



Downtown Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan Subcommittee

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MINUTES

Downtown Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan Subcommittee – Meeting #5 Monday, June 14, 2010, from 7 to 10 pm

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

Subcommittee Member Attendance. Seven (7) City members were present: Keith Alward, Teresa Clarke, Patricia Dacey, Kate Harrison, Jim Novosel, Carole Schemmerling, and Margo Schueler. Two City members were absent: Meghan Lang (with Leave) and Ann Smulka (without Leave). UC members present: Emily Marthinsen.

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

SOSIP Finance Consultant. Walter Keiser & Teifion Rice-Evans, Economic & Planning Systems, with Thomas Kronenmeyer, Community Design & Architecture.

Public Attendance. Approximately 10 members of the public attended some part of the meeting.

Order of the Agenda. No changes were made.

Public Comments. Six (6) members of the public commented.

Amy Tobin, Director of the Brower Center, and John Caner, Executive Director of the Downtown Business Association (DBA), introduced “principles and priorities” for downtown improvements, which emphasize investment along Shattuck Avenue near BART. She stressed that public investments should leverage economic development.

Jamie Rusin, member of the DBA and an architect with ELS, presented examples of successful street and open space improvements in other cities, which pertain to SOSIP design options that are being discussed. He said that the southside of Center Street is already successful and that limited public funds would be best spent on Shattuck Avenue.

Sohey! Modarressi urged the City to finish projects that it has already committed itself to and asked that the SOSIP give more focus to immediate changes that would benefit businesses.

Aaron Welch said that improvements to the bicycle network should be emphasized, especially along Milvia and Shattuck

Jurgen Aust stressed the importance of calling his proposal “Berkeley Town Square” and asserted that the Subcommittee’s recommendations for Shattuck Square were made prematurely and before full review of his proposal.

Adoption of Minutes. The Subcommittee adopted minutes for April 12 (unanimously), April 29 (unanimously), and May 10 (unanimously except for one abstention).

48 **“Berkeley Town Square” Proposal.** Jurgen Aust presented a design option to establish a
49 plaza on the west side of Shattuck Square with “local traffic” on the east side of Shattuck
50 Square. On March 8, 2010, the Subcommittee had selected a design option that has a plaza
51 on the other (east) side of Shattuck Square with traffic on the west side. Chair Novosel asked
52 the Subcommittee if any member wanted to revisit their previous selection for Shattuck
53 Square, and no member expressed a desire to reopen debate regarding Shattuck Square.
54 Several members said that the most important aspects of Aust’s scheme have been
55 addressed in the previously selected scheme. The Subcommittee thanked Mr. Aust for his
56 visionary and thought-provoking scheme.

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58 **SOSIP Financing Plan: Cost Estimates & Funding Opportunities and Subarea Projects**
59 **& Phasing Options.** Teifion Rice-Evans, Principal at EPS, present projections for SOSIP
60 revenues using assumptions for each potential source of funding. Thomas Kronenmeyer,
61 Associate Principal at CD+A, presented ballpark cost estimates for SOSIP subarea projects.
62 Matt Taecker, Principal Planner for the Downtown Area, then presented conceptual options
63 for near-term funding priorities that would be within the revenue capacity that EPS illustrated.
64 Subcommittee questions and discussion interspersed the presentations, after which the
65 Subcommittee considered near-term criteria and features. No formal actions were taken.
66 The Subcommittee will continue its discussion and hopes to recommend a near-term funding
67 scheme during its July meeting.

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69 **SOSIP Outline and Schedule.** Near-term funding priorities will be the principle focus of the
70 next meeting on July 12. Staff will deliver a draft of the Plan document before the meeting on
71 September 13, which will have all revised chapters and design schemes. The last SOSIP
72 Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 30, at which the Subcommittee expects to
73 make recommendations for City Council consideration.

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75 **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

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