

Special Joint Meeting of the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Advisory Committees – Meeting Summary

Thursday July 11, 2024 – 5:30PM to 6:00PM

Attendance

Bicycle Committee

Present (8): Alison Harris, Amy Flax, Mark Boswell, Randy Stern, Muna El Taha, Camille Jonlin, Richard Freierman, Worth Smith

Absent (12): Carola Voelker, Diane Gray, Eitan Normand, Guido Cuperus, John Ellersick, Scott Kilcoyne, Michael Burke, Gregory Carey-Medlock, Denise Haynes, Leah Pickett, Martha Birnbaum, Ling Zeng

Pedestrian Committee

Present (10): Debby Galef, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Logan Read, Robin Bonner, Sandy Goldberg, Jesus Armenta, Maryann Quinn, Janet Stein, Thomas Marsh, John Leo

Absent (9): Jenine Powers, Sean Pierce, Xander Mitchell, David de Chaves, Michael McGowan, Kevin Leckey, Bernhard Nickel, Alexandra Hallowell, Evan Killion

Transit Advisory Committee

Present (6): Bill McAvinney, Arthur Strang, Melissa Zampitella, Carl Rothenhaus, Jackson Moore Otto, Peter Septoff

Absent (5): Devin Chausse, Jim Gascoigne, Katherine Rafferty, Makayla Comas, Maha Aslam

City Staff (6): Wynnie Gross, Andrew Reker, Nika Lea Tomicic (CDD); Brooke McKenna, Stephen Meuse (TPT); Melissa Miguel (DPW)

Others (2): Two members of the public

Meeting Summary

Introductions, Agenda Overview, and Roll Call

Wynnie Gross (WG) welcomed members to the meeting and did roll call for all three committees.

Review: Grant application to US DOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)

Brooke McKenna (BM) from Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department presented on a grant application that the City is pursuing. This is a grant to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) and would be used for constructing the Safety Improvement Project on Cambridge Street.

WG shared on the virtual meeting, the proposed letter of support to Secretary Buttigieg.

BM explained the details of the grant application and the city's current project. The application includes the following details:

- Grant is for \$5.9M in construction funds for a number of active transportation improvements on Cambridge Street
- This project is to meet the requirements of the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO) and covers the blocks of Cambridge Street from Oak St to First St.
- The timeline for this project has been proposed to be delayed with a city council action.
- The timelines are for Phase 1 Oak to Willow starting implementation in summer 2025, Willow to Cardinal Medeiros in 2026, and the final section to First St starting in 2026 or 2027.
- Funds from the AIITP grant would also help facilitate a reconstruction near the elementary and upper schools and Valente Library
- This funding would allow the city to go beyond quick build, including floating bus stops and pedestrian improvements, such as crossing islands.

BM and Andrew Reker (AR) asked the transportation committees if they would approve writing this letter of support to Secretary Buttigieg.

Discussion: Letter of Support from Transportation Committees for AIITP Grant
Committee members asked questions about the grant proposal and the letter.

- A committee member asked about adding “public schools” to the letter, as Cambridge Street serves a number of public schools in addition to businesses and residences. Another member seconded this.
- Another committee member asked about when the city finds out whether or not they received the grant money. AR responded that there is no strict timeline, but within months not years.
- Another committee member asked about the location of crossing signal lights for pedestrians at the proposed bus stop islands. Stephen Meuse (SM) from the city responded that it depends on the location of the specific bus island, explaining that the main target is to stop cars, and location varies. But typically, the sign and button are roadside, not to right of the bike lane.

The letter will have the added information on the public school.

Roll Call Vote: Letter of Support for Grant

WG conducted a vote by roll call for each committee on the motion to draft and then send a letter of support for AIITP with the modifications discussed. All present members voted yes on this motion.

Announcements

WG announced that the upcoming joint committee meeting scheduled for July 17 is postponed until August.

End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 6:03PM.