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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

April 15, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Call To Order & Roll Call

Chair Weiner called the special meeting of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to order at 6:04 P.M. via WebEx Events.

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

*Member Tenensap joined the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

Staff Present: Charles Herbertson, PW Director/City Engineer
Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic
Engineering Manager
Alicia Ide, Management Analyst
Valerie Perez, IT Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Member Montgomery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Order of the Agenda

Chair Weiner indicated that no changes were necessary to the order of the agenda.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY MEMBER MORGAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER DIGA JACOBSEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE (ABSENT MEMBER TENENSAP).

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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 Coles asked the Committee to agendize a discussion regarding the lack of sidewalks on the north side of Farragut for 4-5 blocks between Motor and Overland; he discussed pedestrian accommodation; the importance of having a complete network of sidewalks; and finding the money to address the issue.

Member Tenensap joined the meeting.

David Metzler asked the Committee to consider the Farragut pedestrian connector between Jackson Avenue and Jasmine Avenue; discussed the narrow entrance on the Jasmine side; and he proposed expanding the pedestrian walk area and adding permeable materials to replace the dirt and improve the area.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding appreciation to the speakers for bringing their concerns forward; and staff agreement to agendize a discussion of the suggested items.

Mary Daval discussed bike theft; bike friendly cities; asked that the Committee form a subcommittee to research best practices adaptable to Culver City; discussed adding signage at regular intervals to encourage people to share the Ballona Creek path and to keep right; to investigate providing access

on the other side of the Creek along crowded segments; new developments with less car parking to inspire more bike riding; building in additional safety into new designs; allowing the Committee to have input into new housing developments; parking maximums; and ensuring that projects include accommodations for cyclists to allow people to utilize alternative modalities.

Chair Weiner encouraged Ms. Daval to take her ideas about development to the General Plan Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding putting forward a recommendation to the City Council for BPAC review of new developments, and staff shared information on current bicycle parking requirements and typical public improvements including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and agreed to share more information on requirements in a future meeting.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the February 18, 2021 Special Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER DIGA JACOBSEN, SECONDED BY MEMBER TWICHELL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BPAC MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2021.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Discussion of Safety Issues Regarding Pedestrian Bridge Overcrossing the Ballona Creek and Access to the Schools

Member Tenensap reported right of way conflicts between bicycles and children walking to school on the pedestrian bridge; discussed adding signage to remind people to go slow

and look out for children; and she expressed concern of potential collisions and that someone could get injured.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding staff agreement to evaluate the subject area and return with suggested improvements such as enhancement to pavement markings. A Committee Member suggested that parents organize a crossing guard during school hours; and requested clarification that the area in question is the intersection of the pedestrian/bike bridge at the bike path.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Jim Shanman reported that he had not seen conflicts there, but saw the opportunity to be proactive and alleviate potential issues; he indicated that he would write something up to distribute to the parents; expressed appreciation to staff for agreeing to investigate the matter; and discussed education and outreach through Safe Routes to School programming.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding motorized bikes on the bike path; installation of signage on both sides of the bridge before the intersections to remind people to go slow as children are present; the possibility of increasing enforcement; and the high traffic area.

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Item A-2

Discussion of Pedestrian Recall Signal Operation

Staff shared the previously approved list of signalized locations presently on pedestrian recall. Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding prioritizing pedestrians; improving safety and the pedestrian experience; detected volumes of approaches; time allotted for different traffic directions; Move Culver City project; changes during the pandemic so that pedestrians would not have to press the push buttons and allow crossing in each signal cycle; community support for the ped recall operation; minimization of the Signal Adaptive System; reduced traffic volumes during the pandemic; expected increases to traffic volume and

potential delays; bus signal priority; the need to examine the changes from an operational and safety perspective to minimize delays to all modes of travel; increased delays to bicycles along with other vehicular traffic, conditioning motorized vehicles to wait regardless of the presence of pedestrians; driver frustration when the light changes and no one is waiting to cross; communication between the street detector or bike detector and the signal controller; possibility of programming buttons to signal the light to change immediately; disruption to signal synchronization; consistent time allotted for crossing; maintaining the current configuration until problems arise; the Downtown Circulator; effects to travel times for the buses; the highly pedestrianized downtown area; continued encouragement of people to walk; making it safe and convenient for pedestrians; taking a wholistic view of the situation; unintended consequences; undesirable driving behavior; finding a balance to maximize safety for everyone; programming the system to prioritize pedestrians; and programming for peak periods.

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Presentations

Item P-1

(1) Update on Schedule of Ongoing Construction of La Ballona Safe Routes to School Project; and (2) Discussion of Current and Future Promotional Activities and Messaging

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, provided a summary of the material of record on the La Ballona Safe Routes to School Project; discussed completion of streetscaping elements; the installation of streetlights; the delay in procuring signal poles; upcoming delivery of traffic signal equipment and installation; establishment of pavement markings; project close out and punch list; planned promotion and safety education including a ribbon cutting event; and she requested input from the Committee.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

David Metzler suggested that the Committee be allowed to provide input on the educational component of an app being developed, and he received a clarification that the

referenced app is being developed for the Culver Boulevard stormwater project.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the stormwater project along Culver Boulevard; the mobility and traffic safety education component of the stormwater project; the project budget and associated grant; availability of additional information in June; project schedule; the opportunity to promote bike riding; allowing notice for planning; outreach; the possibility of COVID restrictions still in place; providing sharable instruction on social media; increased communication with schools; coordination with the Safe Routes to School Coordinator; passive vs. active outreach; distribution of information; the Elenda intersection; potential conflicts between cars and bicycles in the merging zone; issues with cars becoming confused and entering the cycle track; parking within the cycle track; temporary measures while waiting for remaining project components; adding a painted sharrow; opening up the Ballona Creek Bike Path at other entry points; the process of opening the Jackson's gate; jurisdictions, coordination with Mike Bonin's office; neighborhood concerns with opening the gate in LA; and the importance of allowing access.

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Item P-2

Presentation of Bikeway and Traffic Calming Improvements Planned for Fox Hills Area

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, reported that the presentation had previously been provided at the Fox Hills community meeting earlier in the month; she discussed feedback received from the public; the desire for feedback from the Committee; community concerns with speeding, cut-through traffic and the lack of bicycle facilities; the grant application submitted for the purpose of developing an area master plan; the need for more data; ongoing grant application for the development of an areawide parking management plan; planned traffic calming devices; use of a consultant for preparing the detailed design plans; bikeways approved by the City Council as part of the BPAP; additional outreach throughout the detailed design.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding neighborhood outreach; the notification process;

businesses and commuting employees; connections to Playa Vista, Los Angeles and the rest of Culver City; implementation plan; areas that are not part of the project; neighborhood connections; the Playa/Overland Corridor improvements; the Fox Hills to Culver City connection; the Westfield Mall as a barrier to accessing other areas; Regional Measure M Funds to be used for detailed design of the Overland-Playa corridor improvements; connecting areas with disadvantaged communities; collision statistics; and possible need for piece-meal implementation.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

David Metzler asked that a traffic light be installed, or that traffic be slowed down to address safety issues at the intersection of Green Valley Circle and Doverwood Drive.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed lane narrowing; limitations on traffic calming devices due to City policy; and community's preference to remove one of the segment's through lanes rather than the center two-way left-turn lane.

Judi Sherman expressed appreciation for the community meeting on April 1; discussed positive public reaction; participation; retaining the turn-lane on Green Valley Circle; adding speed humps on Doverwood; and addressing truck traffic on Canterbury.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding positive feedback; the Class II bike lanes on Bristol and Hannum; feedback from community members who do not feel safe travelling on Overland; buffers separating the bike from the auto travel lanes built into the plan; implementation of Class IV protected bike lanes; travel speeds and car volumes; recommendations of bikeway classes contained in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan based on the number of access points; completing the missing segment of bike lanes on Hannum; possibility of redoing the existing bike lanes on Hannum to provide buffers; physically separating bicycles from traffic wherever possible; additional review as part of the detailed design plan; land uses along the eastside of Buckingham vs. along Bristol and Hannum; the inability to implement traffic calming on arterials; street classifications; collectors vs. residential

feeders; provisions of the Highway Capacity Manual on street classifications; intentional selection of improvements within the Fox Hills neighborhood; installation of refuge median at the pedestrians crossing to enhance visibility and safety conditions; community feedback regarding the center turn lane; and accommodating turns at intersections.

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Item P-3

Presentation Regarding Three Projects Funded by State Cycle 10 - Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant Awards

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed state Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant awards; proposed improvements; areas addressed; funding availability; and the timeframe for implementation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the amount received from grants in the last 12 months; appreciation to staff for their efforts; the planned high friction surface on Overland; implementing bike lanes to connect with West LA College; proposed improvements for identified intersections; and extending the bike lanes to Jefferson.

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Item P-4

Update on Opening of Jackson's Gate at the Ballona Creek Bike Path

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, indicated the intent of staff to provide a memo to the City Council and she requested input from the Committee.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Jim Shanman discussed previous efforts of the City to open the gate; opposition from the public; the need to find a way forward; neighborhood access; parents requesting access so their children can ride safely to school; he expressed concern

that a handful of residents had the power to shut off access; and he agreed to provide contact information to staff for Nancy Madsen.

David Metzler expressed support for opening the gate; discussed the inability of his daughter to ride to school due to the gate being closed; high schools that signed a petition in support of opening the gate; he suggested that other improvements coming to Ballona Creek be cited in the presentation to the City Council; and he asserted that improvements would make the area desirable.

Mary Daval voiced her support for the opening of all the gates along the Creek; discussed equity of access; and the importance of being able to access the Creek and Bike Path through the Jackson Gate specifically.

Victoria Rosenthal reported living three houses north of the Jackson's Gate; expressed opposition to the opening of the gate as she felt providing access would turn a quiet, safe neighborhood into an unsafe situation; she discussed 325 individuals who put together a petition to settle what the property owners and stakeholders wanted; concerns about safety and security; a recent fire on the Creek; theft; she asserted that the area was not safe and that beautification would not make it safe; and she expressed general support for cycling.

Julie West indicated that she lives on Jackson Avenue; discussed the narrowness of the street; safety issues created by adding bike riders to the street; transients; closing the gate at night; and she expressed opposition to opening up the gate.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, indicated that the memo to the City Council would provide feedback from the meeting as well the history of the item; she discussed proposals to address concerns; City Council discretion on the matter; and new City Council Members.

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, discussed the informational item to be provided to the City Council and the process for moving forward.

Sophie Nenner expressed support for opening the Jackson's Gate; asked about the process; she indicated living in the neighborhood and that she wanted her child to be able to

access the gate to go to school; felt that opening the gate would improve safety; discussed equity; people of color riding bikes at night; and she asked that all gates be open at all times to allow accessibility and increase ridership.

Adrian Killigrew expressed support for opening the Jackson's Gate and all of the gates along the Creek; discussed stakeholders in the City; increased ridership; and noted that the Ballona Creek is an artery and arteries should not be closed off.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the example of safe access in the Arts District; increasing safety by increasing traffic; allowing administrative authority to Public Works for opening the gate; support for trying something and measuring the impact; the population impacted by the change; immediate impacts; access to school; outdated anecdotal data; fear of increased crime; the need for emergency access to the Creek; the current inaccessibility of the area; data from the Expo Line Bike Path; the hopes that opening the gate would enhance the neighborhood; representing the interests of all residents; data illustrating that cyclists make roads safer; previous discussion of the item; the increased popularity of cycling; frustration with the length of the process; appreciation for moving the process forward; the desire for the City Council to agendaize consideration of the item; appreciation for the public input; reasons for the delay in City Council consideration; use of the bicycle path to access the Downtown area; encouraging people to leave their cars at home; staff administrative authority; flexibility; determining impacts; controversial issues; taking a measured approach; and allowing for public input.

MOVED BY MEMBER MONTGOMERY AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MORGAN THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL PROVIDE PUBLIC WORKS WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OPEN AND CLOSE THE GATES WHEN NEEDED TO FINE-TUNE ACCESS TO THE BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH.

AYES: DIGA JACOBSEN, MONTGOMERY, MORGAN, TENENSAP,
TWICHELL, WEINER

NOES: NOMURA

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated that comments submitted and received by the Committee earlier in the meeting were all in favor of opening up the Jackson's Gate.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding encouragement to those writing in the chat to email their comments; clarification that the memo to the City Council would include the current and previous recommendations; the ability of a Committee to make a resolution; creation of a letter from the Committee to the City Council reaffirming the position of the Committee; support for opening all of the gates; clarification regarding the agenda item; agreement to work on a support document for the agenda report to the action item; formation of a subcommittee consisting of Chair Weiner, Vice Chair Nomura and Member Diga Jacobsen to draft a letter; timing; concern that the supporting document would hold up submission of the memo to the City Council; frequency of BPAC meetings; upcoming agenda items; Brown Act rules; transparency; scheduling; and coordination with Metro for the Metro Bikeshare presentation.

MOVED BY MEMBER DIGA JACOBSEN, SECONDED BY MEMBER MORGAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE CONSISTING OF CHAIR WEINER, VICE CHAIR NOMURA AND MEMBER DIGA JACOBSON TO DRAFT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR OPENING THE JACKSON GATE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE FULL COMMITTEE ON MAY 13, 2021.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that an action item could be placed on a future agenda to consider opening all of the gates, but no action could be taken during the current meeting as the item had not been agendized.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated that no additional public comment had been received.

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Items from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members/Staff

Member Montgomery questioned whether there was a schedule for Rancho Higuera's Traffic Calming; asked about the status of repairing the street lights that are out on Washington Boulevard near Landmark; he reported seeing many cars in the

bus lanes in the Downtown area; discussed GPS routing through the bus lane; the Downtown Business Association; the Move Culver City project; and federal funding.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding ongoing planning efforts for the Downtown area; final decisions on permanent changes; the initial launch of Move Culver City; the Rancho Higuera NTMP implementation schedule; and staff agreement to follow up via email.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, discussed information about Diversity Training distributed to Committee Members and the deadline.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:44 P.M., the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned to a special meeting to be held on May 13, 2021.

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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