

FINAL

**SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND
PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2009

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on August 20, 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
Andrea Stawitcke
Cathy Switzer
James Manidakos
Patrick Walz
Richard Warner

Members Absent: Ralph Durham

Staff Present: Lieutenant Donald Discher, Public Safety Department
Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner, PW Department

Visitors: Marianne Cali, Stevens Creek Neighbors Neighborhood Assoc.
Camie Hackson, Stevens Creek Neighbors Neighborhood Assoc.
Patrick Grant, Sunnyvale resident

Commissioner Durham informed the BPAC members and staff liaison in advance of his absence on personal leave. This took place during the July 16 meeting and via e-mail. Commissioner Durham's absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Commissioner Stawitcke – Inquired about the clear presence of police officers during special events in downtown Sunnyvale.

Lieutenant Discher – Clarified that vendors pay certain number of officers to supplement officers already on duty in order to ensure safety during crowded events.

Chair Jackson – Indicated that during a San Francisco event, an officer clarified that tickets are issued to road users that take others turn, rather than ticketing for a rolling stop by a cyclist for example.

Lieutenant Discher – Clarified the letter of the law versus the spirit of the law. Advised that pedestrians and cyclists follow the law due to their vulnerability in case of a collision.

Chair Jackson – Noted that some cyclists reported that they were ticketed because they did not place

their foot on the ground at stop signs. Requested that if there is such a requirement in the Vehicle Code, to pass on the cycling community. Also noted that in the northbound approach at the Mathilda/US 101 interchange, the pedestrian crosswalk is deep into the ramp and its visibility is restricted by adjacent bushes especially for fast approaching vehicles. Already raised concerns to VTA and Caltrans. In the meantime, requested researching the law with regard to driving speeds relative to road conditions. Also noted that law enforcement vehicles should set an example to road users and not be observed driving at high speeds.

Commissioner Walz – Inquired if collisions involving bicycles and pedestrians can be shared on a monthly basis with BPAC.

Lieutenant Discher – Indicated that the referenced collision data can be provided to BPAC, and that it is already updated on a monthly basis on the City's web site.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick Grant – Provided a CD and hard copies of his comments on the Draft EIR prepared for the 49ers Stadium in the City of Santa Clara. Also provided a site plan and information on sustainability in De Anza College.

Chair Jackson – Provided a briefing on the Spare the Air event that he and Commissioner Walz attended. Noted the community outreach meeting to be held on August 31st in the De Anza Park building (on Lime Drive near Remington Drive) to provide comments on the Stevens Creek policy.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of Draft [Minutes of the July 16, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.B) Approval of [Agenda of the August 20, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.C) Approval of the 2009 BPAC Calendar Update

Commissioner Stawitcke moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Warner to approve Consent Calendar items 1.A), 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 6-0.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Provided feedback on public comments raised during the July 16th BPAC meeting including the weekly sweeping schedule of Caribbean Drive, improvements to the traffic control plan implemented on Washington Avenue, and staff's note of other suggestions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

- 2. DISCUSSION: Review Ordinance 2871-08 of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code Amending Section 10.16.030 of Chapter 16 of Title 10 – Draft RTC and amended Ordinance

In general, the BPAC members expressed their satisfaction with the staff's work on the RTC and Ordinance amendments.

Chair Jackson – Requested adding “and walking” at the end of the first phrase of the second paragraph on Page 1 of the staff’s RTC. In addition, requested revising item (b) of the amended 10.16.030 Section provided on Page 3 of the RTC and Attachment A to indicate “The power and authority of the traffic engineer to administratively suspend parking restrictions for the holding of public or private assemblages, special events, gatherings or functions, or for other reasons, shall not apply to full-time and time-of-day parking restrictions that have been instituted for traffic safety reasons.

3. DISCUSSION: New pavement markings for shared bicycle-vehicle lanes

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, described some of the recent work conducted by the City of Long Beach with regard to implementing unique pavement markings for sharrows that aim at enhancing visibility and safety conditions and referenced information included in the agenda packet.

In general, BPAC members expressed their preference of the new sharrows markings.

Chair Jackson – Expressed the following:

- A study conducted in San Francisco concluded that well over 90% of motorists did not see or understand the sharrows.
- The new pavement markings improve recognition, but sharrows should not be implemented unless it is a last resort.
- When Wolfe Road is resurfaced, the sharrow lanes need to be widened as previously discussed.
- The Street Space Allocation policy needs to be applied first, prior to consider retaining or implementing new sharrows. The new markings should not be utilized to avoid the removal of parking or other alternatives according to the approved policy.

Provided copies of an educational pamphlet with safety tips to motorists and cyclists on the use of sharrows, which was published by the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. Also provided an example of alternative signage of sharrows.

Commissioner Manidakos – Believes that sharrows are useless and waste of money. Even if the sharrow lane is established using colored pavement, the large thermoplastic/paint logos would be slippery and could endanger safety. Suggested researching the addition of a rough surface to the logos’ marking.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

· BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Manidakos – Encouraged volunteering at the Stanford football games for watch of bicycle parking. Indicated that last season, approximately 2,000 patrons cycled to the games. The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition has on-line information on volunteering.

Commissioner Walz – Briefed members on his communication with the Sunnyvale Senior Center and his planned visit to hear their transportation related concerns.

Commissioner Switzer - Reported lack of a street name sign at the Morse/Weddell intersection, and indicated that there is a need for promotional efforts to increase people’s awareness and use of the Borregas Avenue bicycle and pedestrian bridges overcrossing US 101 and SR 237.

Chair Jackson – Encouraged volunteering to assist with the County’s Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) efforts in safe routes to school initiatives including data collection and review at the different school sites.

· STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Staff liaison provided feedback on the staff's review of reported bicycle detection issues and corrective measures taken at the intersections of Mary/Fremont, Mary/Remington and Washington/Bernardo. The staff liaison also provided the new name tags to the BPAC members and inquired about the members' participation in the State of the City event to be held on September 26, 2009 at the Heritage Park Museum.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- 4. Briefing on the Stevens Creek Trail Joint Cities Working Group meeting held on August 5, 2009. This briefing was provided by the staff liaison, which covered key points made by the Group and public members. It also included summary information on the presentations provided by the VTA Transportation Planning Manager of Programming and Grants on regional grant funds, and by the County's Director of Parks and Recreation Department on other experiences with trail projects in Santa Clara County.
- 5. BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters as provided in the Agenda packet.
- 6. Active Items List as provided in the Agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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