



Downtown Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan Subcommittee

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1 MINUTES--*DRAFT*

2 Downtown Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan Subcommittee – Meeting #3 3 with Transportation Commission Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee members 4 Thursday, April 29, 2010, from 7 to 10 pm

5 North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, California

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8 **Subcommittee Member Attendance.** Nine (9) City members present: Keith Alward, Teresa
9 Clarke, Patricia Dacey, Kate Harrison, Meghan Lang, Jim Novosel, Carole Schemmerling,
10 Margo Schueler, and Ann Smulka. No City members absent. UC members present: Emily
11 Marthinsen.

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13 **Transportation Commission Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee Members** (invited to
14 discuss draft SOSIP chapters of mutual interest). Eric McCaughrin, Seth Goddard, and Ann
15 Smulka.

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17 **Staff Attendance.** Matt Taecker (Planning Department & Secretary to Subcommittee), Eric
18 Anderson and Kara Vuicich (Transportation Division).

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20 **Public Attendance.** Approximately 20 members of the public attended some part of the
21 meeting.

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23 **Order of the Agenda.** No changes were made.

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25 **Public Comments.** Four (4) comments were made.

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27 Merrilie Mitchell said that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is not an appropriate form of transport, as
28 it would remove trees, remove parking, and have other impacts. She said that AC Transit's
29 BRT proposal was a redevelopment strategy for properties along the corridor.

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31 Nancy Holland said that pedestrian-supportive improvements are critical, and include points
32 of refuge and better lighting, among other things. She asserted that Downtown should,
33 foremost, be a walking district. She encouraged the Subcommittee to emphasize pedestrian
34 movement, rather than placing too much attention on "static environments."

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36 John Caner said that the Downtown Berkeley Association's committee on the SOSIP has met
37 to develop DBA "principles and priorities." He also supported the idea of a "zero net parking
38 strategy," because of the critical importance of on-street parking to merchants, and he
39 requested that the DBA be engaged with programming Downtown open spaces to help make
40 sure that they are well used.

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42 Soheyl Modarressi said that merchants on Center Street have serious reservations about the
43 Center Street Plaza that has been proposed. He also said that projects should not be only
44 partially funded, so that they can be completed and maintained, rather than debated
45 "endlessly." He also expressed disappointment that there are no DBA members on the City's
46 Commissions, and that incentives are needed to support and attract businesses.

48 **Adoption of Minutes.** No minutes were presented.

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50 **Pedestrian Environments and Bicycle Network & Facilities Chapters.** SOSIP, Bicycle &
51 Pedestrian Subcommittee members provided input on draft policies and figures for:
52 Pedestrian Environments, Bicycle Facilities, and the Bicycle Network in Downtown.

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54 **Hearst Avenue between University & Oxford.** Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee
55 members supported the SOSIP Subcommittee's prior selection of "Option 1" for cost
56 estimating.

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58 **Milvia between University & Allston.** Traffic calming features should be installed
59 because Milvia should continue to serve bicyclists, motorists, and pedestrians; traffic
60 calming features might include stop signs, special pavers, bulbouts, speed tables, and
61 points of refuge. Bike lanes are recommended; at the same time, on-street parking
62 impacts should be studied and mitigated. This motion passed with 9 ayes, 0 nays & 0
63 abstentions.

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65 **Shattuck Avenue between Dwight & University.** Dedicated bike lanes should be
66 created on Shattuck Avenue between Allston and Dwight [the southern boundary of the
67 Downtown Area]. Between Allston and University, ways of extending the bicycle lanes
68 should be studied. Also study ways to calm traffic on Shattuck Avenue. This motion
69 passed with 8 ayes, 1 nays & 1 abstentions.

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71 **Center Street between Shattuck & Milvia.** To create a landscaped "greenway" with a
72 width of about 14 feet, traffic lanes should be narrowed and bicycle lanes should be
73 removed. However, in recognition of mixing bicycle and motor traffic, traffic calming
74 features should be designed and installed. This motion passed with 9 ayes, 0 nays & 0
75 abstentions.

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77 **Adjournment of Subcommittees on Pedestrians and Bicycles.**

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79 **Shattuck Square "Town Square" Proposal.** Jurgen Aust asked that discussion of his
80 design idea to establish a "town square" on the west side of Shattuck Square (with "local
81 traffic" allowed on the east side) be carried over to another meeting.

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83 **Introduction to Urban Runoff and Low-Impact Design Concepts.** No presentation or
84 discussion occurred.

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86 **Outline & Schedule.** No discussion occurred.

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88 **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

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