increase funding will further exacerbate the problems, resulting in ever increasing costs in the future.

The Public Works Commission understands that it would be impossible to secure funding for all of Berkeley's infrastructure needs, which is why we ask for the City Council to provide guidance on what to prioritize and how to fund such projects.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

#### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position to the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

#### CONTACT PERSON

[\[Name\], \[Title\], \[Department\], \[Phone Number\] Sean Rose, Secretary, Public Works Commission, 981-6300](#)