

Ocean Beach Planning Board

Transportation Committee Minutes

Date: July 27, 2020

Location: Virtual

Current Committee Roster:	In Attendance:
Tracy Dezenzo (Chair) (B)	X
George McCalla (B)	X
Andrea Schlageter (B)	X
Jenna Tatum (B)	X
Nicole Burgess (P)	X
Mandy Havlik (Secretary) (P)	X
Rick Williams (P)	X

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:05 pm

ADJOURNED: 7:55 pm

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS & APPROVAL

Yea 7 Nay 0 Abstain 0

Reasons for abstentions:

MINUTES MODIFICATIONS & APPROVAL

Yea 7 Nay 0 Abstain 0

Reasons for abstentions:

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

George brought up that the large vehicles and trucks that are using the parking spaces around Ocean Beach (Newport Avenue and Voltaire) are too long and interferes and constricts vehicle traffic. He thought that it would be helpful if the parking stalls were swung to increase the angle to avoid the rear end of the vehicle protruding into the traffic lane and to help with increasing the visibility of the driver when they are backing out of a parking space.

Tracy mentioned doing this would possibly cause the loss of a few parking spaces and added it to the list of traffic safety requests for Ocean Beach.

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Jenna brought up the timing of the light stopping traffic along Sunset Cliffs /West Point Loma Boulevard before merging onto the I-8. There is not enough time and it is causing congestion and traffic delays due to the timing of the light needing to be adjusted. She also has submitted a request on the Get it Done Application.

Rick Williams mentioned that the city placed new asphalt along the bike path located near the Skate Park at Robb Field all the way down to Dog Beach.

Nicole Burgess mentioned the repaving of West Point Loma Boulevard West of Famosa Slough has been delayed until next year instead of being completed at the end of 2020.

Mandy Havlik announced she is the new chair of the PCPB Traffic/Transportation and the new chair of the Parks Sub-committee. The next meeting for the PCPB Traffic Transportation will be held on August 11th, 2020 at 6 pm via Zoom and preregistration is required to participate. The next Parks sub-committee meetings will be held in September or October of this year. She extended an invitation to the community to participate in these meetings and or become a committee member of these sub-committees.

ACTION ITEM #1: Voltaire and Froude traffic calming

Discuss sending a letter of support for traffic calming features, previously requested by PCPB or if we want to make our request for additional features: Speed Limit signage, stop signs, rumble bars, etc. (Isaac Darby, Community and PCPB)

Tracy informed the group of the death of a community member at the intersection of Seaside and Voltaire. This has been a topic of discussion on Nextdoor, Facebook and local media outlets. This leads into the Ocean Beach community and is a long stretch of residential area that is located along a hill without any traffic slowing mitigations. The speeding of cars and the lack of visibility due to street parking were the reasons for the request. The PCPB made a request to install a flashing beacon signal and a crosswalk at the intersection located at Voltaire and Froude Street. It has been funded this fiscal year and they are in the process of evaluating whether an all-way stop can be considered for this location.

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Tracy thought we could possibly expedite this request with a letter requesting they speed up the process. She asked the committee if we should just mirror the original request from the PCPB or make requests for additional traffic safety mitigations.

Mandy mentioned this is going to be an action item at the next PCPB Transportation meeting in the form of a letter to the city of San Diego requesting they expedite the installation of these funded mitigations due to the recent death of a community member.

Tracy mentioned in the past 3 years there have been 31 traffic incidents reported at or near this location.

George brought up the possibility of using traffic cameras to help enforce traffic speeding in the neighborhood.

Mandy, Tracy, and Andrea mentioned the many legal challenges brought against cities who have utilized this technology in the past.

Nicole Burgess mentioned that street design is much more useful in helping with traffic calming efforts. She would like to see a stop sign and crosswalk instead of the flashing beacon. It would be more cost effective and it would bring traffic to a stop. The flashing beacon only flashes when utilized by a pedestrian and a stop sign and a cross walk would be more efficient with slowing down the traffic along Voltaire. At least the stop sign because the crosswalk costs money to install. She referenced the stop sign installed at Point Loma Avenue and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard.

Tracy was concerned that requested changes will delay the installation of the approved traffic safety mitigations that have already been funded and approved by the city.

George motioned to make changes to the request to emphasize a stop sign be installed before the flashing beacon at Voltaire and Froude.

Andrea asked if there would be an issue with approving these changes.

Mandy thought there would be no harm in asking the city for the stop sign first in lieu of the funded and approved flashing beacon. It would be more cost effective and would be safer.

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Andrea asked if the PCPB would be willing to make the requested changes to help mirror the requests made from OBPB.

Mandy feels she will get support from the PCPB due to the recent death of a community member and the city being offered a more cost-effective alternative in the form of a stop sign for immediate installation instead of the flashing beacon.

Motion to support the proposed letter from the PCPB to emphasize the installation of a 4 way stop sign and crosswalk at Froude and Voltaire in lieu of the approved flashing beacon and crosswalk.

Tracy mentioned she will write a letter of support to be presented at the next OBPB main board meeting.

1st George McCalla 2nd Andrea Schlageter Yea 7 Nay 0

Votes: Unanimous

Action Item #2: Bike Racks Discuss adding additional bike racks in key locations on Newport, Santa Monica, Voltaire and additional highly biked streets. (OB Resident Beverly Rai)

Tracy presented this request from a community member who was asking to install additional bike racks around the community. Tracy felt that if the city is encouraging the use of alternate methods of transportation such as biking they should provide enough spaces for bike parking around the community to support this effort. She wanted to have a discussion to see how to best identify the areas around the community that need additional bike parking.

Nicole did not have any specific areas of concern for additional bike racks but she did say the city will install bike racks in front of businesses who are interested. They can make their request to the city to have them installed. She did seem to think this request may be a bit premature at this time.

George asked if we could request the OBMA to conduct a survey amongst the businesses to see what the interest may be.

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Tracy was not sure if the OBMA could conduct a survey with their merchants. She suggested we could send a note to the OBMA letting them know of the procedure to make bike rack requests via the city. She thought the OBTC would be able to conduct a community survey to help identify the areas the community felt could use a bike rack.

Rick Williams mentioned he had approached Pizza Port to install a bike rack/parklet area in front of their business and received some push back. He agreed letting the OBMA know of the process would probably be best to educate the businesses of this possibility.

Tracy was not sure if we should make this request for the community through the board.

Tracy heard of the possibility of bike lockers being installed but they were not ideal due to homeless people using the lockers for storage instead of bikes.

Tracy will approach the OBTC and OBMA to see if they would be willing to conduct a community survey.

Andrea did hear from Denny about the concern of getting saddled with the maintenance cost of these bike racks to the business owners. The group was not sure of the answer.

George will take the lead on approaching the OBTC with the community survey.

Motion to table the item until further notice.

Votes: Unanimous

Action Item #3: Bike and E-Bike Subsidies Discuss creation and possible support for a citywide financial incentive for those who wish to purchase bikes or e-bikes. (Rick Williams/Tracy)

Tracy found information on bike subsidies and found out we used to have a commuter tax break or write off in our tax code to allow commuters to write off bike purchase or repair expenses annually. Our current administration has redlined this benefit. There is no subsidies to help support the efforts of those using bikes instead of vehicles. She found a few links that suggest bike subsidies. She felt this would help encourage people to get out of their car and bike instead. She thought we could make a proposal to the city to create a bike subsidy.

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Andrea mentioned the city is trying to reduce the VMT and we could add this to mobility choices. This could be a request to ask the city to fund bike subsidies instead of hard infrastructure incentives.

Nicole was in support of this suggestion and felt we should address this to the city of San Diego, SANDAG and/or the Air Resources Board along with the support of the PCPB.

OB is considered a Tier 2 transit area and we should use this as leverage in our request to the city.

George suggested a tax credit be offered.

Mandy was willing to present this topic to the PCPB Traffic and Transportation Sub-committee for possible collaboration with this request to the city. She asked if the city was interested in providing free bus/trolley transportation via MTS to encourage the use of public transportation.

Nicole Burgess mentioned the city recently approved the Youth Bus Passes initiative.

Andrea asked if youth includes college students.

Nicole mentioned the eligible ages for this initiative went up to the age of 25 years old. She did recommend the possibility of moving request via Complete Communities or the City of SD Mobility Board. Andrea was interested in the possibility. The city is already charging developers amenities fees.

Tracy questioned how the subsidies would be utilized. Her concern came from the benefit being a tax credit. She did not think this would be the best option since some may not get to use the tax benefit if they decide to take the standard tax deduction. Her suggestion was the bike consumer get the benefit via a rebate voucher at the point of purchase instead of a tax credit. She thought it would be helpful to have the retailer assist with the process.

George was concerned that online purchases would be excluded from any rebate being offered for the purchase of bikes.

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Motion to request Mobility Choices earmark part of the amenities fee developers pay for bike subsidies; both electric bike and human powered at point of purchase

1st Andrea Schlageter 2nd George McCalla Yea Nay

Votes: Unanimous

Action Item #4: Review and revise action item list for 2020-21

Tracy reviewed the list of OBPB Traffic and Transportation requests and asked the group if there were any they would like to have addressed and moved to the top to have addressed by the city sooner than later.

Nicole mentioned she established the OB Parking District Sub-committee through the Mobility Board.

Mandy asked if the requests made on behalf of Ocean Beach Elementary were included in the list and Tracy mentioned that they were not since the board sent a letter to the city. She did offer to add them to keep track.

Rick Williams brought up the possibility of diverters to help with the loud motorcycles that are utilizing Bacon.

Tracy said the diverter option had been presented before to the OBMA and they were not very receptive to this possible solution. Tracy asked we be prepared with our presentation so they could understand the benefits of having traffic diversion without upsetting the business owners and add it to the agenda for future discussion. Rick Williams and Nicole Burgess were supportive of this. Tracy will add to a future agenda.

Nicole mentioned the I-8/Nimitz/SSC Corridor improvements and resurfacing. She has been requesting an on demand traffic signal to get across via bike and she asked that this be added to the list at a higher priority.

Tracy thought adding additional striping would be helpful to request for this location to help with the traffic lanes.

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The group voiced concern and frustration the city did not use any of their proposed recommendations for this location.

Tracy mentioned the suggestion made during the Parks Sub-committee to add a parking structure at Robb Field with greenery at the top level.

Jenna asked if this possibility would be discussed in Traffic and Transportation Sub-committee as well as the Park Sub-committees and if the Traffic and Transportation would be able to provide additional inputs to the Parks Sub-committee. Andrea did not think it would hurt.

The discussion of establishing metered parking and a parking district came up with the group. Andrea mentioned the parking districts would need to be approved by the council and the parking district board would consist of various community stakeholders, CPG Members, business owners to represent the parking district at the time it is established.

Nicole mentioned the subcommittee recently established to pursue the possibility of an OB Parking District through the Mobility Board. She extended an invitation to participate to the group.

Jenna did not want the group to lose sight of the long-term goal of possibly bring a trolley and trolley service to the area. It would also help create jobs if it were to be approved.

Tracy mentioned Voltaire needed more speed limit signs and asked Nicole Burgess about rumble bars or rumble strips and asked what issues bikers may have. She mentioned it depends on their placement.

Motion to add the OB Parking District, I-8/Nimitz/SSC Corridor Improvements and the possible implementation of traffic divertors along Bacon and Newport to the agenda for further discussion and possible action.

1st Tracy Dezenzo 2nd Mandy Havlik Yea 7 Nay 0

Votes: Unanimous

Information Item #1: City of San Diego Zero Emissions Bus Pilot Program A quick presentation of the pilot program, where it is now and where it is going. (Tracy)

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Tracy informed the group of the Zero Emissions Bus Program pilot program that has been implemented by the city. The pilot program is to last for 18 months. There are 6 green buses with 8 routes that are 100% Electric. The buses electric charge can last for about 150 miles. The budget for this program was \$12.5 million. It paid for the buses and training for the city bus drivers. The trolley is already zero emissions and the goal of this program is to transition and convert all city buses to electric.

Tracy asked Andrea if this could be an informational item presented to the planning board soon. Andrea mentioned it could be added possibly in September.

Information Item #2: OBMA response on a full Newport closure, after the most recent outdoor dining allowance and permits.

Tracy proposed we approach Denny to discuss the possibility of closing Newport for the use of the businesses. The concern is the money it costs to close Newport as well as the businesses along Newport who are retail and not restaurants. She wanted to see if there was an opportunity for us to support these businesses.

Tracy mentioned that Denny Knox of the OBMA was concerned the costs to close Newport are a deterrent to the OBMA and it may not help the restaurants who are doing curbside take out or the retail businesses along Newport. She thinks the concept will not give the retailers a fair share of the street area.

Nicole mentioned she hopes the OBMA reconsiders this possibility for the businesses located along Newport. Many of the committee members expressed this opinion as well and hope we can find alternative ways to help support these businesses.

George suggested the OBTC survey the community about possibly closing Newport to help support the businesses. He will ask the OBTC to request this information from the community. Tracy agreed with this approach to get more inputs from the community.

Tracy announced the next OBPB Traffic and Transportation meeting will be held on September 28th.