



CITY OF OAKLAND

City of Oakland, Bicyclist & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Minutes from the October 16, 2025 Meeting

City Hall, Hearing Room 4

Meeting agenda at: www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/bicyclist-and-pedestrian-advisory-commission/meetings

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM by BPAC Chair Ralston.

Item 1. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, Introductions, and Acknowledgement of Recent Bicyclist and Pedestrian Fatal Traffic Crashes

At roll call, quorum was established with eight Commissioners present (X). One Commissioner was absent (-).

Commissioners	Present
Priyanka Altman	X
Kirsten Flagg	X
Grey Gardner	X
Jimmy Jessup	X
Alexander Perry	X
David Ralston (Chair)	X
Patricia Schader	-
Nick Whipps (Vice-Chair)	X
Dianne Yee	X

Introductions were made.

1. Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) Staff: Jason Patton, Noel Pond-Danchik, Jane Mei, Manuel Corona, Josh Rowan, Acacia Dupierre, Sofia Pollmann
2. Other attendees: Robert Prinz, Ann Killebrew, Kaitlyn Kong, Tonya Love, Petra Reyes, Tom Holub, Cathasach O’Neill, Razu Engen, Shayda Rager, Kim DeYoung, Adam DeYoung, Jose Feroso, Bryan Culbertson

Chair Ralston led the commission in an acknowledgement of recent fatal and other high-profile traffic crashes in Oakland involving bicyclists and pedestrians including the fatal crash included in the agenda packet for this meeting. For more information visit: oaklandca.gov/topics/traffic-fatality-tracking.

Speakers other than Commissioners: none

Item 2. Open Forum / Public Comment / Announcements

A list of announcements and attachments were included in the meeting's agenda packet. Members of the public may comment on any issue within BPAC's subject matter jurisdiction. Comments on a scheduled agenda item will be heard with that item. The BPAC's Open Forum Liaisons track Open Forum issues raised by the public. (See tinyurl.com/Oakland-BPAC-OpenForumTracking.) The Liaisons review the public comments on a periodic basis to identify policy issues for discussion by the Commission. To request City services, please contact the City of Oakland Call Center; information at oaklandca.gov/services/oak311.

Summary of Discussion:

- Bike East Bay maintains a Top 10 potholes for bike safety list as a partnership with the City of Oakland. Locations are pulled from potholes reported to Oak311. Nearly all the 120 potholes reported since the project was restarted in September 2024 have been fixed by the City of Oakland. Recent repairs went beyond individual potholes to include twenty to thirty potholes on a segment of Webster St in the Pill Hill neighborhood and a segment of Skyline Blvd near Joaquin Miller Rd. Rainy season creates more potholes and attendees were encouraged to report potholes through Oak311. For more information on how to submit service requests, see: bikeeastbay.org/resources/report-a-hazard/
- Concern was expressed about the redesign of the Park Boulevard/Excelsior Ave intersection, citing increased wait times and recommending roundabouts as a solution for intersections like these.
- Positive feedback was shared from a recent walking tour in the Melrose neighborhood with Oakland Planning and Building Department and OakDOT staff.
- Updates were provided on the Caltrans Vision 980 Evaluation Memo and engagement results. The full reports are included as attachments to the agenda for this meeting.
- Regarding the neighborhood walking tours as part of the Pedestrian Plan and General Plan updates, it was announced that the walking tour scheduled for Friday had been postponed, but three additional tours were scheduled for later in October and November. More information on the tours is available at: www.oaklandca.gov/Planning-Building/General-Plan-Neighborhood-Plans/City-of-Oakland-Current-General-Plan-Elements/Oakland-2045-General-Plan-Update/General-Plan-Update-Phase-2-Engagement
- The Original Scrapper Bikes will be hosting two events:
 - On Halloween, there will be a ride out beginning at Arroyo Viejo Park.
 - On November 2nd, there will be a "Scary-cat" alley cat ride from Snow Park to West Oakland.
- Commissioner Flagg announced her intent to resign at the end of the year and encouraged the appointment of a replacement from East Oakland.

Speakers other than commissioners: Robert Prinz, Tonya Love, Anne Killebrew, Razzu Engen, Noel Pond-Danchik, Tom Holub, Bryan Culbertson

Item 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The draft meeting minutes from the September 2025 BPAC meeting were considered for adoption.

→ A motion to **adopt the September 2025 BPAC meeting minutes** was made (Altman) and seconded (Flagg). The motion was approved by voice vote. Commissioner Gardner abstained.

Adopted minutes online at www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/bicyclist-and-pedestrian-advisory-commission/meetings

Speakers other than commissioners: none

Item 4. Committee & Liaison Appointments, Overviews, and Report Backs

Committees and liaisons of the BPAC provided brief updates to the Commission. A list of active committees is included in the agenda packet and at www.oaklandca.gov/resources/bicyclist-and-pedestrian-advisory-commission-bpac-committees-and-liaisons.

- Infrastructure Committee:
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 3:30-5:30. They are planning on hearing items on the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) San Pablo Ave Project, upcoming projects on the paving plan, and the Port of Oakland's designs for 3rd St and Adeline St.
 - They will need to choose a new commissioner co-chair as Commissioners Yee, Gardner, and Schader are terming out at the end of the year.
- Policy and Legislative Committee:
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in City Hall, Hearing Room 3. They are tentatively planning on hearing an item on Fire Code amendments with the Oakland Fire Department, rescheduling an item on parking policy, and a discussion item on vehicle speed data.
- Oakland City Council Public Works and Transportation Commission Liaison: Jesse Olsen provided notes from recent meetings, where topics included a Caltrans maintenance agreement to streamline permitting for OakDOT work on state-owned streets and a procurement item allowing OakDOT to purchase materials through the open market due to vendor unavailability.
- Ad-Hoc General Plan Working Group: A letter of recommendations was submitted to the General Plan Update team and featured in Oaklandside. The letter emphasized walkability, bikability, quick-build strategies, neighborhood-level engagement, and funding mechanisms for implementation.
- Committee leads were reminded to submit any missing meeting minutes to staff.

Speakers other than Commissioners: Jason Patton

Item 5. Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Application Projects - San Antonio Neighborhood Connections Plan and Hegenberger Road Complete Streets Plan

Jane Mei (jmei@oaklandca.gov), Transportation Planner in the Major Projects Division at OakDOT, presented on Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant applications in development for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. The presentation included two planning projects that OakDOT will be applying for, the Hegenberger Complete Streets Plan and the San Antonio Neighborhood Connections Plan; staff will be requesting letters of support from BPAC. Project information will be available on the project websites: www.oaklandca.gov/Hegenberger and www.oaklandca.gov/SanAntonioConnections A copy of the presentation is attached to the agenda for this meeting.

Summary of Discussion:

- It was recommended that speed surveys be conducted in the San Antonio neighborhood to support the grant application.
- Option A, which focuses on neighborhood-level traffic calming, was identified as the preferred approach for San Antonio due to its alignment with community-led sidewalk mitigation efforts.
- It was noted that while Option A addresses quality-of-life issues, safety concerns on major streets should also be prioritized if data shows higher crash rates.
- It was recommended that quick-build traffic calming measures be implemented on Hegenberger Road in advance of the long-term grant-funded improvements.
- A road diet was suggested as a potential demonstration project for Hegenberger Road.
- The grant requires the planning studies to be completed by 2028.
- Crossing Foothill Boulevard in San Antonio was identified as a significant safety issue.
- It was noted that AC Transit is conducting a study on Foothill Boulevard, and coordination was recommended to avoid conflicting efforts.
- A request was made for a map of existing traffic calming infrastructure, such as speed bumps and traffic circles, in the San Antonio neighborhood.
- The challenge of choosing between calming major streets and neighborhood streets was discussed, with the city of Berkeley cited as a model for balanced implementation.
- Concerns were raised that calming Foothill Boulevard could result in traffic diversion to side streets.
- It was noted that the lower portion of Hegenberger Road includes long-term housing for individuals with chronic illnesses and mobility issues, and that these residents should be engaged in the planning process.
- A road diet was recommended for Hegenberger Road due to the excessive number of travel lanes.
- It was suggested that the proposed BART station and freeway crossing in the General Plan be included in the project map to reflect community-supported visions.
- It was noted that the Caltrans grant is an annual opportunity, and since Jingtown was removed from the San Antonio project scope, it should be prioritized for future work.
- The bikeway on East 7th Street in Jingtown was identified as a priority for improvements because it's on the Bay Trail.
- It was reported that Caltrans requested a more specific reapplication to strengthen the proposal.
- Staff requested input on which specific streets should be prioritized for improvements.
- A pedestrian cut-through on Bond Street at 42nd Avenue was suggested to reduce pedestrian exposure on Foothill and International Boulevards.
- It was recommended that residents from San Antonio be invited to participate in the early stages of the planning process.
- The next step was identified as outreach to neighborhood councils and community members who participated in last year's engagement process.
- A proposal was made to demolish the Hegenberger overpass and bring the roadway to street level to improve safety and connectivity.
- It was suggested that a study on Foothill Boulevard should focus on transit improvements.

Speakers other than Commissioners: Tom Holub, Kim DeYoung, Robert Prinz

→ A motion to **write a letter of support for the two Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant** was made (Jessup) and seconded (Gardner). The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item 6. Discussion with OakDOT Director Josh Rowan

City of Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) Director Josh Rowan shared remarks and answered questions about the department with the commission.

Summary of Discussion:

- Rowan noted that delays in Measure KK bond issuance had prompted a reevaluation of funding priorities.
- Rowan suggested reducing paving goals to 25 miles per year for 25 years and redirect remaining funds toward safety improvements and accessibility upgrades to the sidewalks and curb ramps.
- It was suggested that intersections, where most crashes occur, should be the primary focus of safety investments.
- Rowan shared an example of this vision would be to implement roundabouts citywide through a new bond measure, potentially modeled after Atlanta's capital project approach.
- Rowan identified the top traffic safety issues as poor infrastructure design, a culture of unsafe driving behavior, and overreliance on automobiles.
- Rowan encouraged policy and technical solutions to address driver behavior as well as a long-term mechanism to routinize safety improvements such as road diets, medians, roundabouts, and street trees.
- It was emphasized that every paving project should include significant safety upgrades.
- Rowan encouraged creativity, with the example of using sewer projects as an opportunity to incorporate traffic safety elements.
- The lack of bikeability in Oakland was noted as surprising given the city's favorable weather and topography.
- Equitable access between neighborhoods was identified as a key goal.
- It was suggested that sideshow prevention efforts be redirected toward creating safe, designated areas for such activities away from residential neighborhoods.
- Support was expressed for pushing the envelope on safety and using the next bond measure to fund transformative projects.
- It was recommended that specific capital projects be included in a voter-approved bond to improve transparency and attract federal funding.
- Infrastructure improvements are the most effective way for local jurisdictions to influence driver behavior.
- OakDOT's Universal Basic Mobility pilot program was cited as an example of successful behavior change.
- Rowan suggested a partnership with car insurance companies to track driver speeds and offer lower rates as an incentive for safe driving.
- Concerns were raised about paving projects proceeding without safety improvements, with Foothill Boulevard as an example.
- It was noted that long term, paving costs are expected to decrease after major rehabilitation work is completed since the City is working through a backlog of long-neglected streets.
- Staff were encouraged to creatively support the safety vision, as demonstrated by the implementation of speed cushions, with 35th Ave used as a successful example.

- It was acknowledged that the meeting room did not reflect the most dangerous neighborhoods in Oakland.
- Concerns were raised that many East Oakland residents dislike International Boulevard and want traffic to flow more smoothly.
- It was noted that East Oakland and Chinatown residents have expressed concerns about safety projects that impede vehicular flow and that their perspectives should be better communicated.
- A recommendation was made to rehire Neighborhood Services Coordinators within OakDOT to improve community engagement.
- Return on investment was suggested as a criterion for selecting safety treatments to implement more lower-cost upgrades across more locations in the city.
- It was emphasized that the public right-of-way includes not only transportation but also issues like illegal dumping and parking including RV parking.
- High trash pickup costs were identified as a cause of illegal dumping, particularly for multi-unit housing, and it was suggested that larger bins be made more affordable as well as requiring the purchase of commercial garbage services for all businesses.
- A need was identified for construction inspectors to ensure ADA and bike infrastructure compliance.

Speakers other than Commissioners: Robert Prinz, Tonya Love, Shayda Rager, Bryan Culbertson, Kim DeYoung

→ A motion to **extend the meeting to 8:20pm** was made (Jessup) and seconded (Altman). The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item 7. BPAC Commissioner Recommendations

The Recruitment Committee reported back with recommendations from its review of the 37 applications of people seeking to be appointed to the BPAC for the 2026-2028 term. The commission strives for equity and geographic representation of Oakland's neighborhoods. The Committee is recommending Tonya Love, Denise Schmidt, Shayda Rager, and Jesse Olsen. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. A summary of the applicants and information from their applications is attached to the agenda for this meeting. The committee focused on geographic representation in their review of applications.

Summary of Discussion:

- Jesse Olsen would be recommended to serve the remainder of Commissioner Flagg's term, which ends at the end of 2027.
- The Mayor's Office would receive the recommendations and make appointments, which would then be confirmed by City Council.
- The committee indicated that additional alternate recommendations may be brought forward at a future meeting following further interviews.
- It was emphasized that a record number of strong applicants applied and that all interested individuals were encouraged to attend BPAC meetings and join committees.

→ A motion to **recommend Tonya Love, Denise Schmidt, Shayda Rager, and Jesse Olsen to the BPAC, with Jesse Olsen recommended to serve the remainder of Commissioner Flagg's term**, was made (Flagg) and seconded (Whipps) The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Speakers other than Commissioners: Jason Patton, Shayda Rager

Item 8. Agenda look-ahead, suggestions for meeting topics

The three-month look-ahead was included in the meeting's agenda packet.

Summary of Discussion:

- Commissioner Gardner requested that an item on citywide vehicle speed data be included as a short item on the November or December agenda.
- A social gathering will follow the December meeting.

Speakers other than Commissioners: none

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Minutes recorded by Noel Pond-Danchik, OakDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Transportation Planner, emailed to meeting attendees for review on October 21, 2025 with comments requested by October 28, 2025, to npond-danchik@oaklandca.gov. Revised minutes will be attached to the November 2025 BPAC meeting agenda and considered for adoption at that meeting.