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CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND
PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 20, 2022
6:00 P.M.

Call To Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair Nomura called the special meeting of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to order at 6:11 P.M. via Virtual WebEx.

Members Present: Michelle Weiner, Chair*
Art Nomura, Vice Chair
Zirwat Chowdhury, Member
George Montgomery, Member
Travis Morgan, Member
Robyn Tenensap, Member
Dane Twichell, Member

*Chair Weiner joined the meeting at 6:15 P.M.

Staff Present: Yanni Demitri, Public Works Director
Andrew Maximous, Mobility and Traffic
Engineering Division Manager
Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager
Rolando Cruz
Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager
Alicia Ide, Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Member Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Members/Staff

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, introduced members of staff in attendance.

Yanni Dimitri, Public Works Director, provided background on himself; expressed eagerness to serve; and he introduced Andrew Maximous.

Andrew Maximous, provided background on himself and expressed eagerness to work with the Committee.

Chair Weiner joined the meeting; discussed her use of Santa Monica bike infrastructure; welcomed Yanni Dimitri and Andrew Maximous; and she expressed eagerness regarding the growth of Culver City under their leadership.

Yanni Dimitri, Public Works Director, displayed an award that he won as the project engineer who implemented four miles of bike lanes in Santa Monica.

Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed continued work on established goals and he thanked the Committee for their work.

Responding to Vice Chair Nomura, Public Works Director Yanni Dimitri clarified that Andrew Maximous was directly replacing Heba El-Guindy and would handle those duties and work with Gabe Garcia; discussed work to fill the vacant Senior Traffic Engineer position; efficiently handling the huge workload; and Committee liaisons.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, discussed the next meeting date; the potential new Member; instructions from Information Technology and the new authentication process.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

David Metzler expressed appreciation for efforts to build out the bicycle infrastructure; discussed prioritizing bike and pedestrian access once infrastructure is built; providing

equal access for bikes and pedestrians; signage; sidewalk closures; providing alternative access; the Culver Bike Path; and he wanted an examination of priorities.

Nancy Barba expressed excitement at hearing the staff introductions and meeting the new leadership; asked when the bike lights for Move Culver would be coordinated; wanted to know when the Jackson Gate would be opened; and she thanked the BPAC for their work.

Mary Daval expressed concern with the lack of meetings over the past few months; noted great strides in mobility; wanted more frequent meetings; discussed connectivity and equity; MOVE Culver City; advocacy for lowering speed limits in the City; branding Culver City as a City where one wants to slow down and spend time; and the ability for increased local control over speed limits.

Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager, discussed work to make the bike signals work more smoothly that may be completed within the next month or two.

Greg Maron expressed frustration with delays to the opening of the Jackson Gate; he was pleased with new leadership in the City; and noted the need to take care of projects that should have been done already and to take on new things.

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Order of the Agenda

Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued) was heard after Items from Staff and Commissioners.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, reported receipt of correspondence on the Jackson Gate.

MOVED BY CHAIR WEINER, SECONDED BY MEMBER MONTGOMERY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar Items

MOVED BY CHAIR WEINER, SECONDED BY MEMBER MORGAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS C-1 AND C-2.

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting of August 19, 2021

THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2021.

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Item C-2

Approval of Minutes for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting of September 14, 2021

THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Approval of the Formation of a Working Subcommittee to Develop Draft Bylaws, Reports, and Other Administrative Documents

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record noting the need for two Committee Members to serve on a subcommittee and work out details with staff.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Member availability and willingness to serve; the importance of understanding the charge of the Committee; Brown Act rules; the number of people allowed to serve; alternates; time commitment; and consultation with the City Attorney.

MOVED BY MEMBER TWICHELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER TENENSAP AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY

COMMITTEE FORM THE AD HOC BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT CHAIR WEINER, VICE CHAIR NOMURA AND MEMBER TENENSAP THERETO.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated that staff would report back at the next meeting.

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Item A-2

Discussion of Ongoing Mobility Projects

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding prioritizing the projects; information and transparency; timeliness of information provided to the Committee; communication between staff and the Committee; projects from the City's CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) program; a suggestion to add information to the City website; length of projects; the amount of change in a project from month to month; changes made to designations of Green Valley Circle and Buckingham as well as to Bristol and Hannum, and the project for Fox Hills; General Plan Update proposed designations; the planned bike lane; speed humps; curb extensions; signage; the budget; staff agreement to provide additional information to the Committee; realistic and achievable expectations; "The Great Resignation"; the importance of filling open positions; signal timing; turnaround time on adjustments; agencies that take traffic signals off of synchronization in order to slow traffic; lowering the speed limit; the number of projects that need attention; ability of staff to complete projects; fine-tuning signal timing; traffic flow; bike signals; speed surveys; cut-through traffic; the Jackson Gate and related issues, including: providing preferential parking for residents; maintenance access; lack of funding; work with designers and consultants to lay out the access point; safety concerns; elevation differences; allowing for a smooth transition; driveways immediately abutting the path; length of the process; getting the gate open with an interim version; quelling opposition; the actions of previous staff members; caution with making a sudden change; ensuring that the change is made properly; a suggestion to open one side of the gate; direction from the City Council to Public Works to open up the gate; re-agendizing the item each month; and a request for a date for when the gate would be opened.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

David Coles noted that there was no other gate that would be safer than the Jackson Gate; discussed stall tactics from the neighbors; and additional tweaks that can be made after the gate is opened.

Greg Maron discussed staffing challenges; excuses; working smarter; creating unnecessary road blocks; arguments that were debunked during the City Council process; length of time that has passed since the vote was taken to open the gate; the Sawtelle Gate; the Slow Streets project; adding barricades by the Jackson Gate; and willingness of community volunteers to work to facilitate opening the gate and to provide better mobility and access to the neighborhood.

Sophie Nenner expressed concern with prioritizing a handful of homeowners rather than cyclists; discussed the importance of providing safe access to school; and she asked that the Jackson Gate be opened immediately.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the commitment to multi-modal transportation; concerns with possible dangers; discounting dangers to pedestrians and cyclists; taking the needs of all community members into account; access at Sawtelle vs. access at Jackson; Expo access; concern with debunked arguments being made over and over; the process to try to get Elenda opened; parking concessions; the inability to satisfy the neighbors; the public street; changes made in the City that people have had to adjust to; assurances that the gate will be opened; the process to design the gate; the classification of the gate by the county; the inability to open the gate as it is; the process to put a gate right next to the existing gate; classification of other gates; funding; the design process; running a controlled pilot program; and focused work over many years to try to get the gate opened.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for MOVE Culver City; counts; clean up issues; evaluation of data; work with the vendor; taking a traditional count; the cleanup plan; Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on the Bike Path; LED lights around the stop sign at Braddock and Duquesne; connectivity; improvements at Ince and Lucerne; the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP); the budget; and items to be

agendized for the next meeting including: budget information for the Jackson Gate and Fox Hills, upgrade/downgrade classification, Fox Hills traffic calming measures, MOVE Culver City KPIs, the Ince/Lucerne intersection, updating signage on Ballona Creek regarding motorized vehicles, Elenda bike lanes, and LED lights at Braddock and Duquesne.

David Metzler discussed Ince and Lucerne; the cost of delay and inaction; safety; families with young children; and he asked for an update on the Farragut Bike Boulevard and an update on bike lanes on Overland Avenue.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the intent to determine what the Committee wanted information on and provide it at the next meeting; the Farragut project; and agreement to add the update on Overland Boulevard to the next agenda.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, discussed prioritization of projects; coordination; aligning with the community; emphasizing mobility alternatives; City response; the active and engaged Committee; the City-wide mobility initiative; the Short Range Transit Plan; alignment with the region and state with transit services; the long term mobility objective for the City in the General Plan; policies being made by the City; the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan; prioritization; the competition for money; providing the framework to present the plans; he invited the Committee and the community to attend the Mobility Subcommittee meeting on January 25 to view the presentation on the Short Range Mobility Plan; and he discussed efforts to reimagine mobility services for those with mobility challenges.

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This item was heard out of sequence.

Items from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members/Staff (Continued)

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, invited everyone to attend the Mobility Subcommittee meeting on January 25; discussed upcoming items to be considered by the City Council including consideration of opening Main Street agendized for January 24; and pavement management and traffic improvement items to be considered.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding concern that a discussion of opening Main Street had not been put on the agenda; the next meeting date; the neighborhood meeting to discuss design options for the "Snickett"; the need to promote the circulator; creating a sustainable circulator system; operator labor issues; challenges with delivering consistent circulator service; education and outreach; ridership; reliability; goals in the coming months; adding real time signage; the goal for active ridership by the summer; real world experience; placement of the water-filled barriers; real-time feedback on the circulators; reliability concerns with the circulator; and a suggestion to put a loop in the neighborhoods to increase circulator frequency.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

David Metzler proposed using quick build projects to reduce reliance on capital funds; discussed moving forward quickly with the Jackson Gate; status of the Farragut Bike Boulevard; and concern with items that were supposed to have been completed.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding differential issues being addressed; opening the Jackson Gate when it is safe; and funding.

Dylan Gottlieb discussed the importance of keeping Main Street open; concern with causing confusion by opening and closing the street; the importance of integrating MOVE Culver City with everything around it; the bike path that is supposed to go down Ince; the certificate of occupancy for Culver Studios; and he saw Ince as the ideal connector to Ballona Creek.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding City Council consideration of the potential opening of Main Street on January 24; the potential for the item to be pushed to a February meeting; options presented in the staff report; staff support for opening Main Street during the week and closing the street on the weekend to facilitate

outdoor dining; the closure on Tuesdays for the Farmers Market; the accident at the Santa Monica Farmers Market; ensuring that the driving public is not confused about what is happening on Main Street; implementation of vehicle arresting barriers in Santa Monica; the importance of ensuring pedestrian safety; use of retractable bollards; subterranean parking for Amazon; number of employees coming to Culver City; Brown Act issues related to going into an in depth discussion of the item; transparency issues; the fact that the garage is already filled every day and the street is currently closed; high capacity ingress and egress on Ince; consideration and discussion by the City Council; the inability of the Committee to make a recommendation on the item; concern that cars have priority; vibrant street life created by the closure; concern with changing the character of Culver Steps with the potential opening of Main Street; the number of parking spaces used; and concern with making decisions on incorrect data.

Greg Maron discussed underutilization of the circulator; making recommendations of alternatives for the long run; concern with falling into business as usual; moving cars out of the City as quickly as possible; projects that were created by staff no longer working in the City; confusion as to which projects are happening; encouragement to provide clear expectations of what will be accomplished; and concern with waiting two months until the next meeting to gain clarity.

David Coles expressed hope that the City Council would listen to the public; discussed the importance of the staff recommendation; and questioned why staff would make a recommendation rather than providing options.

Yanni Demetri, Public Works Director, discussed the typical practice of making a recommendation; the staff recommendation as in the best interests of the City to get cars out of the City using the shortest possible route; providing the best compromise and a happy medium; ensuring safety; facilitating the quick departure from the Amazon campus; and respectful disagreement.

David Metzler discussed institutional memory; the parking lot underneath Amazon; public input; the City Council vote to allow the owner of the property to move the parking entrance from Washington to Main Street, against what the community had agreed upon; concern with a lack of public comment and discussion; the voices of the public overruled by one land

owner; discussions with staff outside of the public eye; new staff members; the majority of the public that wanted to keep outdoor dining; and concern with setting a bad precedent.

Yanni Demetri, Public Works Director, indicated being unaware of the length of discussions and promises made to the public, and he indicated that he would communicate with staff.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding concern that Main Street had not been on the agenda for Committee consideration before going to the City Council; current usage of the garage; clarification that Amazon has not contacted staff to lobby to open Main Street; lack of circulation issues with current garage usage; and costs to install the bollards.

Mary Daval discussed public support of keeping Main Street closed during previous City Council consideration of opening Main Street; right and left hand turns onto Culver; concern with encouraging huge amounts of traffic back onto the MOVE Culver City corridor; the importance of embracing car free options; lessening car dependency; and she opposed opening up Main Street to car traffic.

Dylan Gottlieb discussed the creation of a destination with the closure of Main Street; giving space back from the car; the appearance of corporate pressure as being the reason for re-opening Main Street; dooming MOVE Culver City to failure; and concern with the strong recommendation from staff to re-open the street.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the intention to re-write the staff report to exclude a recommendation; concern that the public and the Committee are being excluded from the process; the need for the Committee to meet on February 17 in order to review the work plan before it goes to the City Council; the representative nature of the Committee; appreciation to the Members, staff and the public for their efforts; and reminders about upcoming meetings.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:32 P.M., the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned.

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Alicia Ide
SECRETARY of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian
Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED

Michelle Weiner
CHAIR of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
Committee
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date