

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
October 26, 2023**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission (Commission) of the City of Manhattan Beach, California was held in hybrid format (Zoom Call and in person at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266) on October 26, 2023 at the hour of 4:03pm.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Marcy, Becker, Vice-Chair DaGiau, and Chair Kirschenbaum (Late)
Absent: None
Staff Present: Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer
Talyn Mirzakhanian, Community Development Director
Erick Lee, Public Works Director
Katherine Doherty, City Engineer
Jeff Fijalka, Senior Civil Engineer, UUAD
Helen Shi, Senior Civil Engineer
Tim Birthisel, Senior Civil Engineer
Clerks: Carianne Chavez, Agenda Host

Vice Chair DaGiau opened the meeting as Acting Chair.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10/26/23-1 Regular Meeting – August 24, 2023

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (**Becker/Marcy**) to approve the minutes without corrections.

AYES: Marcy, Becker, Acting Chair DaGiau
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Kirschenbaum

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-minute Limit)

Vice Chair DaGiau opened Audience Participation.

There were no participants.

Vice Chair DaGiau closed Audience Participation.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

10/26/23-2 28th Street Stormwater Infiltration Project and Reconstruction of Bruce’s Beach Parking Lot
Recommendation: Receive Public Testimony and Provide Recommendations for Staff Consideration

Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka summarized the staff report. Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Torrance and Redondo Beach developed the Watershed Management Program, which identifies water quality issues into receiving waters for these cities and finds solutions or projects to address these issues. Within this document, a large project was proposed to capture a large volume of stormwater in Manhattan Beach. This specific area was chosen because there is one storm drain that gathers stormwater throughout 60% of the City’s land area and discharges it into the Santa Monica Bay. This project is a four-step process which will be to divert the stormwater from the existing 28th Street storm drain, pump it into an underground infiltration system, pre-treat the runoff for sediment and trash removal, and then allow it to infiltrate into the ground. This prohibits the bacteria from entering into the Santa Monica Bay. He

mentioned some other secondary benefits of this project, which include improvements in water quality, beach quality, and modernizing the 26th Street parking facility.

Katie Harrel, the City's engineering design consultant from California Watershed Engineering (CWE), provided further details on the proposed project. There will be improvements in the traffic flow and accessibility of the 26th Street parking facility along with the addition of three accessible spaces and two EV chargers. The parking lot will be open during the summer months and closed throughout the remainder of construction. There will be periodic closures along Manhattan Avenue between 26th Street and 27th Street and an additional closure in a smaller area on 28th Street and Manhattan Avenue.

Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka provided additional details regarding the funding and the schedule of the proposed project. Construction is estimated to start in summer 2024 and will continue for approximately 12 to 18 months.

Director Mirzakhanian stated for the record that Chair Kirschenbaum arrived at 4:14 p.m and assumed the Chair position.

Commissioner Marcy asked if Bruce's Beach Park will be affected by construction. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** stated that there are no anticipated road closures that will extend beyond the boundary of the proposed project. **Commissioner Marcy** asked if there has been discussion with the Cultural Arts Commission regarding this project potentially affecting their future art installation at Bruce's Beach. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** stated that there has been no discussion with the Cultural Arts Commission at this time; however, there will be coordination in the future regarding the art installation to ensure it will not be impacted. **Commissioner Marcy** asked for clarification regarding the cost and funding of the proposed project. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** stated that the grant funding received could only be used under the purview of the grants.

Commissioner Becker asked if the 26th Street parking lot will be entirely closed throughout the duration of construction or if the parking lot will be closed in phases. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** stated that the duration of closure would be determined once construction begins.

Vice Chair DaGiau asked for clarification on the overall goal of the proposed project. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** stated that the goal is to capture the stormwater and allow it to infiltrate into the ground.

Chair Kirschenbaum asked if the infiltration system would create any odors that can potentially disturb residents. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** explained that the infiltration system will not create any odors as it is located between 26th Street and 27th Street on Manhattan Avenue which is not adjacent to any residences. **Chair Kirschenbaum** asked if the scope of work could potentially affect any existing electric or gas lines. **Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka** stated that the work would take place 30 to 40 feet underground, which will not affect any existing electric or gas lines.

Discussion followed.

Vice Chair DaGiau asked if the City plans to charge for EV charging stations. **Director Lee** explained that proposed fees for EV charging will be presented to City Council for consideration in December.

Chair Kirschenbaum opened public comment.

Jim Upchurch (2719 Manhattan Avenue) requested consideration for using the parking lot after 8:00 p.m. He expressed his concerns regarding the management of the parking lot during the day as well as the traffic flow in and out of the parking lot.

John Marcello (28th Street and Ocean Avenue) expressed his concerns regarding the hours the parking lot is closed.

Chair Kirschenbaum closed public comment.

No recommendations were made by the Commission.

10/26/23-3 Removal of Two Street Lights on Duncan Place between Poinsettia Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard
Recommendation: Receive Public Testimony and Recommend Deletion of Street Lights at 1018 Duncan Place and 934 Duncan Place

Senior Civil Engineer Fijalka summarized the staff report. In District 4, there are three street lights located on private property on Duncan Place. In order to install a new street light on private property within the Underground District, an easement is required from the property owner. Of the three lights on private property, one property owner consented to granting an easement, the other two declined to provide an easement and requested the streetlights be removed.

Discussion followed.

Chair Kirschenbaum opened public comment.

Jim Fong (1034 Duncan Place) questioned if the removal of the street lights would make the neighborhood less safe.

Scott Thorton (934 Duncan Place) expressed his support for the removal of the street lights on Duncan Place.

Chair Kirschenbaum closed public comment.

Chair Kirschenbaum asked if the Police Department has verified if there is crime in the area that a street light would be advantageous for. **Senior Civil Engineer UAD Fijalka** explained that the Police Department has not been consulted with and shared that street lights that remain at the intersections of Duncan Place.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (**Marcy/Becker**) to recommend the deletion of street lights at 1018 and 934 Duncan Place.

AYES: Marcy, Becker, Vice Chair DaGiau, Chair Kirschenbaum
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

10/26/23-4 Valley Drive / Ardmore Avenue Crossing Enhancement Project at 17th Street and 18th Street

Recommendation: Receive Public Testimony and Provide Recommendations for Staff Consideration

Senior Civil Engineer Shi summarized the staff report. The proposed project includes two crosswalks on Valley Drive at 17th Street and 18th Street as well as improvements to the crosswalks on Ardmore Avenue at 17th Street and 18th Street.

The scope of work for this proposed project includes:

- Construction of ADA complaint ramps;
- New ADA compliant paths in Veterans Parkway Greenbelt;
- Installation of Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB);
- Removal of existing striping and install thermoplastic continental crosswalk;
- Installation of ADA parking symbols and rearrange spaces along Valley Drive; and
- Installation of new signs.

Senior Civil Engineer Shi explained that Phase I of the project involves the crosswalks along Valley Drive at 17th Street and 18th Street only. The construction contract will be awarded in December 2023 and construction will occur between January 2024 and June 2024. Phase II includes the crosswalks along Ardmore Avenue at 17th Street and 18th Street and the ADA paths in the Greenbelt. This construction will take place in 2024 through 2025.

Commissioner Marcy asked for clarification of the total cost of the project. **Senior Civil Engineer Shi** explained that there is enough funding for Phase I (\$700,000); however, Public Works is trying to obtain more funding for Phase II, which will be an estimated \$600,000. **Commissioner Marcy** asked if Public Works reviewed the possibility of having a crosswalk closer to Live Oak Park. **Senior Civil Engineer Shi** explained that the City is working off a priority list first. Once this list is exhausted, any community recommendations can be added to the list with the Director's approval. **Commissioner Marcy** asked if there is another alternative to the flashing beacons. **Senior Civil Engineer Shi** explained that this option has minimal impact compared to other alternatives.

Discussion followed.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet shared a late public comment regarding the proposed project to the commissioners.

Chair Kirschenbaum opened public comment.

Eric Efin (529 18th Street) shared his support regarding the future improvements to the crosswalk on Ardmore Avenue and 18th Street. He requested a stop sign at this intersection to provide safety for pedestrians.

No recommendations were made by the Commission.

Chair Kirschenbaum closed public comment.

10/26/23-5 TMDL Trash Treatment Project and Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiatives
Recommendation: Receive Public Testimony and Provide Recommendations for Staff Consideration

Senior Civil Engineer Birthisel summarized the staff report. He explained that the goal of this project is to capture the remaining trash and debris that is not captured by the 28th Street Stormwater Infiltration Project. This project involves approximately 40% of the City's watershed. Public Works received a grant for \$830,000 from the Department of Water Resources which will go towards this proposed project. He explained that construction will take place from December 2023 to June 2025.

Katie Harrel, the City's design consultant from California Watershed Engineering (CWE), provided further details on the proposed project.

Vice Chair DaGiau asked where the access is to clean out the pipes that are located in the storm drain system. **Senior Civil Engineer Birthisel** explained that access is through a manhole where City staff will use a vacuum truck to clean out the pipes. **Vice Chair DaGiau** asked if Public Works has a schedule to clean the pipes. **Senior Civil Engineer Birthisel** explained that the cleaning will take place on a bi-monthly basis.

Chair Kirschenbaum shared his concerns regarding coyotes potentially gaining access to the storm drain system. **Katie Harrel** explained that the connector pipe screen and the catch basin inlet filter would prevent coyotes from entering.

Chair Kirschenbaum opened public comment.

There were no participants.

Chair Kirschenbaum closed public comment.

No recommendations were made by the Commission.

10/26/23-5 Cycle 2 Water Infrastructure Improvement Project (Project No. W-671)
Recommendation: Receive Public Testimony and Provide Recommendations for Staff Consideration

Senior Civil Engineer Birthisel summarized the staff report. He explained that the scope of work for the proposed project is to replace water mains and resurface the streets once the water main is complete. The five streets that are the main priority are: Flounoy Road between 18th Street and 19th Street, Agnes Road between 18th Street and 23rd Street, 21st Street between from Herrin Avenue to Redondo Avenue, Herrin Avenue between 21st Street and 22nd Street, and 14th Street between Ardmore Avenue and Deegan Place. He announced that there will be a public meeting held in Council Chambers on November 6, 2023 to invite public comments. Construction is expected to take place from January 2024 to January 2025.

Chair Kirschenbaum asked how frequently the water mains need to be replaced. **Senior Civil Engineer Birthisel** explained that water mains should be replaced every 50 years. **Chair Kirschenbaum** asked if the City has looked into gray water systems. **Senior Civil Engineer Birthisel** stated that the City is looking into additional recycled water projects.

Chair Kirschenbaum asked if the City is looking into purple pipes. **Director Lee** explained that this topic will be a future City Council agenda item to discuss the expansion of the West Basin purple pipe system. He further explained that West Basin is no longer funding this project but still supports the City's efforts to move forward with this project.

Vice Chair DaGiau asked if the City has any stormwater capture projects in place. **Director Lee** stated that the City does not currently have any stormwater reuse projects in place. He explained that the City's priority is to prevent pollution into the Santa Monica Bay.

Commissioner Marcy asked if there are any concerns with the amount of projects that are taking place

at the same time and if there is a master calendar that outlines the amount of road construction taking place. **City Engineer Doherty** explained that the City has about \$150 million invested in the Capital Improvement Projects program over the next five years. She further explained that the Public Works Department reports regularly to City Council regarding any staffing issues or the ability to complete projects.

Director Mirzakhania stated that every April or May, the Public Works team attends PPIC and Planning Commission to share their Capital Improvement Projects list for the upcoming year. She further explained that the commissioners have the opportunity to make any recommendations which will be presented to City Council.

Chair Kirschenbaum opened public comment.

There were no participants.

Chair Kirschenbaum closed public comment.

No recommendations were made by the Commission.

OTHER ITEMS

10/26/23-7 Staff Updates

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided the following staff updates on the following items:

- Pumpkin Race – October 29, 2023
- Battery back-up system update for traffic signals

10/26/23-8 Commissioner Items

None.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38p.m. to the Parking and Public Improvements Commission Regular Meeting on December 7, 2023 at 4:00p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers (1400 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266) and via ZOOM Call.

ALLEN KIRSCHENBAUM
Chair

CARIANNE CHAVEZ
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

ERIK ZANDVLIET
Traffic Engineer