

Minutes

BPAC Policy and Legislative Committee

February 12, 2024, City Hall Hearing Room 2

Attendance: Commissioners Frank, Whipps, Ralston. Staff: Pierre Gerard, Noel Pond-Danchik

Agenda Items:

1. **Update on previous agenda items** – The Committee reviewed items from the Aug 14th (2023) inaugural meeting including the discussions of a process of how to determine and prioritize topics to take up. For example, the Committee is interested in taking up: traffic calming; fire safety; pedestrian call-buttons; traffic data after injuries; light timing intervals; bulb-outs; day-lighting intersections for visibility and so forth. Overall, the Committee is looking to address things that can be impacted in the way the city operates – e.g., guiding principles, policies that we can change. This might also include developing letters to other governmental agencies.
2. **Open Forum** – no speakers.
3. **Election of Committee Chair** – Commissioner Frank selected to continue as chair by consensus; Commissioner Whipps agreed to serve as interim co-chair through the next meeting to see if there are other Committee members (including public members) who would be interested. Commissioner Ralston agreed to serve as acting secretary through the next meeting but recommends after either a public Committee member serves, or we rotate such duties as note taking.
4. **Report from Ad-hoc Committee on Fire Code Amendments** – (Kevin Dalley) – Chair Frank provided a summary of Kevin’s email report (see attachments in agenda). Kevin is working with staff on 7th St on how fire codes is being used to change design of street and to make sure city staff and Committee are working together. The ad hoc committee is focused on sprinklers in buildings which would allow a narrower road for fire trucks. Discussions of reaching a point of percentage of buildings with sprinklers to allow street designation for less than 13 ft. lanes. The overall goal is to get this to the Public Safety Committee of the City Council.

Discussion: members asked whether OakDOT Director Kelley is involved in these discussions and how we can ask for his support including in agendizing support for council. Staff responded that they could help connect and forward emails (and this is something staff can do in general if Committee has a policy approach, they want OakDOT to provide input or request endorsement, etc. Staff reiterated they are committed to providing timely responses as they would for any members of the public on such communication).

5. **Discussion on Oakland General Plan Update** – Discussion on what role the Committee can take on behalf of BPAC for the second phase of the update for 2045. The commissioners went around and discussed their view of potential 2045 goals relevant to

BPAC answering question: “what can we do and what to do?” The focus was on the LUTE – Land Use and Transportation Element.

Discussion of interest in giving comments as BPAC and having initial conversations with OakDOT and planning and knowing the deadlines. Having us able to provide suggested language esp. on things like design standard principles and policies. Interest was also expressed in how bike and pedestrian plans and street classifications and goals for citywide networks and neighborhood access will be reflected into the transportation section, diagrams, maps, and budget prioritization/implementation sections of the LUTE (and corresponding policy framework and integration with other elements such as Infrastructure and Recreation). The Committee would want to know what might be routed for the infrastructure Committee, this Committee, and the general BPAC.

Commissioner Ralston agreed to head up a new ad hoc working group on the general plan update and will work with OakDOT staff point contact Charlie Ream on getting more information on how we can engage and start conversation. Understanding is that City will be launching the second phase update starting late March and it will go approx., 18-months.

6. **Discussion of Committee Goals and what the Committee hopes to achieve** – The Committee reiterated the areas of interest mentioned above in item #1. Commissioner Frank specifically mentioned wanting to have presentations to and from OakDOT Traffic Engineering about intersection traffic signalization and looking at a concrete set of policies. Commissioner Whipps interested in further engagement with staff and OakDOT Director Kelley as appropriate in reference to making a gameplan which engagement enables creating recommendations for design standards, for agreed upon street classifications, even developing a “cheat sheet” to make improvements allowances more straight forward and less inconsistent. Also asked to establish an ad hoc on these topics of street design standards. Commissioner Ralston wanted to have Committee articulate and advocate for clear citywide bike/ped goals that could become guiding for city planning updates such as a connected network of safe class I (whenever possible) bikeways that link across Oakland both North-South (including 580 corridor) and East-West (especially to waterfront including along creek routes) and accessible within a ¼-1/2-mile of every resident in flatlands.

In response to a question on what relevant state legislative bills were being contemplated that the Committee may wish to weigh in on as a general goal staff mentioned various legislative bills that OakDOT is tracking (AB413, AB 251, AB 361, AB 825) and the BPAC will hear more on these at general meeting from staff senior policy advisor Tony Dang.

7. **Future Agenda Items** –

- Presentation from OakDOT Traffic Engineering on walk buttons;
- Update from OakDOT on recent changes to curb parking policies (hear back from Kerby Olsen on how it is going);
- A “Driving Code of Conduct” that can be developed from communities to better hold everyone accountable;

- (Commissioner Ralston forwarded idea from Commissioner Schader) expanding and developing additional questions pertaining to bike and pedestrian safety on standard written driving test in California;
- Pedestrian Plan update;
- (Forwarded from Commissioner Schader) Slow Streets status.

It was agreed that as a standard part of each meeting the ad hoc working groups should do updates (staff reminded Committee that each ad hoc committee should have goals and idea of when it will sunset).

- **Fire Code** (Kevin Dalley) – on-going, goal to get to the public safety Committee of City Council.
- **Traffic safety/data** Including quick build framework (Natalie Mall and Greg of Transport Oakland)
- **Street design standards**, including pedestrian push button improvements (Commissioner Whipps) – in 6 months will develop recommendations on design standards and bring back to Committee.
- **General Plan Update** (Commissioner Ralston) – develop set of specific policy recommendations with BPAC stakeholders and Committee as part of engagement with OakDOT and planning staff on phase two of update over next 18 months.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Next meeting: May 13, 2024.