



DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Gebhard Meeting Room

630 Garden Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 a.m.

2) **ROLL CALL**

DPC MEMBERS

Matt LaBrie

Tom Williams

Eric Kelley

Bill Collyer

Gene McKnight

Trey Pinner

Krista Fritzen

Attendance

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation, Streets and Parking Manager

Victor Garza, Parking /TMP Superintendent

Rebecca Jimenez, Parking Supervisor

Brandon Beaudette, Parking Resource Specialist

Dion Tait, Parking Supervisor

Pete Lawson, Associate Planner

Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

LIAISONS PRESENT:

Randy Rowse, City Council

Deborah Schwartz, Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

Larry Ramstrum, Lawrence Ramstrum Construction

Jason Currie, Victoria Theatre Project Manager, PSM Architects

Derrick Weston, Victoria Theatre Board Member

Steve Maas, Metropolitan Transit District

3) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2012**

Motion: To approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 19, 2012.

Made By: Bill Collyer **Second:** Trey Pinner

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: (Kelley)

5) **CREDIT CARD USAGE REPORT**

M. Hamilton presented the credit card usage report for the fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

T. Williams asked if the processing fees are in-line with the budgeted line item. M. Hamilton said that the fees are on track to be at or below the budgeted amount.

M. La Brie asked if staff is spending less time tabulating and accounting for cash as well as writing less violation bills. M. Hamilton confirmed for both questions.

6) **VICTORIA THEATRE PROJECT UPDATE**

E. Kelley joined the meeting. This item was moved forward for time purposes.

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J. Currie presented the project overview and highlighted the developments since previously meeting with the Downtown Parking Committee. J. Currie said that due to the extended width of Victoria Street, the project will be able to utilize more pavement which will provide ample space for stairs and a larger sidewalk landing spot, as well as a drop-off zone. There will also be adjustments to the radius of the curb at Chapala and Victoria, and the alignment of the curbing across Chapala Street. In tandem with the theatre project, the Victoria Street parking lot entrance will be converted to an exit.

T. Williams expressed concern about drivers circling the block because of no entrance on Victoria. D. Weston said that they are exploring pre-pay parking options to expedite exiting, and prior to an event they will advertise the Granada Garage as an alternate parking location.

D. Schwartz asked how many cars will fit in the drop-off zone and also the color of the curb. J. Currie said that roughly two cars fit in the drop-off zone and the curb is white. D. Schwartz added that a two way turn out of the new Victoria exit lane may be difficult for drivers because of visibility.

T. Pinner asked how Victoria Street changes beyond State and Chapala Streets. B. Allen said no changes will be made. T. Pinner asked if it would be possible to use the white drop-off zone as a loading zone in the morning. B. Allen said that staff will consider that option but there are enforcement issues, as well as educating the truck drivers on proper use, which tends to be difficult.

E. Kelley asked if there are yellow loading zones on Victoria Street. B. Allen said there are two loading zones. E. Kelley followed T. Pinner by saying that day-use of the white drop-off spaces would help nearby businesses.

R. Rowse inquired as to whether MTD buses will be able to make the turn from Chapala to Victoria. B. Allen said that the MTD buses will be able to make the turn. S. Maas added that currently no MTD buses travel along that segment of Victoria Street.

B. Collyer commented that staff will need to watch for congestion that arises from exiting traffic that turns right out of the lot and then turns right onto Victoria.

T. Pinner asked if the construction project is contingent on the conversion of the parking lane. J. Currie said that the two projects are separate.

K. Fritzen asked staff if they foresaw any queuing issues on Chapala Street. V. Garza said that the Chapala Street entrance lane can queue several cars, however it is an operational issue that needs to be watched. J. Currie said that a second exit will increase turnover and mitigate some of the additional queuing on Chapala.

B. Jimenez asked if Victoria Theatre plans on hosting matinees. D. Weston said that matinee shows are scheduled less often, however they would like to make the Theatre available as much as possible.

T. Williams commented that the City will have to use staff time and expend more resources for event nights. B. Jimenez said that Downtown Parking budgets for events. M. La Brie added that events at the Theatre will bring people downtown, who may then patronize other restaurants or shops. B. Allen said that having event staff is good customer service and he wants to encourage people to visit downtown Santa Barbara.

D. Schwartz inquired about the potential use of the Louise Lowry-Davis Center Lot and also who are the decision makers in that process. B. Allen said parking staff is discussing options with Nancy Rapp, the Parks and Recreation Director. D. Schwartz recalls that pedestrian safety and lighting were key issues; nonetheless on the surface it seems to be a good solution to absorb some of the construction or public parking demand.

R. Rowse said that staff may be able to have directional signage pre-made and ready for event nights to direct traffic to alternative parking. R. Rowse also said that it is important to continually outreach to the merchants to keep them informed, as well as keep an eye on the Chapala and Victoria intersection.

J. Currie presented the plans for the new kiosk.

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V. Garza said the contractors will be using 18 spaces for which they will pay, and the money received by the City will be directed towards the construction of a permanent kiosk and necessary landscaping.

R. Rowse asked how staff will handle current permit parkers. B. Beaudette said that permit parkers will have access to any Downtown Parking lot to spread the impact as well as access to the Louise Lowry lot.

B. Allen said that the owner of Metro Comics requested temporary parking on Anapamu Street. He said that the request would need to be reviewed by the bicycle community and the Transportation and Circulation Committee. The Committee consensus was that the request would not be tenable at this time.

J. Currie estimated that the construction company would need to use the 18 spaces for approximately 8 months. M. La Brie asked what the total timetable looks like for the project. D. Weston said they expect to be operational by Fall of 2013.

V. Garza added that the contractors are working with Unity Shoppe to address their delivery concerns.

7) BIKESTATION MODULE

B. Allen presented an overview of a project to add a satellite BikeStation Module. B. Allen said that the City received grant money to construct an additional BikeStation module in the Lot 3 parking lot, adjacent to the MTD Transit Center. B. Allen said that no Downtown Parking funds will be used for construction of the module. The current green bike storage units will be removed. By installing the module, the City will need to make necessary ADA improvements to the existing concrete pad.

B. Allen said that this module would only park bikes and not include any other amenities such as a shower, bathroom, or day-use lockers. The new BikeStation would measure approximately 20 feet by 11 feet and it would replace the existing green bike lockers. Some of the landscaping would need to be reduced to fit the new module. B. Allen added that HLC gave final approval, however HLC recommended a flat roof which staff may go back to get approval for a pitched roof.

B. Collyer asked how the recent Council decision will affect the operation of this addition. B. Allen said that staff is developing a survey for customers that will help identify opportunities to better serve the users, then staff will work with the bicycle community. He added that a new RFP may be necessary to determine a suitable operator for the sites. V. Garza clarified that the City owns the module, and BikeStation will be the operator.

8) OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mission Creek Flood Control Project

V. Garza said that the project will construct a diversion and alleviate flooding. The contractor is on schedule and they expect to restore the long-term parking by mid-November for the holidays.

Elevator Advertising

V. Garza said staff is working with the City Attorney's office to discuss contract agreements and the specifics of how it would work.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.