ACTION MINUTES
Transportation Commission
Regular Meeting
April 15, 2010

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue (at MLK)
Berkeley, CA

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS
1. Call to Order
    Chair Smulka called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM
2. Roll Call
    Commissioners Present: Felicia Betancourt, Anthony Bruzzone, Brad Froehle, Seth Goddard (ARR 7:15), Marcy Greenhut, Meghan Lang, Eric McCaughrin, Ann Smulka, Sarah Syed
    Commissioners Absent: None
    Staff Present: Farid Javandel, Kara Vuicich, Tamlyn Bright, Puja Sarna, Sean Diest Lorgion, AC Transit
3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda: None
4. Approval of Draft Action Minutes:
   It was moved, seconded, carried (Greenhut/Froehle) to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2010.
   Ayes: Betancourt, Bruzzone, Froehle, Greenhut, McCaughrin, Smulka, Syed
   Noes: None
   Abstain: Lang
   Absent: Goddard
   Motion passed (7-0-1-1).
   It was moved, seconded, carried (Bruzzone/Betancourt) to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2010 as amended.
   Ayes: Betancourt, Bruzzone, Froehle, Lang, McCaughrin, Smulka, Syed
   Noes: None
   Abstain: Greenhut
   Absent: Goddard
   Motion passed (7-0-1-1).
5. Approval and Order of Agenda—It was MSC (Bruzzone/Froehle) Unanimous, to take up Item 5 (Trader Joe’s) first, and Item 4 (AC Transit) before Item 3 (Transportation Division Work Plan).
6. Update on Administration
7. Announcements
   a. Congratulations and thank you: April 15 is Commissioner Greenhut’s final meeting after 8 years of service.
   b. April 20 Council will hold first public hearing on Bus Rapid Transit LPA
   c. May 13 is Bike to Work Day

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
1. Caldecott 4th Bore Settlement Fund Projects
   Public Comment:
   a) Mark Humbert, Claremont-Elmwood N.A.—Received project matrix very recently; requests discussion be held over until CENA can discuss.
Secretary Javandel reported staff priority will be to identify those projects that can be completed in the next two years with an appropriate public review process, 4th Bore Coalition and Caltrans approval.
No action.

2. **Back-in Angle Parking on North Shattuck Avenue**
   Public Comment:
   a) Merrilee Mitchell – requested more information on proposal.
   Secretary Javandel presented, and Commissioners discussed a sketch from the North Shattuck Association and expressed concerns to staff about lack of green elements, reluctance to consider this proposal as an isolated project.
   No action.

3. **Draft Transportation Division Work Plan for 2010**
   Secretary Javandel provided a revised Draft Work plan and answered questions.
   Public Comment: None
   No action.

4. **AC Transit Bus Stop Changes and Impacts on On-Street Parking**
   Staff (Vuicich) said new line 49 circular route has no stop near College/Ashby. AC Transit (Sarna, Diest Lorgion) wants adequate space for the bus to pull out of traffic and still maintain accessibility to passengers.
   Staff (Javandel) expressed concern with lost on-street parking spaces and recommended the city staff obtain input from the business community before endorsing any bus stop locations.
   Public Comment:   a) Mark Humbert – Concerned with stop in front of donut shop and reduction of so many parking spaces on Ashby.
   b) Scott Mace – Removal of parking on eastbound Ashby in rush hour increases speed of traffic. Bulbouts are appealing but cause other problems.
   Chair Smulka referred the matter to Transit Subcommittee to consider the proposed changes, obtain feedback from the Elmwood Merchants Association, and return to the TC with a recommendation at a future date.

5. **Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Program Modifications in the Vicinity of Trader Joe’s Project**
   Staff reported that Council required the Traffic Engineer modify the RPP program on specific blocks within 1,000 feet of the Trader Joe’s store entrance as a condition of the project’s permit approval to restrict one side of the street to resident-only parking.
   **Public Comment:**
   a. James Wemmer – Many adjacent residents have no off-street parking; 48 spaces inadequate for Trader Joe’s and coffee shop customers.
   b. Steve Wollmer – ZAB and Council agreed it was important to site a grocery store adjacent to neighborhoods; parking mitigation is needed; Saturday RPP would be a good plan.
   c. Valerie Artese – Modified RPP proposal for Trader Joe’s plus 148 apartments would be a good mitigation and wouldn’t cost more.
d. Tom Hunt – Thinks RPP proposal will work; Requests weekend restrictions of modified RPP; Hearst is within 1000 feet from TJ’s entrance: consider ½ modified and ½ regular on same side of street?

e. Nancy Holland, 1800 Grant/Addison neighborhood - feels that density requires the parking mitigation; Currently have frequent illegal parking, often in evening hours and weekends.

f. Vig Lab – 1800 block Addison – spoke with neighbors both sides; all approve modified RPP parking for “C permit” holders

g. Paul Pearce, UC student, Berkeley Way/Bonita – Supports plan; Would support weekend enforcement.

h. John Prosise, 1900 block Bonita – Extend modified parking restriction to Saturday and Sunday if possible; Prefers RPP permit-only side switched to East side, as it would increase available spaces for residents.

i. Eric Dynamic – The promise was that this project would respect its neighbors; need Sunday protection to prevent parking “free-for-all” in neighborhoods.

j. Miranda Ewell, Hearst, W. of MLK – Dog Park visitors already park on Hearst without TJ’s customers; Supports common-sense mitigations; please include Hearst in modification and extend RPP restrictions to weekends.

After discussion, it was Moved, Seconded (Greenhut/Betancourt) that the Transportation Commission recommend Council approve the staff recommendation to modify the Residential Permit Parking program, per memo dated 4/15/2010 from Farid Javandel. In addition, the Commission recommends that Council direct staff to study alternative parking enforcement methods, specifically Pay-and-Display meters, priced properly, and extended RPP hours, including late until 9:00 PM, Saturday, and possibly Sunday, to ensure that parking spaces are available for existing residents in sufficient number. The TC also asks for a study that shows how these alternative parking enforcement methods can be economically sustained while achieving the goal of maintaining parking supply for residents. The Transportation Commission is disappointed that we do not have sufficient time, nor information (such as parking enforcement participation) to adequately address this complex parking issue before the new Trader Joe’s opens. We understand that staff recommends proceeding with RPP modifications that are intended to preserve adequate on-street parking for residents in the vicinity of the new Trader Joe’s, and we support these goals. The TC is concerned that the proposed RPP modifications may not meet the stated goals, and furthermore, will set a new precedent and establish a patchwork RPP program that will be confusing for visitors and residents alike. Pay and Display meters with the price set high enough to maintain parking availability for residents could likely accomplish the intended goals more effectively and should be considered for a pilot program in this area, or areas with similar challenges.

Ayes: Betancourt, Froehle, Greenhut, Goddard, Lang, McCaughrin, Smulka   Noes: None   Abstain: Bruzzone, Syed*

Motion passed (7-0-2-0).  
*Commissioner Syed stated her abstention was based on lack of adequate time or information to consider alternative recommendations such as the use of pricing to control parking supply.
C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
None

D. COMMUNICATIONS
1. Item A4 – February 4, 2010 Draft Minutes
2. Item A4 – March 18, 2010 Draft Minutes
3. Item B4 – April 15, 2010 Memo from Puja Sarna, AC Transit re Line 49 Bus Stop request
4. (Item B4)–April 14, 2010 letter from James Grandison re Line 49 Bus Stop Ashby/College
5. Item B5 – Staff report: Residential Parking Permit Program Modifications in the vicinity of Trader Joe’s Project
6. (Item B5)–April 13, 2010 email from Rob Browning re Someone’s proposal for changing parking allowances on Berkeley Way
8. Notice of April 15, 2010 Public Workshop on Vehicle Registration Fee Expenditure Plan from Alameda County Congestion Management Agency

All received.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Ashby/Hwy 13 Corridor Projects Downtown Area Plan
Bus Rapid Transit Update Traffic Circle Stop Sign Removals
Bike Plan Implementation The Alameda Road Diet

F. ADJOURNMENT
It was MSC (Bruzone/Lang) to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM. Unanimous. Motion passed 9-0-0-0

Public Present: 17 Speakers: 12

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