

## FINAL

### SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2008

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on November 20, 2008 with Commission Chair Kevin Jackson presiding. The meeting was held in the West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

#### ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

**Members Present:** Kevin Jackson  
Ralph Durham  
Andrea Stawitcke  
James Manidakos  
Richard Warner  
Patrick Walz

**Members Absent:** Michael Reece

**Staff Present:** Gerri Caruso, Principal Planner  
Lieutenant Donald Discher  
Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner

**Visitors:** Eleanor H., Sunnyvale resident  
Shawn Storm, Sunnyvale resident

Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Reece reported his illness via e-mail to the BPAC Chair and staff liaison. There was no objection to the member's absence, and his absence was excused.

#### SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Gerri Caruso – Handed out to all present at the meeting a copy of the Amendments made to Title 19 of the City's zoning ordinance along with a summary description of the revisions. Ms. Caruso also presented the main changes to Title 19, such as requiring a parking management plan as a condition of approval of any new mixed-use, multi-family residential, commercial or shopping center uses, and non-retail uses located within a commercial shopping center. A parking management plan could contain a series of measures such as valet parking, limited parking duration for some stalls, and other strategies that assist in utilizing the on-site parking supply as efficiently as possible. Planning staff now has the discretion to require additional on-site parking spaces in situations where on-street parking may be limited. Staff can also review on-site parking and consider unique situations, such as staggering parking during off-peak hours to better reflect multiple uses on a site.

Commissioner Durham – Inquired whether there will be a remedy to large vehicles each of which parks in more than one parking stall.

Commissioner Manidakos – Inquired if staff check the “Plan line” when determining future parking provisions. Also inquired about bicycle parking requirements in terms of quantity, quality, and installation.

Gerri Caruso – Clarified that the maximum allowable percentage of compact spaces was lowered for multi-family residential uses and places of assembly uses. Also noted that planning staff is completing a handout with a variety of tools to assist multi-family developments in managing on-site parking. Added that there is now more pressure for new projects to efficiently manage their parking. Also indicated that Heba El-Guendy represents the Transportation and Traffic Division on the Planning Review Committee (PRC), and her comments include any needed turn lanes, bike lanes, and on-site Class I and Class II bicycle parking.

Chair Jackson – Indicated that not giving BPAC a chance to comment on the Amendments to Title 19 is a missed opportunity, and requested that BPAC review emergency parking requirements and future changes. Also noted his concern regarding comments made by the Planning Officer suggesting that on-street parking can be used for overflow of on-site parking, and that parking is not a safety issue on minor streets. Indicated that on-street parking could constitute safety issues on major and minor streets. Cyclists have to negotiate gaps in curb-side parking and sporadically merge into vehicular traffic along major streets with heavy volumes of traffic. Even minor residential streets have concentration of traffic in the peak hours which are the most critical times. Also, minor residential streets are perceived to be safe, thereby causing motorists and cyclists to be less careful. In addition, cars can park too close to driveways and within the vision triangles which adversely affect visibility and endanger safety. Believes that whenever off-street parking is provided, it should be up to the project sponsor to prove the need for street parking and not up to proponent to bicycle safety to prove the need for cycling space. There should also be active monitoring of home owner associations in terms of their parking requirements. Chair Jackson also requested consideration of all road users when updating the Land Use and Transportation Element of the City’s General Plan. Added that establishing a road design for all users eliminate the need for future retrofitting. In addition, indicated that in case the Onizuka site be used for auto dealers, all parking and loading should take place off-street. The City cannot repeat the El Camino Real experience where employees’ parking takes place on the street and large trucks double park for loading/unloading. Noted that the area surrounding the Onizuka site has important routes for cyclists. Ended his comments by inquiring if the amendments to the parking ordinance can be returned for Council consideration.

Gerri Caruso – Replied that she will put the idea forward.

Eleanor H. – Inquired if there is a hot line to call for excess parking.

Shawn Storm – Indicated that the reporting process is not timely. It takes 72 hours to consider a car abandoned for reporting, and three weeks to tag and tow it. Also noted that the merge lane on Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road should be removed.

Chair Jackson – Responded that the Public Safety Department should be contacted for enforcement, while BPAC and the Transportation and traffic Division should be contacted for consideration of geometric changes. Added that response time is limited by manpower and resources which cannot be resolved by BPAC. In addition, thanked Ms. Caruso for her presentation.

Commissioner Durham – Asked Lieutenant Discher if there has been any major incidents.

Lieutenant Discher – Indicated that it has been very busy the last couple of months with educational and enforcement initiatives. Referenced a recent collision on El Camino Real where the driver and two passengers including a two-year old child were unbuckled.

Chair Jackson – Congratulated the Lieutenant on the general success of the “Click-it or ticket” program. Expressed his desire to implement a similar program for distracted driving including similar types of promotions and catchy names such as “Distracted driving is the new drunk driving”. Believes

that tolerance for distracted driving has gone down. Expressed the Commission's desire to collaborate with the Public Safety Department to tackle this issue when funds become available.

Lieutenant Discher – Indicated that the "Click-it or ticket" program is a national program which one of the main reasons for its high success rate. Added that the average compliance rate within the State of California is 94%, and the rate is 98% in Sunnyvale. Explained that there must be a Vehicle Code violation to issue a ticket. The type of Code violation get cited as the collision factor in the City and State data system. Distracted driving can be captured in case of a collision. The Public Safety Department added a number of factors in the collision reports. For example, the use of cell phone was added five to six years ago. Referenced a brochure titled "Distractions in Everyday Driving" produced by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Added that such educational materials are especially important for young drivers possibly subject to peer pressure. Also referenced traffic safety classes sponsored by the County's TSCN in which teenagers watch videos presented by persons who were involved in collisions due to DUI, speeding, and other factors.

Chair Jackson – Indicated that the idea of educational brochures is great, which could, for example, be published on the City's web site and made available at the Public Library. Inquired if distracted driving is accurately reported, and on how BPAC could coordinate efforts with the enforcement team. Indicated that cars regularly ignore bike space, and police enforcement tends to be the most effective mean for deterring such behavior. Inquired if the patrol officers could provide informative seminars to all officers to increase the likelihood of capturing such driving behaviors.

Eleanor H. – Indicated that a chart on bad driving behaviors (possibly from issued traffic tickets) would be of interest.

Shawn Storm – Indicated that a driver texting a message was a cause in the recent train accident. Distracted driving including texting a message are not presently covered under the law, but they still cause unsafe driving conditions and should be stopped.

Lieutenant Discher – Indicated that the Unit will soon have five officers after adding a motor officer in December of 2008 and training a second officer in January of 2009. Noted that statistics generally show that about 40% of bike/car collisions are attributed to cyclists' error. In addition, noted that there is a DUI check point planned for December 20<sup>th</sup> on El Camino Real/SR 82 subject to obtaining a permit from Caltrans.

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Walz – Indicated that the Enterprise Car Share Program just went national. This program is currently employer based, and URS Corporation was mentioned as an example employer that deploys the program.

Chair Jackson – Indicated that he walked along the Mary Avenue bridge within the City of Cupertino. The bridge is planned to be formally opened in March/April of 2009. A soft opening of the bridge (excluding aesthetic elements such as landscaping) may take place before the end of 2008. In addition, Chair Jackson noted that a meeting is planned to take place on December 19, 2008 to discuss future of the Stevens Creek Trail extension. The meeting will be held between elected officials and senior management representing the Cities of Mountain View, Cupertino, Los Altos and Sunnyvale.

Shawn Storm – Noted his concern about the pedestrian/bike bridge that travels along the east side of Fair Oaks Avenue in the vicinity of Home Depot. Indicated that it has shrubberies and not clean due to workers' littering. Added that the bridge is slippery even without any rain. Mr. Storm is concerned about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, including the safety of school students during their travel to and from schools. Mr. Storm requested the installation of mirrors at blind turns and improved maintenance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1.A) Approval of Draft [Minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup> BPAC Meeting](#)
- 1.B) Approval of the [November 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda](#)
- 1.C) Approval of the 2008 BPAC Calendar Update

Consent Calendar items 1.A, 1.B and 1.C were approved 6-0.

**STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 2. ACTION: Ranking of Study Issues and Review of Budget Issues

All Study and Budget Issue papers were provided as part of the Agenda packet. Following a discussion of the Study Issues, the BPAC members decided on the following ranking.

<b>Study Issue Title</b>	<b>BPAC Ranking</b>
DPW 01 - School Transportation Demand Management Opportunities	6
DPW 02 - Plan Line Study to Accommodate Bicyclists and Pedestrians	1
DPW 03 - Update/Review Corner Vision Triangle Municipal Code Ordinance	Deferred
DPW 04 - Homestead Road Bike Lane Hours of Operation Review	Deferred
DPW 05 - Suitable Bicycle Schemes for Office, Shopping Centers, and Entertainment Venues	Tie for 3 & 4
DPW 06 - Impacts of Traffic Calming Devices on Cyclists	Deferred
DPW 07 - Evaluate and Consider Implementation of the Stevens Creek Trail Extension Currently Proposed by the City of Los Altos	2
DPW 09 - Coordinate Street Space Allocation Policy with Road Construction	Tie for 3 & 4
DPW 13 - Sunnyvale Cyclovia Event	5
OCM 05 - Possible Means to Encourage Owning Fewer Cars	7

Commissioner Manidakos requested the following revisions to the Study Issues write-up:

- DPW 02 – Under the fifth point of item #1: Maude Avenue between Pastoria Avenue and Wolfe Road.
- DPW 07 – Emphasis the last paragraph under item #1 that the study issues would conduct “A comprehensive community consultation process, consultation with Caltrans; the Water District and other agencies, topographic surveys, technical and environmental analysis, and design feasibility”, and that the findings of these reviews would result in a recommendation to Council on whether or not to change the 1994 policy.

Chair Jackson also requested the following change to the Issues write-up:

- DPW 13 - Indicate possible closure of certain travel lanes and not necessarily the full width of the streets.

The BPAC members also discussed the Budget Issues and conveyed their views in terms of ranking the budget issues as follows:

<b>Budget Issue Title</b>	<b>BPAC Ranking</b>
Connecting the John Christian Trail to Lakewood and Fairwood Elementary Schools as destinations and locations of bicycle parking	3
Provision of bicycle parking facilities at major community events such as the Farmer's Market and the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Celebration	2
Establish a budget for Bike to Work Day	1
Development of a Multi-Media Educational Program on Traffic Safety	5
Enforcement Campaign of Bicycle and Pedestrian Related Traffic Violations	4

## **NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

### **· BPAC ORAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner Warner – Indicated that no vote was taken on the pending ordinance aiming to require cycling events with fifty or more participants to obtain an event license. In addition, raised concerns regarding safety issues associated with an area used as a pull-out for trucks along a curve on Moffett Park Drive as it goes into Manila Drive. Also noted that the left-turn movement on northbound Mathilda Avenue at Ross Drive does not detect bicycles.

Commissioner Durham – Reported that early morning (around 6:30 to 7:00 a.m.) westbound Maude Avenue to southbound Mary Avenue has a left-turn light that is sporadic in timing. Added his observation of a few vehicles that made the left-turn against the red light.

Chair Jackson – Requested that all trucks including City utility and commercial trucks avoid parking in the bike lanes when possible. This is to provide for safe and convenient cycling conditions. Also noted when applying for grant funds, City staff need to seek letters of support from the Moffett Park Business and Transportation Association (MPBTA), Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN), etc. as applicable. This is to increase the City's chance in receiving grant funds.

### **· STAFF ORAL COMMENTS**

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, noted the following:

1. The Transportation and Traffic Division is in the process of applying for the State Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) grant funds to complete the design and construct the East Channel Trail. Letters of support from the County's Water District and the local community association are included as part of the City's application package.
2. Indicated that the Walk and Bike to School Week was reported by the County's TSCN as being a success. Out of the schools located within the City of Sunnyvale, Cherry Chase, Cumberland, Fairwood, Vargas, Stocklmeir and West Valley Elementary Schools participated in the event. City staff supported interested schools by providing free educational and promotional materials on safe cycling and walking.

3. Noted as part of the reporting on ongoing inquiries and requests that the red curbs along the north and south sides of Torrington Drive and crosswalks will be repainted. The requested pedestrian crossing at the Knickerbocker/ Bernardo intersection was not warranted in 2006 and the pedestrian and vehicular volumes have not significantly changed since then. Bike detection has been reviewed and adjusted at the intersections of Mary/The Dalles, Homestead/Mary, Wright/Fremont, as well as for the left turn lane from southbound Mary across the tracks onto Evelyn, and eastbound Torrington at Hollenbeck.

### **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

3. 2009 Board/Commission Process for Ranking Study Issues

A description of the process was contained as part of the meeting Agenda packet. Additional copies of the packet were provided to the public members who attended the meeting.

In addition, hard copies of a Draft RTC received from the City Manager's Office on November 20<sup>th</sup> were provided to all BPAC and public members present at the meeting. The Draft RTC is on a Study Issue to explore development of a Human Rights/Relations Board or Commission advisory to City Council. Due to the length of the RTC and time limitations, BPAC members were asked to provide any comments that they may have on a later date, and/or attend the Council's Public Hearing on the matter scheduled for January 13, 2009.

4. 2009 Budget Issues Process

All BPAC members received information on the Budget Issues process as part of the Agenda packet. The overall packet was also made available on the City's web site with hard copies available at the City Hall Front/One-Stop Counter, the Sunnyvale Public Library, and during the meeting.

5. Update of Policy 7.2.19 on Boards and Commissions – Council Policy Manual

The BPAC members were asked during the meeting to update the second section (first item) of their copies of the Sunnyvale Handbook for Boards, Commissions and Committees with the updated Policy.

6. Update of Chapter 1 on Boards and Commissions – Administrative Policy Manual

The BPAC members were also asked to replace the second item of the second section of the Handbook with the updated Chapter.

7. BPAC E-mail Messages

The e-mail messages were included as part of the meeting Agenda packet. Staff of the Transportation and Traffic Division, including the BPAC staff liaison, regularly follow-up on the phone and e-mail requests.

6. Active Items List

The updated Active Items List was provided as part of the Agenda Packet.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by:

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Heba El-Guendy  
Senior Transportation Planner  
Division of Transportation and Traffic

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