



City of  
**Santa Monica**<sup>SM</sup>

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ROOM 213, CITY HALL

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Michelle Glickert led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Amy Anderson, Chairperson  
Mario Fonda-Bonardi  
Nina Fresco  
Jennifer Kennedy  
Leslie Lambert,  
Richard McKinnon  
Jason Parry  
  
Also Present: Susan Cola, Deputy City Attorney  
Kyle Ferstead, Commission Secretary  
Michelle Glickert, Principal Transportation Planner,  
Mobility Division  
Jason Kligier, AICP, Bike Program Coordinator,  
Mobility Division  
David Martin, Director, Planning & Community  
Development Department  
Carlos Morales, Senior Transportation Planner,  
Mobility Division  
Beth Rolandson, AICP, Principal Transportation  
Planner, Mobility Division  
Francie Stefan, AICP, Manager, Mobility Division  
Colleen Stoll, Transportation Demand Program  
Manager, Mobility Division  
Puja Thomas-Patel, Transportation Management  
GoSaMo TMO Executive Director  
Jing Yeo, AICP, Manager, City Planning Division
4. **PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**  
Mr. Martin gave the Director's Report. He stated the next regular Commission meeting is on March 15, 2017 and the main item is the continued discussion on 1613-37 Lincoln Boulevard. He announced that the Downtown Community Plan will

launch on April 5<sup>th</sup> and be available to the public on April 12, 2017. He then announced the proposed Commission meeting dates for the Downtown Community Plan. Mr. Martin announced the next City Council meeting on March 7, 2017 will review the Development Agreement (DA) monitoring report. He noted that all Development Agreements are in compliance except Agensys, which is not meeting its target AVR (average vehicle ridership) goals. Also on that agenda is proposed modification to the former Post Office lobby on Fifth Street and a study session on marijuana regulations. Mr. Martin also announced City Council will hear a landmarks appeal on 2600 Wilshire Boulevard on March 28 and on April 18 they will hear an appeal on 1530 Second Street.

Commissioner Lambert asked about the Day Care Center on Harvard appeal to City Council. Mr. Martin stated that appeal has been withdrawn.

Commissioner Kennedy commented on the DCP meeting schedule, which includes Thursday evenings in addition to Wednesday evenings. She expressed the opinion that votes on this major document should not occur on Thursdays because the public is used to the Commission meeting on Wednesdays and that they should not occur at off-site locations, whether televised or not. Ms. Yeo expressed appreciation for those comments and suggested a discussion on the schedule be agendaized. Commissioner McKinnon also expressed concern about the number of meetings. Ms. Yeo explained that it is expected the first meeting will be primarily devoted to taking public comment so Commission comments would spill-over to Thursday.

**5. PLANNING COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** None.

**7. STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL ACTION:** None.

**8. DISCUSSION:**

8-A. Update from Mobility Division on mobility projects and programs, including implementation of the Bicycle Action Plan and Pedestrian Action Plan.

Mobility Division Manager Francie Stefan opened the mobility discussion and introduced Mobility staff present: Michelle Glickert, Principal Transportation Planner; Jason Kligier, Bike Program Coordinator; Carlos Morales, Senior Transportation Planner; Beth Rolandson, Principal Transportation Planner; Colleen Stoll, Transportation Demand Program Manager; and Puja Thomas-Patel, Executive Director of the GoSaMo TMO. Ms. Stefan gave an overview of mobility projects and program.

Mr. Kligier gave the annual update on the Bike Action Plan.

Ms. Stefan gave an update on the Pedestrian Action Plan, which was adopted last year. She presented progress made on the following programs: Transportation

Demand Management (TDM) Ordinance; Expo Mobility marketing campaign (GoSaMo); the open streets event (Coast); the TMO Advisory Team; and Resident Travel Survey. She introduced capital projects being worked on including a work plan for complete streets. She explained various traffic related counts being conducted and mitigation programs including Go-With-The-Flow, improvements to parking and pedestrian wayfinding and work being done on how to reduce vehicle emissions by 2050 and how to handle the future of autonomous vehicles.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission on mobility issues: Domi Pierro, Frieda Dubin, Jerry Rubin, Andrew Hoyer and Dr. Michael Cahn.

Commissioner McKinnon commented on the comprehensive report, then asked Ms. Stefan for the mobility model moving forward. Ms. Stefan explained the model is about creating many choices for getting around and creating a vision that is safe and comfortable for people while not ostracizing drivers.

Commissioner Lambert commented the report left few questions to ask. She asked about Project Charters. Ms. Stefan explained this is an action identified in the Pedestrian Action Plan and involves working with Public Works in terms of documenting goals and looking for ways to improve and establish priorities, including maintenance. Commissioner Lambert asked about parking Downtown. Ms. Stefan responded that Mobility staff is working with Planning staff on the Downtown Community Plan and pricing strategies are on the horizon along with finding ways to unlock private parking.

Commissioner Parry asked what is intended with the addendum to the Bike Action Plan. Ms. Stefan responded that the addendum will comprise Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis including demand factors and roadway factors to see where protected bike lanes would best be located. She stated this could affect where protected cycleways are installed. Commissioner Parry asked if this will return to the Commission later this year. Ms. Stefan answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Parry asked about adding north/south connections, especially on Twenty-Sixth Street. Ms. Glickert stated that design plans are being developed to connect Olympic Boulevard and Broadway with bike lanes on Twenty-Sixth Street. Commissioner Parry commented on Big Blue Bus (BBB) route changes and ridership. Ms. Stefan responded that BBB regularly changes their routes in February, June and August, and they do listen to rider feedback. Commissioner Parry asked staff about comments received regarding Transportation Demand Management (TDM). Ms. Stoll explained the City TDM program, the current funding cycle, and how requirements are set by the Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Ms. Thomas-Patel explained her job working with visitors, residents and employers and developing ways to encourage non-private vehicle ways to move around the City. Commissioner Parry asked about improvements in the Pedestrian Action Plan, the call for a Pedestrian Coordinator and how that position is currently handled. Ms. Stefan explained that with the Bike Action Plan, staff found it was good to have a staff member watching over the Plan programs and the position was included in the Pedestrian Action Plan. She stated that currently this function is handled by Ms. Rolandson and herself. Commissioner Parry drew the conclusion

that for things to move forward with the Pedestrian Action Plan a Pedestrian Coordinator was needed. He asked if the position has been budgeted and if the Commission could comment on it. Mr. Martin stated it is appropriate for the Commission to weigh in on such matters, however it is also a matter of choices competing for scarce resources and the position has not been requested for the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Fresco commented on the Sunset Park Traffic Study and the City Council discussion on February 28, 2017, regarding removal of part of the Airport runway. She asked if this could be included in the scope of the study. Ms. Stefan responded that it is not currently in the scope and was an unexpected development from City Council. Commissioner Fresco asked about the capital improvements projects (CIP) list and two projects in the Gateway Master Plan area. Ms. Stefan responded that the master plan will come to the Commission following the Downtown Community Plan's adoption. Commissioner Fresco asked about rail station planning and the need for drop-off areas. Ms. Stefan responded that the Fourth Street drop-off area is being lightly use<sup>3</sup> and drop-offs at the other two stations appear to be functioning well.

Commissioner Fonda-Bonardi thanked staff for the impressive report, then asked how close the City is to Vision Zero. Ms. Stefan responded that total rates are not consistent and range from three to six with an average of four, which does not include severe injuries. Commissioner Fonda-Bonardi asked about the new pedestrian scrambles and monitoring. Ms. Stefan stated this was a good question and data is still coming in on things like are people crossing more often at the phase that is not theirs and trying to eliminate right turn conflicts. She also stated audible crossing signs have been added at Santa Monica Boulevard and Second Street. Commissioner Fonda-Bonardi commented on Breeze ridership and cycling in general. Ms. Stefan stated that seventy-five more Breeze bikes are being purchased and some replacements in anticipation of connecting with other systems in Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Chair Anderson commented on the majority of traffic frustration comes from people coming into the City and asked Ms. Stefan about surveying those people. Ms. Stefan explained that there is data from employers on how their employees come to work, but information is limited. She also explained that visitor information is very hard to obtain. Chair Anderson stated her perception that Mobility is doing a great job with communications, creating incentives and rewarding alternative modes of transportation including creating a safer way to walk and a safer bike riding environment. She commented it not so bad to lose roadway for different infrastructure to achieve change. Ms. Stefan responded that the question is how to make it more convenient and comfortable for the public.

Commissioner McKinnon commented that with all the changes in five years of the Bike Action Plan it is discouraging to see ridership trending down. Ms. Stefan expressed optimism that the trend will move up this year. Commissioner McKinnon asked why it is taking so long to get more protected bike lanes. Ms. Stefan expressed the need to be sensitive to the community members that will be impacted

by such changes and it takes a lot of effort and good-decision-making to find the best placement for them.

Commissioner Fresco commented on traffic intolerance, citing 1902 when the complaint was too many horse-drawn buggy's and in the 1920s when the Breakers Hotel was built with 1000 parking spaces. She expressed the need for more bus routes, shuttles and other alternatives.

Commissioner McKinnon commented on the large variety of transportation options and on how much has changed in the past five-plus years. He stressed the need for protected bike lanes for safety and ease of movement. He also commented on the need to keep people from driving alone into Santa Monica for work.

Commissioner Parry thanked staff for great information and to Commissioner McKinnon for requesting this comprehensive discussion. He stated Vision Zero is a bold statement and should be the driving force behind the Commission's decision. He commented positively on seeing more people out walking and biking, but echoed the need for more protected bike lanes. Commissioner Parry commented on the realities of the City budget with its cost-neutral approach, but felt the Commission should push for the Pedestrian Coordinator position cited in the Pedestrian Action Plan as it will enhance what is already being done for pedestrian safety.

Commissioner McKinnon expressed his agreement with Commissioner Parry and stated that crash data does not reflect the cost to health and quality of life for families impacted by accidents. He stated this would be a step toward making life more livable. Mr. Martin explained that this position has not been requested in the current budget cycle and it would be unusual for City Council to receive this request, however, the request could include prioritization of the Pedestrian Coordinator position.

Commissioner Kennedy also expressed support for the Pedestrian Coordinator position as the person would be able to act as a liaison between departments and be able to focus on details.

Commissioners Fresco and Lambert were less inclined to support the new position unless they knew more about the duties and purpose. Commissioner McKinnon compared it to the development of the bike-related positions that started from the Bike-It, Walk-It program at the schools that is now a citywide successful effort. He stated the people in such positions have to have passion for what they do and be able to generate activity. Commissioner Parry added that the idea is to be able to do more than is currently being done for pedestrians.

Chair Anderson asked staff if the Commission can make a motion to vote on the recommendation. DCA Cola stated this is a discussion item on the agenda and only general direction can be given to staff.

Commissioner McKinnon acknowledged that Ms. Glickert will leave the City soon and expressed appreciation for all her work for cycling and other mobility areas in

the past years.

Chair Anderson thanked staff for their presentation and work.

**9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Commissioner Kennedy expressed concern that the Planning agenda on-line does not post the Planning Commission Caselist and Development Projects Information (Items 9-A and 9-B) and asked if that can be changed by linking to those documents from the agenda that is posted on-line. Ms. Yeo explained that projects on the Caselist have individual webpage with project specific information and, as the City works toward being paperless, these two documents will cease to be distributed. Commissioner Kennedy responded that there is interest in the community for access to this information. Ms. Yeo stated the documents can be posted.

9-A. Planning Commission Caselist

9-B. Transmittal of Development Projects Information (February 2017)

**10. FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS:**

Commissioner Fonda-Bonardi requested a study session be agendized on the new seismic ordinance adopted by the City.

Commissioner Parry requested agendizing a discussion to consider a budget recommendation to City Council regarding mobility, public safety and Vision Zero statement.

**11. PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

**APPROVED: JUNE 21, 2017**