

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

June 22, 2021
3:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Fisch called the special meeting of the Mobility, Traffic and Parking Subcommittee to order at 3:01 p.m. in Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall via Webex.

Present: Alex Fisch, Mayor
Göran Eriksson, Council Member

Staff Present: Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director/
City Engineer
Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineer Analyst,
Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager
Alicia Ide, Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Fisch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Members/Staff

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the upcoming meeting schedule and staff availability.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles provided suggestions for the Culver CityBus system; noted two bus stops in a single block on eastbound route 1; recommended eliminating the Washington/Madison bus stop; discussed the Next Culver CityBus app; and he suggested that the icon on the app not disappear, but rather be replaced with an emoji to indicate when the bus driver is taking a break.

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Receive and File Correspondence

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated receipt of six written comments.

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

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Presentations

Item P-1

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

Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager, introduced the item; provided an update on the Bus and Bike Platform and the asphalt art timeline; discussed issues with the bidding

process and procurement of materials; independent cost estimates; longer lead times than anticipated for materials; the recommendation to the City Council to reject the bid received and authorize staff to negotiate with and secure contractors for the mobility lane as well as waive bidding requirements and authorize staff to procure materials directly; supply chain issues; delays to the Downtown Corridor Go Live Date; the intent to return to the City Council in July for the construction contract award; moving forward with the post-pandemic design for westbound Culver Boulevard, the circulator vehicle, the Bus Bike Platform and asphalt art; progress with the Bus Bike Platform; the asphalt art survey; design and locations of art; color palette, creation of an implementation plan; and she indicated that due to time and budget constraints, the asphalt art program would have to be scaled back and delayed.

Joe Iacobucci, Sam Schwartz Engineering, indicated that Street Plans were not available to provide the presentation on asphalt art; discussed original locations with the potential for asphalt art; curb extensions; the preferred themes; design refinement; identified locations with specific art elements; the color palette; wear and tear; and community input into the process.

Discussion ensued between the consultants, staff and Subcommittee Members regarding coordination with FilmLA and the movie studios; crash-friendly planters for cyclists; planter function; mitigation of potential accidents; conflict zone signage; and evaluation of street lighting.

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Mary Daval expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts; discussed concern with the delay and the long-term visioning process for downtown; changes in the downtown area over the past 20 years; timing of the charette process; and she asked that the start of long-term visioning be postponed until the Quick Build project has been installed and can be evaluated.

David Coles asserted that jacaranda is not a native species and proposed local flowering plants that are good alternatives.

Mayor Fisch expressed appreciation to staff and the consultants for their efforts.

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Item P-2

Presentation and Discussion Regarding: (1) Parking Meter Technologies and Facilitating Remote Payment, and (2) Proposed Pilot Program in Downtown Area

Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineer Analyst, discussed existing conditions; accepted payment methods; the proposed pilot area; bluetooth capabilities; Park Smarter; the Park Smarter app; expanding current services; meter numbers; pay by phone; the fiscal analysis; battery life; and cost benefit.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding dynamic pricing; active curb management; meter revenue; monthly costs; pre-pandemic revenue; enforcement; staffing challenges; green light/red light; providing different pay options; meters using the old technology; the bluetooth function; company partnerships; potential future benefits; support for having alternatives; concern with reliability of the Park Smarter app; the experience of other cities; adoption rate; and the 25 cents charge.

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Victoria Rosenfield received clarification regarding procedures for those with disabled placards.

Witney Taylor, Pay by Phone, provided background on herself; discussed mobile apps; the Pay by Phone method; revenue from transaction fees; partnerships; the ability of the City to absorb the convenience fee; marketing and signage supplied by Pay by Phone; and providing a contactless parking experience.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the convenience fee; additional information from other cities; the feeling that the user should pay for the convenience; and support for moving the item forward to the City Council for consideration.

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Discussion Regarding Proposed Opening of a Gate Entrance to the Ballona Creek Multi-Use Path at The East End of Jackson Avenue

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director/City Engineer, provided background on the process for consideration of opening a gate entrance to the Ballona Creek Multi-use Path at the east end of Jackson Avenue; discussed opening up additional access points along the Creek; the community outreach plan; the survey and results; the workshop held at Carlson Park; concerns expressed; development of the concept plan; mitigation of concerns; the letter from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) sent to the City Council recommending opening the gate for access to the Path; the petition from people in the area opposing opening the gate; pros and cons of using mirrors for visibility; signage; dismount zones; and he indicated that photographs and video of the gate were available if requested.

Council Member Eriksson received clarification regarding funding to make proposed changes.

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Mary Daval, Women on Bikes Culver City, thanked staff for their efforts; asserted that for safety and equity, all gates along the Path should be opened; proposed that opening the Jackson Gate would lead to opening the others; expressed frustration that a small number of residents are preventing opening the gates; and she wanted to see the Jackson Gate opened as soon as possible.

Sandrine Cassidy, Sustainability Coordinator for Culver City Unified School District, provided background on Ballona Creek Renaissance; expressed support for opening the Jackson Gate; discussed safety and access; the importance of encouraging bicycling in the City; the Ballona Creek Bike Path as an important connector in the City and the region; providing equity and inclusion by making the neighborhood available to all; encouraging alternative forms of transportation; connecting the neighborhood to the convenient path; the county permit; Los Angeles County Flood Control; she noted

that nothing fancy was necessary, but a decorative gate could be installed similar to the one at Sepulveda; related her positive experience living near an open gate; and she encouraged Culver City to open the Jackson Gate and keep it working as it was designed to be used, and close it as necessary during the rainy season.

Victoria Rosenfield discussed written comments she previously submitted; the petition indicating that people in the area do not support opening the gate; concern as to whether those responding to the survey live in the City; concern that those on her street had not received notice of the Carlson Park meeting or others; the existing solution for Safe Routes to School for children with the Farragut pass-through in a residential area; crossing guards; she asserted that the path was meant to be a maintenance road; she asked that the Council Members walk through the pathway with her and look at the quiet cul-de-sac streets; discussed the number of police visits in the past few weeks; gang signage at Jackson; turf wars; and she proposed leaving the gates closed and utilizing the pathway on the other side of the Creek where most of the unhoused people are living.

Michelle Weiner, BPAC Chair, expressed appreciation for the community feedback; discussed previous consideration of the issue by BPAC; the mission of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan to improve connectivity; the importance of equity; the tragic event where a person lost his life due to lack of access; felt that opening the gate was a low cost option to improve accessibility; and she asked that the Subcommittee either support opening the gate, or move it forward to the City Council for their consideration.

David Coles, Bike Culver City, expressed support for opening the gate as soon as possible; felt that having a gate was unnecessary and that safety concerns were unwarranted; discussed the Expo Bike Path; providing a safe alternative to the dangerous ramp on Duquesne; length of time that the matter has been deliberated; and he hoped that the gate would be opened up as soon as possible.

Greg Maron discussed where he lives in relation to the gate; the important thoroughfare for different types of transportation in the City; riding bicycles with his children; concern with putting his kids in harm's way with auto traffic because the City cannot open the gate; he suggested people take a walk or bike ride on Overland to

experience it; reported reaching out to area groups responsive to the issue who signed on to a letter in support of opening the gate that he sent to Subcommittee Members which he thought should be part of the public record; and expressed support for opening the gate.

Mayor Fisch asked speakers to be concise with their comments due to time constraints for the meeting.

Adrian Killigrew was called to speak but could not be heard.

Andrew Leist reported living near the gate and wanted to see it opened; discussed security risks; lack of issues in other areas with open gates; current openings in the chain link fence; and he thanked the Subcommittee for their consideration of opening the gate.

Art Nomura, BPAC Vice Chair, thanked the Subcommittee for their consideration; felt the central issue was equity; discussed the 2019 meeting; changes in the City that people have had to adjust to; statements that the Ballona Creek Bike Path is the backbone of Culver City; and he wanted to see the City allow access to it as soon as possible with a vote for opening the gate.

David Metzler reported living in the neighborhood; thanked the Subcommittee for considering opening the gate as soon as possible; reported feeling unsafe going to Overland to access the Bike Path; discussed walking his daughter to school; the area where the Cross Country Team runs; safety issues; and he asserted that it was time to open the Jackson Gate.

Carol Catucci discussed previous consideration of the matter; parking issues; the narrowness of Jackson Avenue; concern with increased traffic and cars parking by the gate; and the Jackson Market.

Adrian Killigrew was called to speak but did not respond.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, encouraged anyone with additional comments to send them to: public.works@culvercity.org, which will be brought to the attention of the Subcommittee members.

Discussion between staff and Subcommittee Members ensued regarding the Bike Path as an underutilized resource; the importance of listening to the neighbors; the need for

compromise during a pilot program; locking the gate in the evenings and when it rains; ensuring that cyclists are required to dismount before going through the gate and that the gate is wide enough for wheelchairs; lighting; traffic and parking issues; the Overland access gate; installing security cameras to help monitor and determine the usage of the gate; the Bike Path as a key point of mobility; acknowledgement of residents' concerns; fear; concern with cameras and privacy issues; cargo bikes; and options for adding something that would require a dismount.

Adrian Killigrew wanted to see the gate opened for the entire City; discussed the upcoming Pride Ride; and the number of cyclists in the City.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding agreement to send the item to the City Council for consideration of a pilot program at their August 9, 2021 meeting.

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Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated receiving no additional requests to speak and she again encouraged anyone with additional comments to send them to: public.works@culvercity.org.

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Receipt of Correspondence

None.

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Items from Staff/Subcommittee Members


None.

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Adjournment


There being no further business, at 5:24 p.m., the Mobility Traffic and Parking Subcommittee adjourned its meeting to July 27, 2021.

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

APPROVED



ALEX FISCH
COUNCIL MEMBER, Mobility, Traffic and Parking Subcommittee
Culver City, California