

FINAL

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2009

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on September 17, 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
Cathy Switzer
James Manidakos
Patrick Walz
Ralph Durham
Richard Warner

Members Absent: Andrea Stawitcke

Staff Present: Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner, PW Department

Visitors: Saul Pacheco, senior student at Fremont High School

Commissioner Stawitcke informed the BPAC members and staff liaison during the August 20th BPAC meeting that it will not be possible for her to attend the September 17th meeting due to her absence on personal leave. Commissioner Stawitcke's absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Lieutenant Discher – Informed the BPAC staff liaison in advance about his schedule conflict and inability to attend the September 17th meeting.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saul Pacheco – Indicated that he started this year to work on an environmental awareness cause called "Action to Protect our Environment", and is planning an event on the International Day of Action on Saturday, October 24. The event will start at 8:00 a.m. and will involve a rally starting at Ortega Park and return, tree planting, bicycle corral, etc. Still working on the event details and requested assistance of the BPAC members to benefit from their experience. Intention of the students' efforts is to support the international stand with regard to protecting the environment and to support the worldwide politicians who will meet in December to set a strong action plan.

Mr. Pacheco was provided at the meeting with copies of the City's bicycle map, tour maps, and Bicycle Safety pamphlet to assist him with the event on October 24th. Mr. Pacheco was requested to contact the City in advance to obtain an event permit.

Chair Jackson – Noted that the City's parking ordinance regarding special events was not submitted for Council consideration on September 1st as originally planned and that staff is still working on the changes requested by BPAC. Also noted that the joint Cities' meeting on the Stevens Creek Trail which took place on August 31st was well attended. In addition, noted that the Stoklmeir Elementary School rodeo took place on September 14th and was a success, and requested from the BPAC members to volunteer if possible in the other school events organized by the County's Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN).

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of Draft [Minutes of the August 20, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.B) Approval of [Agenda of the September 17, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.C) Approval of the 2009 BPAC Calendar Update

Commissioner Switzer moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Durham to approve Consent Calendar items 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 6-0.

Commissioner Switzer – Requested revising the Non-Agenda Items on Page 4 of the August 20th meeting minutes to note that it was Commissioner Switzer (not Commissioner Stawitcke) who reported the lack of street name sign at Morse/Weddell, as well as the need for promotional efforts regarding the Borregas Avenue bicycle and pedestrian bridges.

Commissioner Walz moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Durham 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

- 2. ACTION: Finalization of Study and Budget Issues

Chair Jackson – Requested to add a new budget issue to provide City staff and the general public classes on safe cycling. The example class mentioned involves four hours in class and four hours on the road. It costs are \$700 for a class of 10 students and \$950 for a class of 20 students. Besides funding the classes, the City would be responsible for supplying the room, presentation equipment and advertising the classes.

Heba El-Guendy – Staff liaison requested to add a new study issue following to Action BP.B4.b. of the Bicycle Plan regarding the establishment of bicycle route signage on routes that travel through neighborhoods and carry lower vehicular traffic volumes, incorporating destination names and directional arrows, and distances where appropriate. All BPAC members in attendance supported the

addition of this study issue.

Commissioner Switzer – Noted that this new study issue is related to her request to provide signage associated with the Borregas Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian bridges overcrossing US 101 and SR 237.

Commissioner Walz – Noted his previous request to provide signage associated with the main transit stations which can also be part of the staff generated study issue. Also requested adding another study issue to investigate the sharrows marking being tried by the City of Long Beach which was presented during the August 20th BPAC meeting. If such new marking is effective, then possibly consider its implementation on Wolfe Road. Explained that the 6-foot stripe is implemented with colored pavement and is unlikely to be slippery, and although the logos are larger; cyclists are used to negotiating thermoplastic pavement markings.

Chair Jackson – Requested that the study issue on “Safe Travel Conditions on City Streets” as stated on Page 13 of the Agenda packet be put on hold to a future year when the City budget recover. As a replacement for this cycle, requested a similar study issue that only focuses on the visibility issue at driveways and intersections. The intention is to minimize the cost of carrying out the study issue and still be able to establish a new standard or revise the vision triangles to be extended to the street edge thereby preventing vehicular parking or other visibility obstructions within certain distances of driveways and intersections.

Commissioner Manidakos – Noted that establishment of a new ordinance or standard that will be applied and enforced throughout the City must be based on an adequate and complete study.

Commissioner Durham – Noted that prohibiting parking may cause public concerns and City Council will need to have adequate standard and background to support their decision.

Chair Jackson – Indicated that the development of a City policy or standard will facilitate enforcement without necessarily having to establish and maintain red curbs and signs. Added that he envisions enforcement as giving warnings rather than tickets until the general public become familiar with the new regulation. Requested that the study issue be added until it is time to rank all issues and identify the ones to proceed.

Commissioner Walz – Spoke in favor of retaining the proposed study issue regarding BPAC’s Review of Private Development Plans. Circulated a list of major development projects that were reviewed by the Planning Commission in 2009 and noted that BPAC’s review of these projects would not have delayed the process. Requested revising the study issue to clarify that BPAC may hold special meetings to accommodate schedule of the Planning Commission, or else not review the projects. Also added that BPAC would review the projects from a policy perspective and not from an operational perspective to ensure that the developments meet goals set by the City’s General Plan and Bicycle Plan.

Heba El-Guendy – Clarified a few items with regard to the development review process and the Commission’s role in forming policies rather than operational matters that are under the City Manager’s responsibility.

Commissioner Manidakos – Requested to revise the issue in order to reflect the Commission’s desire to review the criteria by which staff review the development plans and ensure that these criteria reflect the applicable City policies. Also requested to review the criteria practiced by staff with regard to seeking input of other agencies such as VTA, the County and Caltrans. In addition, provided clarification to the study issue on the Plan Line Study to Accommodate Bicyclists and Pedestrians and requested revising its content. Noted that the idea is not to purchase land, but to identify locations that were developed in the past with limited or no space for accommodating pedestrian and bicycle facilities which adversely affect safety and operational conditions. The plan line study would allow the City under the state law to acquire such needed space when sites redevelop. Commissioner Manidakos agreed to e-mail the staff liaison the revisions needed for the study issue.

Commissioner Switzer – With regard to the Plan Line study issue, added that there is a need to reference the pedestrian plan besides the Bicycle Plan and the General Plan.

Chair Jackson – Added that the Plan Line study issue needs to reference the fact that right-of-way is typically dedicated for accommodating car traffic. With the City's desire to promote alternative modes of transportation, it is as important to dedicate the space needed for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. With regard to the budget issue on the provision of temporary bicycle facilities at events, Chair Jackson suggested adding a study issue that investigates the logistics in terms of the need for revising the City's event permitting process, determine whether to encourage event applicants to provide bicycle parking or setting it as a condition, determine the size of events that would be required to provide bicycle parking, and identify responsibilities for maintaining; delivering and installing the temporary racks at events.

In addition to the new study issues that were initiated in 2009, the BPAC members requested to rank all study issues that are remaining from 2008.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

· BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Walz – Met as a member of the public with the Recreation Coordinator at the Senior Center to obtain information with regard to their views of signal timing, curb ramps, and crossing facilities. Sent a questionnaire in advance, but did not receive many responses. One of the respondents inquired on how locations in need of curb ramps are prioritized, and noted that he will send the City a request to add curb ramps on the street where his mother resides. In addition, Commissioner Walz indicated that the General Plan is an extremely important document and requested that the BPAC Work Plan be updated to reflect when the General Plan will be brought for BPAC's review. Also briefed the BPAC members on the public input meeting on the Stevens Creek Trail and added that he is pleased that most of the public members who reported their concerns are not necessarily against the idea of extending the trail.

Commissioner Warner – Raised concerns about traffic operations during the temporary closure of the Mathilda bridge. Noted that there were significant delays and the general behavior of motorists was so poor with no consideration to the movements and safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Since the overpass will need to be closed again during the future repairs, Commissioner Warner emphasized the importance of developing a traffic control plan that better accommodate these temporary conditions with sufficient and well distributed presence of the Public Safety officers.

Chair Jackson – Requested from the BPAC members to attend the State of the City event if possible. Also requested from the staff liaison to forward an inquiry to Lieutenant Discher about a collision involving a cyclist which took place on September 15th at the corner of Fremont/Belleville. In addition, noted that on September 9th around 3:00 p.m., parents were triple parked in the no parking zone adjacent to the Sunnyvale Middle School while waiting to pick-up their children. Chair Jackson noticed that the parking prohibition was not enforced despite of the presence of police, which emphasized the need for the study issue on schools TDM. In addition, noted that he read an article which indicated that police in Utah now can Subpoena cell phone records whenever they suspect that the driver was distracted by texting. This shows that they are taking the issue more seriously, which needs to be brought forward to the attention of the Sunnyvale's Public Safety Department.

Commissioner Warner – Added that Utah also applied stricter fines. The fine for the first offense of texting while driving is \$750. If the offense involves a fatality, the penalty can be up to 15 to 25 years in prison.

Commissioner Switzer – Raised concerns about the bike lane on northbound Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road at Fremont and Remington which travels parallel to the curb rather than following the vehicular travel

lane. This forces cyclists to block motorists from making a right turn. Consequently, requested that the bike lane be repainted straight.

· STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

E-mail inquiries received from the public were provided as part of the Agenda packet along with the responses.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

3. Cost Saving Actions/Budget Cuts of the Public Works Department as provided in the Agenda packet.
4. BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters as provided in the Agenda packet.
5. Active Items List as provided in the Agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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