

**FINAL**

**SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2009**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on April 16, 2009 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  
Richard Warner  
Patrick Walz  
James Manidakos

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator  
Nicole Clemens, Special Deputy City Attorney  
Lieutenant Donald Discher  
Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner

**Visitors:** Commissioner David Simons, VTA BPAC  
Melissa Carter, Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Arthur Schwartz, Sunnyvale resident  
Fern Wollrich, Sunnyvale resident  
Jim Griffith, Sunnyvale resident

**SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

**Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Department of Public Works**

Following a self introduction and information on the creation and funding of the position, Mr. Clark briefed the BPAC members on ongoing projects, promotional events, and staff training efforts.

The BPAC members, the public members present and Mr. Clark shared thoughts and visions for potential future projects including the provision of a smart station with high efficiency water pumps, possibility of using solar and wind power, increasing public involvement by linking City projects with web sites that have CO<sub>2</sub> and other calculators, possibility of reviewing development projects from an environmental sustainability perspective, providing educational materials to developers, approving a green building policy, establishing safe routes to public transit services not only to schools, using purple pipes/recycled water for landscaping, and enhancing communication among City staff; interested public members and staff of other agencies to work toward transportation and environmental sustainability.

### **Melissa Carter, Associate Civil Engineer, Santa Clara Valley Water District**

Ms. Carter gave a presentation on plans by Santa Clara Valley Water District to protect the East and West Channels from flood and erosion, as well as to explore recreational opportunities. Implementation of the District's project extends from 2012 to 2016. When reaching 60% design, the District is planning to conduct the needed environmental review (possibly EIR or a MND) which is expected to take place in late 2010 or early 2011.

The BPAC members thanked Ms. Carter for her presentation and provided some feedback comments and recommendations, which include reviewing possible means to increase use of the channels for walking and cycling, utilizing natural earth materials for treating the channels rather than concrete, avoiding flood walls when possible since they could affect pedestrian/bicycle access, and maintaining an open line of communication with the City throughout the planning and implementation process. Also inquiries were made with regard to the Calabazas Creek Trail and the Stevens Creek Trail extension which will be brought to the attention of other District staff members.

### **David Simons, VTA BPAC**

Commissioner Simons briefed the CITY BPAC members about his experience on the scoring committee for allocating the Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) funds. Also provided feedback comments on the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) conference and the growing awareness of cyclists' needs. Requested information with regard to the Borregas Bridges and referenced the Over and Under Tour planned for May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Encourages taking the Leadership Sunnyvale classes and noted that the City offers the largest number of scholarships for this program. Noted that bike share programs succeed in areas with restricted access such as within business parks. The VTA bike share program is planned to utilize access cards to identify individuals who check out the bicycles.

### **Lieutenant Donald Discher, Traffic Unit, Department of Public Safety**

Lieutenant Discher provided an update on the ongoing enforcement initiatives and upcoming events including the proactive efforts of enforcing pedestrian right-of-way, the 2009 Challenge Bicycle Ride planned for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Health and Safety Fair planned for May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Columbia Middle School. In addition, provided general information on collision statistics, as well as DUI arrests which are on the rise among teenagers and female drivers. Also briefed the Commission members on the ongoing discussions with regard to setting of speed limits and the City's position.

### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Jackson – Indicated that the TSCN is making good progress on their Safe Routes to Schools efforts, completed a review of the Cumberland and Stockmeir Elementary Schools, and is now working on developing a safety and operational improvement plan.

Commissioner Durham – Indicated that he will share with BPAC and staff a video tape that he took at the intersection of Duane Avenue/San Luisito Way illustrating limited sight line for southbound motorists on San Luisito Way turning left onto Duane Avenue. Violations of signage in the vicinity of the school site are also of concern.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1.A) Approval of [Draft Minutes of the March 19, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.B) Approval of [Agenda of the April 16, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.C) Approval of the 2009 BPAC Calendar Update

**Commissioner Ralph Durham moved a motion seconded by Chair Kevin Jackson to approve**

**Consent Calendar items 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 6-0.**

Commissioner Durham - Requested to add a clarification to the first paragraph on Page 3 as follows: ".....Commissioner Durham is concerned about vehicles circulating through the event's are looking for parking. *In addition,* suggested investigating the possibility of having volunteers or personnel paid by the event applicant to provide a valet parking service *for bicycles, or offer secured bicycle parking...."*

Chair Jackson – Believes that the March 19 meeting minutes do not fully reflect his thoughts with regards to the revisions of Section 10.16.030 of Ordinance No. 2871-08 and requested revising the third paragraph on Page 3 of the minutes by stating the following:

*The staff report repeatedly mentions giving the traffic engineer discretion over "timed parking restrictions" which are designed to promote turnover. But the ordinance language specifies that the traffic engineer can suspend or modify "existing parking limitations" (which can mean anything, including those necessary for safety). It is also important to distinguish between two types of timed parking restrictions. The first is related to turnover, which we refer to as "duration" limits (e.g., "3 hour parking limit"). The other type we call "time-of-day" limits (e.g., "No parking 7am to 6pm"), which are implemented for safety reasons. The BPAC recommendation to the Council is to change the ordinance so the traffic engineer only has discretion over that subset of timed parking restrictions related to turnover (i.e., duration limits). But full-time and time-of-day restrictions that are instituted for safety reasons should not be subject to administrative suspension.*

A few other points that were raised:

- The staff report says more, closer parking encourages event attendance. True, but it also promotes driving there. Consider the drawbacks as well as the benefits.
- Walking and biking to events is increasingly popular. If anything, even greater concern for non-motorist safety is warranted at these times. Events attract large numbers of casual riders, including families with children.
- Dispersing vehicle parking over a wider area is safer, especially for events where most people arrive and/or leave at the same time.
- The top priority for close-in parking should be to accommodate handicapped attendees. Everyone else can presumably walk a block or two without undue hardship.
- Parking enforcement efforts should be focused on safety-related violations (blocking fire hydrants, bike lanes, sidewalks); and, though not strictly safety-related, blocking driveways.

**Chair Kevin Jackson moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Patrick Walz to approve Consent Calendar item 1.A) as amended. Motion was passed 6-0.**

**STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

Order of the Public Hearing items was changed to better accommodate City staff members present at the meeting.

3. ACTION: Draft RTC – Ordinance Amending Sections of Chapter 10.56 of the Municipal Code Pertaining to Bicycles in order to Conform to the California's Vehicle Code

Nicole Clemens, Special Deputy City Attorney, presented the staff report and clarified that conflicts and/or duplications between the City's zoning ordinance and the Vehicle Code need to be eliminated. This issue was initially raised while working on the City's 2006 Bike Plan. BPAC members discussed this Action item and provided the following recommendations:

- Replace "License Plate" with "License Sticker" throughout relevant sections of the Sunnyvale Municipal Ordinance. For example, Section 10.56.020 refers to "License Plate" which has not been revised.
- Eliminate the proposed addition of an "e" at the end of "therefor" in Section 10.56.030 of the Ordinance (On Page 1 of the proposed Ordinance). Also under SECTION 11 (end of Page 3 of the proposed Ordinance), change references to "Section 10.56.160 Deleted" to "Section 10.56.180 Deleted"
- Check if the expression "Bicycle facility" is legally intended to only identify a Class I/bike path, or it is also applicable, for example, for a Class II/bike lane which is already part of the road.
- Licensing of bicycles should be voluntary and not mandatory. Main intentions of bicycle licensing is to facilitate the return of stolen bicycles, as well as for safety and educational purposes. However, other jurisdictions may not require bicycle licensing, and cyclists could be cited for violation while traveling through Sunnyvale since police enforcement would not know the origin of the cyclists' trips. In addition, such mandatory licensing and application of penalties could potentially discourage cycling. Instead, simply publicizing the bicycle licensing program could increase cyclists' participation.
- Revise the expression "Licensing" bicycles to "Registering" bicycles.
- Check if "Stunt" riding is defined in the Vehicle Code, or it is typically left for the enforcing officer's discretion.

**Chair Kevin Jackson moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Ralph Durham to approve Alternative 2 of the staff report "Approve the proposed Bicycle Code revisions in their entirety with modifications", and to return the RTC and proposed Ordinance for a second BPAC review prior to submittal for Council consideration. Motion was passed 6-0.**

2. ACTION: Draft RTC – Allocation of the Annual Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) Funds

Copies of this Draft RTC were provided to all BPAC members during the meeting. Commission liaison, Heba El-Guendy, presented the staff report and clarified that the TDA funds will not only cover widening of the sidewalk on the north side of Homestead Road abutting to the Cupertino Middle School, but also the provision of ADA compliant curb ramps and traffic calming devices at a number of locations.

Commissioner Manidakos – Recommended that future consideration be given for the provision of bike lanes on the segments of Maude Avenue east of Pastoria Avenue.

**Commissioner Andrea Stawitcke moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Patrick Walz to recommend Alternative 1 listed in the RTC "Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of a project application with the VTA and MTC for allocation of Transportation Development Act funds for FY 2009/10 for pedestrian/bicycle projects". Motion was passed 6-0.**

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

- BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Durham – Noted his inability to attend the earth week events and the May 14<sup>th</sup> Bike to

Work Day event.

Commissioner Manidakos – Offered to donate supplies for the Bike to Work Day event if informed ahead of time of the missing items.

Commissioner Walz – Requested providing the BPAC members with the list of road resurfacing projects a year or two in advance, in order to allow for BPAC review in light of the street space allocation policy and bicycle/pedestrian related projects.

Chair Jackson – Reported that the bike locker located in front of the library is malfunctioning. Also indicated that Ms. Barbara Fukimoto of the Sunnyvale Cool Cities has not yet received her invitation to the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Borregas bridges. Inquired if cyclists could utilize the bridges on their way to the Opening Ceremony. Noted a recent item addressed by the Planning Commission in which staff recommended against the parking of a motor home on private property within the vision triangle, yet vehicular parking is regularly allowed on public streets in close proximity to intersections. Chair Jackson requested a review of this matter.

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, provided background information on the referenced project and performed research. Also clarified how street parking at intersection corners can be better addressed as part of the Study Issue on sight triangles that has been previously raised by the Commission.

#### · STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

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

1. Commented on a few of the received e-mail messages including the suggested changes to traffic operations at the Stockmeir Elementary School area. Also noted the City's coordination with the County's Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) to implement "Frequent Biker" monitoring and award programs at a few Sunnyvale schools.
2. Discussed BPAC attendance, and supply of educational and promotional materials for the Farmers Market event on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

##### 4. Draft Utility Bill Stuffer

Draft copies of the utility bill stuffer were provided during the meeting. The BPAC members requested minor changes to some of the wording and to the listed web link, which were later reflected in the Final stuffer format.

##### 5. Grand Opening of the Borregas Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridges as described in the Agenda packet.

##### 6. Bike to Work Day Update

Staff liaison provided a brief update on the May 14<sup>th</sup> Bike to Work Day event and discussed logistics with regard to the staffing of the five Energizer Stations at the southeast corner of the Wolfe Road/El Camino Real intersection, northwest corner of the Mary Avenue/Maude Avenue intersection, Caltrain train station, Baylands Park entrance, and Nasa/Bayshore light rail station.

##### 7. BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters as provided in the Agenda packet.

##### 8. Active Items List as provided in the Agenda packet.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 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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