

OFFICIAL MINUTES of
THE CULVER CITY
MOBILITY, TRAFFIC AND PARKING SUBCOMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY MOBILITY,
TRAFFIC AND PARKING SUBCOMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 25, 2021
3:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Council Member Eriksson called the special meeting of the Mobility, Traffic and Parking Subcommittee to order at 3:01 p.m. via Virtual WebEx.

Present: Alex Fisch, Mayor
Göran Eriksson, Council Member

Staff Present: Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director/
City Engineer
Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer
Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic
Engineering Manager
Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager
Alicia Ide, Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Eriksson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Members/Staff

Council Member Eriksson received consensus to agendize a discussion of parking meters that can be paid by phone.

Mayor Fisch received consensus to agendize a discussion of opening the Jackson Gate to the Ballona Creek Bike Path on a future meeting date.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, proposed revisiting Items from Members/Staff again at the end of the meeting.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Council Member Eriksson invited public comment.

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

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Receive and File Correspondence

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated receipt of one e-comment.

MOVED BY MAYOR FISCH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIKSSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MOBILITY, TRAFFIC AND PARKING SUBCOMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Presentations

Item P-1

1) Receive Presentation Regarding CityBus Fleet Electrification Master Plan Update, and (2) Provide Direction to Staff

Mike Tobin, Deputy Transportation Officer, provided an update on the ongoing electrification project; discussed objectives; the project timeline; modeling to gauge the ability of the battery and bus to meet demands; charging requirements;

service assessment; goals; battery efficiency and range; maintenance; cost savings; funding; and grant opportunities.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the estimate of costs per mile; fuel costs; space required for charging; examination of different scenarios for the most economic option; and infrastructure funding.

Member Eriksson invited public participation.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles discussed passengers opening the windows when the air conditioning is running; source of the electricity fueling the buses; and he asked about the viability of using solar power for the City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding operator training to keep windows closed when air conditioning is on; flexibility with allowing additional circulation during the pandemic; processes to cycle the air and keep it cleaner in the bus; use of renewable energy through the Clean Power Alliance; coordination with Sage to put solar panels on existing buildings and new structures; ensuring sustainable practices; battery size; fuel efficiency; continued study; and appreciation for the thoughtful process.

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Item P-2

(1) Receive a Presentation on the LA County Free Fare Proposals Being Discussed as a Result of LA Metro's Fareless System Initiative; (2) Discuss the Impacts and Consideration on Culver CityBus Operations; and (3) Provide Direction to Staff on Next Steps and Recommendation to City Council

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, provided an update on the Fareless Service Initiative (FSI); discussed the goal of equity; reducing cost-burden for low-income residents; loss of ridership during the pandemic; encouraging travel and economic activity; balancing finances; generation of a ten-year financial plan; predicting future costs; potential increased costs with ridership growth; subsidies;

and the need to encourage ridership growth and decrease Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT).

Nick Szamet, Senior Financial Analyst, provided background on FSI; discussed the pilot program for K-12 and college students beginning in August and expanding to Low Income Fare Equity (LIFE) participants in January 2022; a potential partnership with the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD); collaboration with LACMOA (Los Angeles County Municipal Operators Association); anticipated losses; subsidies; the regional survey conducted by Metro regarding participation; options; and the need for approval by the Metro Board.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, discussed operating costs; lost revenue; expansion of connections; increased shuttles to after school programs; the goal to double pre-pandemic school ridership; the potential agreement with CCUSD; funding; participation in the full pilot program; participation in the regional program; ways to offset costs; funding allocated to Culver CityBus as a result of COVID-19; and the ability of CCUSD students to ride for free on Metro.

Council Member Eriksson invited public participation.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Ken Mand expressed concern with trying to get any money out of CCUSD to fund the program; he felt that the City should cover the expenses; discussed the teachers' union; CCUSD finances; expanded service; and he asked that connectivity of the Arts District be examined.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding discussions with CCUSD; providing equitable access; the Education Foundation; expanded service; determining where to supplement; creating a priority mobility lane during school travel hours; the importance of making students more transit oriented; support for the K-12 two-year pilot with the support of CCUSD whether Metro approves it or not; other agencies interested in participating; other operators in fear of taking the risk; concern with taking something back once it is given; concern with long-term funding; the importance of participation by the Big Blue Bus to have success on the westside; the LIFE program as an equity program; support for a K-12 program to instill appreciation for transit; controversy for college participation; Santa Monica College

as a revenue source for the Big Blue Bus; concern with non-destination riders; those who can afford to pay more; the current formula; concern with losing ridership with a fare increase and therefore losing subsidy money; the fixed subsidy; and support for continued work on the program toward a presentation to the City Council in June.

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Item P-3

(1) Receive an Update Presentation on the MOVE Culver City - Downtown Tactical Mobility Lane Project Status, Including Progress on the Circulator Service, the Art-Inspired Street Treatment, and the Downtown Study; and (2) Provide Direction to Staff

Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a status update on the MOVE Culver City project; discussed the downtown corridor; the circulator; maintaining the outdoor dining program through the summer; design options for westbound Culver Boulevard post Labor Day; and implementation.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, provided an update on circulator service; discussed the intent to go before the City Council on June 14 with a Consent Calendar item; the pilot circulator program; ability to make adjustments; available vehicle options; the goal of having more riders on the circulator than on the entire system; the need for legislative change in order to use the tram; timing; the van option; safety concerns with using rear loading vans; use of shuttles; the trolley option; the electric van option; potential federal funding; matching micro-transit vehicles; and rebranding of CityRide services.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding safety; chargers; prohibitive costs and timeline for the Village Trolley support for the immediate implementation of the mini-bus in July; rebranding of CityRide; and agreement to place the item on the City Council Consent Calendar on June 14, 2021.

Council Member Eriksson invited public participation.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Ken Mand expressed concern with the small capacity of the proposed vehicle; discussed length of time for legislative action; and potential micro-transit to populate the mobility lane.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the number of passengers served with the proposed mini-bus; the pilot program; transferring of the mini-bus to other CityRide services; the ability to expand; growing into a larger vehicle; and justification for spending more money.

Darrel Menthe discussed creating a successful program; running the program until midnight; and he expressed support for planning ahead for growth.

Joe Iacobucci, Sam Schwartz Engineering, indicated that he was providing the report for Street Plans who could not be available for the meeting; he presented an overview of the concepts for asphalt art; discussed wear and tear; the asphalt art survey results; interested volunteers; the timeline for development; the Bus Bike platform design; the platform concept; locations; and continued efforts on the concept and fabrication.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the modular concept; length of time to make changes; functionality and aesthetics; filming; removability; coordination with FilmLA; concern with the area around the Culver Hotel; and ensuring ease of filming.

Joe Iacobucci, Sam Schwartz Engineering, discussed the planned timeline for Downtown Visioning; long-term vision; project area; the feasibility analysis; scope; conceptual plans; concept of operations; community engagement; planning level cost estimates; next phases; community engagement; and options to address with the process.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding changes after the outdoor dining program is discontinued; City Council direction; providing flexibility regarding implementation; staff work to be prepared to respond to direction; the long-term timeline; planning tools; revisiting MOVE Culver City after it unfolds; weekly Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reports on the impacts of the project on all modes of travel; identification of a variety

of different opinions and alternatives; and co-existing processes.

Council Member Eriksson invited public participation.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Michelle Weiner asked about the long-term visioning process; discussed the need for more time to experience the changes before long-term visioning can be implemented; ensuring the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is an integral part of the process; potential impacts to the Sepulveda/Jefferson project; and support for the mini-bus choice.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding involvement of leaders within different agencies, including the BPAC Chair, Michelle Weiner, to act as the conduit of information flow; invitations and staff participation in Committee meetings; the goal to move forward with the Jefferson/Sepulveda project in January; length of the process; additional research for the Jefferson/Sepulveda project; and appreciation for the support for the mini-bus choice.

Darrel Menthe expressed appreciation for the forward movement on the downtown project; discussed making a better space for everyone; and concern that the Downtown Business Association (DBA) was not mentioned as a stakeholder.

Ken Mand discussed the minimal amount of signage planned in the Arts District; the importance of making the colors vibrant; concern that the community expressed support for outdoor dining at the May 24 City Council meeting, but the City Council went a different way; noted the process for the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Visioning Project; he felt that groups were not heard; he asserted that the damage that was done should be addressed; and noted the need to re-think what a Downtown Visioning Process is.

Mary Daval thanked everyone for their hard work on the item; expressed support for comments from Ken Mand that Option 1 seemed to come out of nowhere at the May 24 City Council meeting; echoed compliments from Michelle Weiner about the choice of the mini-bus; discussed feedback from the CPAC; and

expressed hope that the nostalgic look of old Culver City could be transcended with use of newer concepts.

Travis Morgan recognized the tireless efforts of staff; proposed putting signage back at National or Overland indicating single-lane traffic ahead and encouraging through traffic to go around; discussed long-term concerns regarding stakeholders; evaluation of community engagement; allowing groups to come together; separation of the CPAC from the Business Roundtable; exclusion of the greater public; recognition of the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) as a stakeholder; concern with the outcome of the process and choice of Option 1 at the May 24 City Council meeting; and taking a step back to look at the process.

Mayor Fisch discussed outreach and planning processes; ineffectiveness of community engagement; concern with the inherently adversarial nature of the process with poor communication; a jury process used in the Bay Area; and he indicated that he had been guided by safety, usability and the Complete Streets model.

George Montgomery discussed the complicated process; progress made; the hard work of staff; inclusion of Main Street when considering westbound Culver; influencing cut-through traffic; traffic volume; the downtown area; outdoor dining and Complete Streets; and Main Street as a key component.

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Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Michelle Weiner wanted to see the Jackson Gate item expedited with the Gate open for the summer.

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Receipt of Correspondence

None.

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Items from Staff/Subcommittee Members

Council Member Eriksson asked that an update on pay by phone solutions for parking and an update on the Jackson Gate included on the next agenda.

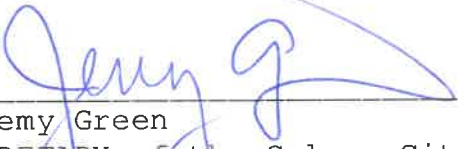
Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding design changes for the Jackson Gate; sight distance issues; safety for those entering the bike path; and effort put into the process.

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Adjournment


There being no further business, at 5:34 p.m., the Mobility Traffic and Parking Subcommittee adjourned its meeting to June 22, 2021.

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Jeremy Green
SECRETARY of the Culver City Mobility, Traffic and Parking
Subcommittee, Culver City, California

APPROVED 07 JAN 2022



ALEX FISCH
Mayor, Mobility, Traffic and Parking Subcommittee
Culver City, California