



Downtown Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan Subcommittee

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MINUTES

Downtown Streets & Open Space Improvement Plan Subcommittee – Meeting #7 Monday, September 13, 2010, from 7 to 10 pm

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

Subcommittee Member Attendance. Eight (8) COB members were present: Teresa Clarke, Patricia Dacey, Kate Harrison, Meghan Lang, Jim Novosel, Carole Schemmerling, Margo Schueler, and Ann Smulka. Keith Alward was absent (without Leave). UC members present: Emily Marthinsen.

Staff Attendance. Matt Taecker (Principal Planner & Secretary to Subcommittee) and Jassu Singh (Downtown Intern).

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.

John Caner, Downtown Berkeley Association, supported the draft SOSIP policy for no-net loss of on-street parking, and defined the distance for replacement parking as not more than one long or two short blocks. He also expressed support for parking strategies that would use parking resources more efficiently, such as by pricing parking appropriately and by having public access to UC parking facilities.

Stacy Jackson encouraged strategies that could be implemented very quickly, such as the use of “parklets” (temporary use of parking spaces for outdoor dining or other uses) or “pavement to parks” (where unneeded pavement is left in place but covered temporarily with soil/landscaping and/or seating).

Nathan Landau, AC Transit, stated that good transit is essential for meeting SOSIP goals of promoting pedestrians and reducing traffic. Therefore, protecting transit travel times and allocating sufficient road space for buses should be a priority. He also said that BART and bus stops should be enhanced, and transit should be its own layer in the Plan.

Merrillie Mitchell stated that big buses are not pedestrian-friendly and that “dysfunctional” AC Transit service should not be a principle consideration. She asked that small shuttles be emphasized, as well as convenient parking. She stressed the need to clean sidewalks and noted that major improvements would not be needed to do this.

John Roberts asked that pedestrian-scaled lighting be emphasized, especially near major evening destinations like BART, parking garages, and entertainment. He also said that SOSIP goals should be revised to use active voice and assert how things ought to be.

48 **Adoption of Minutes.** The Subcommittee reviewed draft minutes for July 12, and asked that
49 they be revised to list near-term SOSIP priorities in the order of importance that was
50 discussed at the meeting. Staff agreed to revise these draft minutes for Subcommittee
51 consideration.

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53 **SOSIP Project Cost & Financing Report.** Subcommittee members reviewed Economic
54 Planning Systems' "Cost & Financing Report," which discussed possible strategies for
55 meeting capital and maintenance costs. Subcommittee members had an opportunity to react
56 to policy recommendations were presented in the EPS' report and refined in a staff report.
57 Members asked that a "significant" portion of new and existing on-street parking revenues be
58 spent on SOSIP improvements and activities. For other recommendations, members chose
59 to defer discussion until a draft financial strategies chapter can be reviewed.

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61 **SOSIP Public Review Document.** The Subcommittee discussed and suggested revisions to
62 the SOSIP Public Review Draft dated August 31, 2010. Staff agreed to bring a complete list
63 of suggested revisions back to the Subcommittee for consideration. [This list of revisions
64 appears as part of a staff report on "SOSIP Recommendations" that was prepared for the final
65 Subcommittee meeting on September 30.]

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