



**Council Meeting: August 23, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Execute Necessary Agreements and Documentation for Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager Grant for a Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes Project and Approval of Budget Modification No. 1**

### **BACKGROUND**

Staff applied for and has secured approval of a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District through the VTA Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager process for construction of bicycle lanes on Pastoria Avenue from El Camino Real to Evelyn Avenue. The total project cost is \$106,250. Grant funding is approved in the amount of \$85,000, with a required 20% local match of \$21,250. Staff is recommending that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary agreements and documentation to recognize funding and carry out this project, and to approve Budget Modification No. 1 to appropriate grant and local matching funds to a new capital project, Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

Land Use and Transportation Element C3.5.4, Maximize the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Air Quality Element A.2.a, Develop and maintain a balanced transportation system in Sunnyvale by promoting pedestrian, bicycle and transit modes of travel.

Land Use and Transportation Element C3.7, Pursue local, state and federal transportation funding sources to finance City transportation capital improvement projects consistent with City priorities.

### **DISCUSSION**

Staff applied for the Pastoria Avenue bicycle lanes project based on priorities adopted by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for their Bicycle Expenditure Program. Pastoria Avenue has been identified as a candidate project for funding of bike projects from various VTA-managed funding sources. Of the projects in Sunnyvale currently eligible for funding through the Bicycle Expenditure Program, Pastoria Avenue can meet the project delivery requirements of construction completion by June 2013.

Staff has conducted preliminary field investigations, and it is evident that implementation of bike lanes on Pastoria Avenue between Evelyn and Iowa Avenues would potentially require elimination of all on-street parking in order to meet minimum design standards and to maintain two way traffic flow. Casual observation shows that off-street parking in this area of older homes may be limited. Parking demand is fairly high. The project will be subject to a more detailed Street Space Allocation Study and Council action on final approval of the street configuration. It can be anticipated that this project will be controversial.

Staff brought this issue to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) at its April 28, 2011 meeting to gather feedback on the merits and desirability of bike lanes on Pastoria Avenue. The Commission members indicated that they wished the City to proceed with the project, but that the Street Space Allocation Study should consider alternatives such as creation of a one-way couplet or an alternative route as a means to address any parking supply issues that may arise. Members expressed observations of considerable bicycle use and sufficient off-street parking, and indicated that aggressive driving occurs possibly because of the existing narrow travel lanes. See Attachment A - Final BPAC meeting minutes of April 28, 2011.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost of the Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes Project is \$106,250. Grant funding in the amount of \$85,000 has been awarded by VTA. The funding program requires a 20% local match in the amount of \$21,250. The local match will be funded from a dedicated source in the Capital Projects Fund/Traffic Mitigation Sub-fund that is specifically for the purpose of providing local matching funds. The City currently has a total of \$381,602 of dedicated matching funds available for appropriation, of which \$21,250 will be utilized for this project.

Budget Modification No. 1 has been prepared to appropriate grant revenues in the amount of \$85,000 from the Santa Clara VTA Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager Fund, as well as the required 20% local match of \$21,250 from dedicated local matching funds, to the new Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes Project. It should be noted that staff will also seek future grant opportunities to replace the local match funds.

**Budget Modification No. 1  
 FY 2011/2012**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<b>Capital Projects Fund/ General Assets Subfund</b>			
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority TFCA Program Manager Funds	\$0	\$85,000	\$85,000
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
New Project – Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes	\$ 0	\$106,250	\$106,250

**Capital Projects Fund/ Traffic Mitigation Subfund**

Transportation Grant Local Matching Fund Reserve:

Dedicated Local Matching Fund	\$381,602	(\$21,250)	\$360,352
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**PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City’s official-notice bulletin boards outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, the City Clerk’s office, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City’s Web site; and making the report available at the Library and Office of the City Clerk.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute required agreements and documentation and approve Budget Modification No. 1 to appropriate grant revenues in the amount of \$85,000 from the Santa Clara VTA Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager Fund, as well as the required 20% local match of \$21,250 from dedicated local matching funds, to the new Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes Project.
2. Do not take action at this time and forfeit the VTA Transportation Fund for Clean Air funds.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: Authorize the City Manager to execute required agreements and documentation and approve Budget Modification No. 1 to appropriate grant revenues in the amount of \$85,000 from the Santa Clara VTA Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager Fund, as well as the required 20% local match of \$21,250 from dedicated local matching funds, to the new Pastoria Avenue Bicycle Lanes Project.

Reviewed by:

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Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works  
Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Reviewed by:

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Grace Leung, Director of Finance

Approved by:

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Gary M. Luebbbers  
City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Copy of Final Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2011



**FINAL**

**SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION  
Special Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2011**

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on April 28, 2011 with Commission Chair Patrick Walz presiding. The meeting was held in the Garden Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

**ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES**

**Members Present:** Andrea Stawitcke  
Angela Rausch  
Cathy Switzer  
David Gandrud  
James Manidakos  
Patrick Walz  
Ralph Durham

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager, PW Department  
Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner, PW Department

**SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

None.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kevin Jackson noted that a representative of the Moffett Park Business Group, Ms. Kerry Haywood, is seeking volunteers to staff energizer stations on the Bike to Work Day. The Horizon 2035 Committee discussed a draft list of transportation policies, and each member had the opportunity to select her/his ten highest and ten lowest priority policies. Believes that not all members knew that the Street Space Allocation policies already exist, and these policies were listed individually which used up Mr. Jackson's high priority selections.

Chair Walz noted that he will staff an energizer station at El Camino Real/Wolfe Road on behalf of Leadership Sunnyvale, and requested volunteers and contributions towards the supplies.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the March 17, 2011 Meeting
- 1.B) Approval of the 2011 BPAC Calendar Update

**Commissioner Durham moved and Commissioner Stawitcke seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar items 1.A) and 1.B).**

**Motion passed: 6-0.**

Commissioner Rausch arrived at 6:55 PM due to the change in meeting location.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kevin Jackson noted with regard to one of the e-mail messages contained in the agenda packet that the travel lanes along Tasman Drive are substandard and that cyclists have the right to use full width of the lanes.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **4. DISCUSSION: VTA BEP Funding Awards**

David Simons (member of the VTA BPAC) noted that the Transportation Funds for Clean Air (TFCA) program was undersubscribed. Bike/pedestrian projects applying for TFCA must meet the cost effectiveness criteria and be ready for implementation. Concerned that the list of projects applying for Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) funds were initially shared with the VTA BPAC as a discussion, and not action item.

#### **2. DISCUSSION: Mary Avenue Bike Lanes – Central Expressway to Maude Avenue**

BPAC members reiterated their preference for a road diet along this roadway segment due to:

- Mary Avenue is expected to be the main north-south cycling route through the City, and is a cost effective route in terms of implementation;
- Allow the provision of wider six-foot bike lanes all along the length of the road segment. This wider bike lane width would also exclude the side gutter, relative to the other alternative that generally offers the standard five-foot bike lane including the typical two-foot gutter which narrows the effective width of the bike lane;
- Enhance good safety conditions and encourage cycling through the provision of wider bike lanes. The wider bike lanes will also better accommodate tricycles and baby trailers;
- The provision of wider 12-foot vehicular travel lanes is not expected to significantly increase speeds, and will allow some room for drivers' error;
- Allow for break down and maintenance space on the sides of the road; and,
- Somewhat reduce construction cost relative to other alternatives.

#### **3. DISCUSSION: Grand Boulevard Concept Planning**

Chair Walz noted that VTA may form a citizen advisory committee for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project on El Camino Real and encouraged having a cycling activist from the individual cities along the corridor to be a member of such committee. Clarified the need for providing continued bike lanes along El Camino Real as the corridor travels through the different municipalities.

Staff will plan for a future presentation by VTA on the BRT project and invite Council member Moylan who presents Sunnyvale on the project's Policy Advisory Committee.

5. DISCUSSION: Utility Bill Stuffer Concepts

BPAC members selected two photos to be utilized for drafting the 2011 utility bill stuffer, and the photos will be e-mailed to staff.

6. DISCUSSION: Pastoria Avenue Bike Lanes Project

Chair Walz informed the BPAC and public members of his potential professional conflict with the project and left at 8:00 p.m.

Staff stated that the City received a grant to establish bike lanes on Pastoria Avenue possibly between Danforth Drive and Evelyn Avenue. Clarified that due to the narrow pavement width on Pastoria Avenue, the provision of bike lanes is likely to require eliminating vehicular parking and provided alternative cross-sections for possible future changes. Noted that this is an older neighborhood and the project may become controversial, and asked BPAC members for early feedback.

The BPAC members discussed the project and indicated their preference to proceed according to the City's Street Space Allocation policy. Pastoria Avenue serves a considerable amount of bicycle traffic, and observations showed aggressive driving possibly due to the narrow vehicular travel lanes.

Commissioner Simons (VTA BPAC) suggested converting the street to one way vehicular travel lane, bike lanes, and curb-side parking.

Staff noted the lack of a couplet and the possibility of diverting vehicular traffic to other neighborhood streets.

Art Schwartz suggested replacing the existing head-on angle parking with tail-end angle parking to improve visibility in the area adjacent to the community's swimming pool.

Kevin Jackson indicated that majority of the homes along Pastoria Avenue have at least three off-street parking spaces including garages and driveways. There is also curb-side parking on side streets. According to the City's policy, the minimum standards need to be met for all transportation users and currently even the auto lanes are substandard. Parking is stationary, and moving vehicles should have higher priority according to the policy. Noted that San Jose has issues with one-way couplet streets.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

• BOARD MEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Switzer asked for BPAC volunteers to assist her and Chair Walz during the Health and Safety Fair.

Commissioner Stawitcke noted the ongoing work on the Stevens Creek overpass on the Sunnyvale/Mountain View side.

Commissioner Gandrud indicated the need for marking the bike detectors at the intersection of Maude Avenue/Sunnyvale Avenue, and at Caribbean Drive/Twin Creeks.

Commissioner Manidakos asked if there is a plan to apply pavement markings on Sunnyvale Avenue.

Commissioner Durham noted that the travel lanes on Tasman Drive are substandard and cyclists have to use the full width of the lanes. Consequently, requested that the existing "Share the Road" signs be replaced with "Bikes Allowed Full Use of Lane" signs.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

None.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

7. Sunnyvale Family Fun Bike Ride – VERBS Kick-off Event
8. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters since circulation of the agenda packet of the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
9. BPAC Active Items List.

Accepted as submitted in the agenda packet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted by:

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Heba El-Guendy  
Senior Transportation Planner