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

August 24, 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 3:00 p.m. via Webex.

Present: Alex Fisch, Mayor
Göran Eriksson, Council Member

Staff Present: Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager
Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer
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

None.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles repeated comments expressed at a previous meeting regarding recommendations for bus operations noting the presence of two bus stops in a single block and he suggested that idling buses not disappear from the NextCC Bus app.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, expressed appreciation for the feedback noting that staff would examine both issues.

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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 that no correspondence had been received.

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Presentations

Item P-1

Receive a Presentation Regarding Upcoming Open Street and Other Events Planned to Take Place in the Downtown Area and the Arts District in Late 2021 and Early 2022

Elaine Gerety-Warner, Economic Development Project Manager, provided a summary of planned Open Street activations in downtown Culver City in late 2021 and early 2022.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed CicLAvia planned for March 2022.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding support for the planned events; encouragement to provide space for restaurants to participate in events;

capacity issues; staffing; the Third Wednesdays summer event; street closures; activated events; renewing public interest; keeping up momentum and interest in larger downtown projects; closing off certain areas to minimize effort and diversion of traffic; disruption of MOVE Culver City; potential scenarios; rotating locations; weekends; previous successful events; and simplification of events due to COVID.

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Karim Sahli expressed support for Open Street activations; discussed Open Streets programs in Paris; he invited everyone to attend a Bike Culver City event with a speaker who was instrumental in planning events in Paris; and per the request of Mayor Fisch, he agreed to forward information to Subcommittee Members.

Michelle Weiner expressed support for the events; proposed expanding and adding events on Sepulveda; and allowing people to experience a walkable Culver City in a different part of the City.

Ken Mand proposed specifically creating pre-entitled plans for different sizes and locations for events to make it simple for anyone who wants to do an activation whether City sponsored or not; discussed pre-budgeting money for activations; area wasted at Town Plaza; the Culver Hotel; public space that is not able to be used by the community; and releasing space back to the community.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding activating different parts of the community; bringing people together; the next Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) meeting; plans by Hackman Capital to activate the Town Plaza; and representation of the Sepulveda Corridor on the ERTF.

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(1) Receive a Presentation Update on the Slow Streets Program; and (2) Provide Direction to Staff

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, provided an update on the Slow Streets Program; discussed changes as issues arose; additional improvements planned; the School Safety Project; funding for the Farragut Plan; the Bike Boulevard designation; street alignment; vehicle code requirements; and implementation of City-wide school safety improvements.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding type of barricade being used; the budget; the importance of the program; issues to address at the connector between Farragut and Jackson; decreased visibility; the plan for bicycles to share the road with cars using sharrows; staff agreement to do additional research; and designing to reduce conflicts between bicycles and cars.

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Michelle Weiner discussed the appropriateness of implementing Slow Streets on Rhoda Way; diminished effectiveness with not having the barricades in the middle; increased ridership on Slow Streets; materials issues; appreciation for the temporary measure; and support for the Bike Boulevard.

Karim Sahli expressed appreciation for the presentation; discussed differences in bike lane configuration; using parked cars as a buffer between the bike lane and moving cars; and he suggested installing a ramp at the Jackson Connector.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, acknowledged the benefit of using parked cars as buffer for bicycles; discussed implementation of buffered bike lanes wherever possible; driveways; and other challenges.

Mary Daval thanked staff for the presentation and for their efforts; discussed the collaboration between staff and Bike Culver City; removal of the west Culver City Slow Street; requests for additional Slow Streets; the timeline for making

Farragut Bike Boulevard; and support for a ramp at the Farragut-Jackson Connector (the Snicket).

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the timeline for implementation of the Bike Boulevard; adding more Slow Streets; equipment; volunteers; the conceptual design for the Farragut to Jackson Connector; in-house design; solicitation of feedback; the missing sidewalk on Farragut; Farragut between Overland and the pre-schools; the School Safety Plan; and evaluation of the school area City-wide.

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Item P-3

(1) Receive a Presentation Update on Operations of the Lane Closure on Westbound Washington Boulevard Associated with the Outdoor Dining and Adjacent Protected Bike Lane and Recommend Changes to Meet Design Standards in Coordination with Implementation of the MOVE Culver City Project; and (2) Provide Direction to Staff

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, provided an update on the parking lane and number two traffic lane closure on westbound Washington Boulevard associated with the outdoor dining and protected bike lane; discussed recommended changes to meet design standards in coordination with implementation of the MOVE Culver City project; utilization of space; repeatedly damaged delineators; concern with the effect of a lack of parking in front of the businesses; the proposed limitation on outdoor dining space immediately in front of restaurants; maintaining the closure on Melvil Street; making curbside parking available; and the closure on La Cienega Avenue.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the disappearance of the barriers on Washington Boulevard; removal of barriers in the downtown area to facilitate the MOVE Culver City project; the water filled barriers; opening up parking spaces; the compromise to accommodate the community; the parklet ordinance; the area as leading into the lane reduction for the MOVE Culver City project; the bike lane proposed on Adams in the City of Los Angeles; linking up and creating a network; the temporary transition between Fairfax and La Cienega on Washington; and the need to find long-term permanent solutions.

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles discussed the importance of bike facilities in the eastern part of the City; the importance of connectivity; the bollards proposed for Main Street; the need for robust physical barriers; and concern with providing a false sense of security for cyclists.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed the proposed barrier and reported that the sidewalk at 8888 Washington Boulevard would be reopened by September.

Karim Sahli expressed appreciation for the presentation; discussed misconceptions that a business that does not have parking will suffer; supported preserving the current configuration with a better treatment or planters; he did not want to see parking reinstated; and he requested installation of armadillos that cars can feel with their wheels in the protected bike lanes.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed the feasibility of adding armadillos; access to parking spaces; and the delineators.

Ken Mand discussed the transition zone on Washington Boulevard, east of La Cienega Boulevard; the effect on Adams; getting ahead of the City of Los Angeles by reducing the left turn; directing traffic; and he asked that the bike lane from Hargis to La Cienega Avenue be painted with fresh green paint.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed duration of the plan and the special paint used.

George Montgomery expressed appreciation for the work and compromises made; discussed residential spaces; delineators; providing a buffer between the diners and car exhaust; safety; and the existing closure of Melvil, between the alley and Washington Boulevard.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding regional connectivity; speed on Washington; support for taking a few more parking spaces; and the trial and error process.

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Item P-4

(1) Receive a Presentation on the MOVE Culver City - Downtown Tactical Mobility Lane Project Status Update; and (2) Provide Other Direction to Staff

Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager, provided an update on MOVE Culver City; discussed project implementation; the construction timeline; Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reports; and the outdoor dining program.

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles expressed surprise that Main Street would be reopened with the implementation of MOVE Culver City; he asserted that the item had not been discussed in any public forum; and he stated that he understood that Main Street was not part of the MOVE Culver City project.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, stated that the plans were always clear that Main Street would be reopened; he discussed parking; parklets; and the City Council presentation,

David Coles discussed the planning documents; public discussion; opportunity for public comment; public awareness; and lack of explicit statement.

Karim Sahli stated that Main Street is the shortest main street in the United States and could afford to be blocked; he discussed the Amazon Studios parking lot; helping business; defending public space in favor of the restaurants; taking land away from the car and giving it back to the community; and he asked that Main Street be kept as pedestrian space and because it acts as an extension of Town Plaza.

George Montgomery asked that Main Street be kept as an extension of Town Plaza; discussed maintaining the public amenity; opening different spaces at different times; and the importance of consistency.

Michelle Weiner urged the City to keep Main Street closed;

discussed maintaining the small town walkability of the City; the natural gathering spot; MOVE Culver City; the importance of buses; providing a dedicated bus lane in the middle of Main Street without any automobiles; and using the walkable area to draw people to the downtown area.

Ken Mand noted that the pandemic was still going on; discussed the need for an agendized item on a City Council agenda; disappointment with the process outcome; the need to provide safe, outdoor dining options; and he asked for information on when indoor activities for unmasked people would be possible.

Mary Daval urged the City Council to reconsider the reopening of Main Street; noted that if the people who were most involved were unaware of the plan, the majority of the City would most likely also be surprised; discussed drawings presented; and she urged the City Council to rethink the reopening and maintain the current configuration.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the focus on Culver Boulevard; the pandemic response; maintaining the fire lane; providing traffic relief to Culver Boulevard; access to Culver Studios; lack of direction to keep Main Street closed long-term; MOVE Culver City as a mobility project; clarity of the process; weekdays vs. weekends; lack of public comment on the issue; bollards; additional consideration; moving forward; and concern with further delay.

Ken Mand discussed reopening the conversation; providing sufficient access in and out of the parking garage at The Steps; community dissatisfaction with Option 1; and support for closing Main Street and keeping outdoor dining.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding Culver Plaza; closing Main Street on Saturdays and Sundays; garage access; providing proper traffic flow into the downtown area; whether to delay the K-Rail removal on Main Street due to the continuing pandemic; traffic patterns; cost of implementing bollards; long-term strategies; funding; impacts to MOVE Culver City; employee return to work; parklets; other outdoor dining areas; the eastern part of Washington Boulevard; further discussion; ensuring the success of MOVE Culver City; and staff agreement to return with additional information.

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Item P-5

(1) Presentation of Transportation Fleet Electrification Master Plan Update; and (2) Provide Other Direction to Staff

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, introduced the item noting that the goal is to return to the City Council with a plan on September 13.

Mike Tobin, Deputy Director of Transportation, provided an update on Transportation Fleet Electrification; discussed delivery of the first electric bus; deployment; the Master Electrification Plan; the consultant; planning; assessments; route requirements; modeling; charging; costs; credits; Compressed Natural Gas (CNG); facilities; phasing; and evaluation of multiple scenarios.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, discussed costs; comparisons between staying with CNG and Battery Electric Bus (BEB) implementation; funding; shortfalls; challenges; incorporation into the long-term capital plan; short-range mobility planning; and the process moving forward.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the presentation to the City Council; amount of money being spent; height limits; exemptions; setting aside time to allow public participation; and support for holding a special meeting.

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Karim Sahli expressed support for the project; discussed solar panels to power the buses; emergency preparedness; battery banks; retraining mechanics; funding; the American Rescue Plan; communication with Supervisor Holly Mitchell's office; and support for holding a special meeting.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, indicated that the current scope of work includes help from Sage Energy Consultants to evaluate options including renewable energy; the intent to lower costs overall; the amount of energy consumed vs. the amount generated by solar panels; battery usage; creating a Disaster Recovery Plan; retraining

mechanics; loss of positions; attrition; expansion of skill sets with additional training; funding; communication with Supervisor Mitchell's office; the deficit; City Council approval; federal earmarks; next steps in the process; and the timeline for moving forward.

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Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public participation.

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

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Items from Staff/Subcommittee Members

Mayor Fisch indicated that the next meeting would be on September 28; expressed appreciation to Rolando Cruz for the school roll-out; noted the need to update the schedule on the website; and discussed those who don't know about the NextCC Bus app.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, discussed aligning the schedule with what schools are doing; planned adjustments; community questions; addressing challenges; and the anticipated response rate; and Fox Hills.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 5:59 p.m., the Mobility Traffic and Parking Subcommittee adjourned its meeting to September 28, 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