



## FINAL

### SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2010

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on July 15, 2010 with Commission Vice Chair Patrick Walz presiding. The meeting was held in the West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

#### **ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES**

**Members Present:** Andrea Stawitcke  
David Gandrud  
James Manidakos  
Patrick Walz  
Ralph Durham

**Members Absent:** Angela Rausch  
Cathy Switzer

**Staff Present:** Lieutenant Jeffrey Plecque, Supervisor of Traffic Unit, DPS  
Heba El-Guendy, Sr. Transportation Planner, Transportation & Traffic Division, DPW

**Visitors:** David Simons – VTA BPAC member  
Isaac Porras – Member of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
Kevin Jackson – Sunnyvale resident  
Patrick Grant – Sunnyvale resident  
Richard Kolber – Sunnyvale resident  
Sharlene Liu – Sunnyvale resident

Commissioners Rausch and Switzer informed the BPAC staff liaison in advance of their absence on personal leave. There were no objections by the BPAC members and their absences were excused.

#### **SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

The BPAC members and staff liaison welcomed Commissioner Gandrud to the Commission and introduced themselves. Commissioner Gandrud thanked the Commission for the welcome and expressed his interests in walking and cycling as alternative modes of transportation, which helped in his selection by City Council.

Lieutenant Plecque – Presented some statistics on reported bicycle and pedestrian related collisions. For example, since January 1, 2010, there have been 21 injury involved bicycle collisions. Of these 21 collisions, only seven involved bicycles and moving vehicles and the remaining 14 involved bicycles with other objects such as parked vehicles, poles, etc. Another collision search for this year showed that there have been a total of 15 reported collisions involving pedestrians.

Sharlene Liu – Inquired about the legality of cycling with her children on the sidewalk.

Lieutenant Plecque - Clarified that the zoning ordinance allows cycling on the sidewalk when it is unsafe to cycle on the road. The BPAC members and Lieutenant Plecque requested that Mrs. Liu realize that by cycling on the sidewalk in a counter flow direction, motorists turning at driveways and intersections would not expect her and that she would not be able to see the signs and signals that are facing vehicular traffic.

Patrick Grant – Noted that in California, cyclists riding on their bicycles including at crosswalks are considered vehicles. Cyclists have to get off their bicycles when they cross the streets to be considered/have the rights of pedestrians.

Commissioner Gandrud – Inquired about the number of collisions/trigger that would present unsafe conditions. Also inquired about bicycle counts within Sunnyvale.

Lieutenant Plecque – Noted that the researched numbers of collisions are considered low based on his experience in Sunnyvale. Added that possible ways for examining safety conditions can be by comparing collision statistics of the different years, or by comparing the number of bicycle involved collisions to the number of miles traveled on bicycles.

Heba El-Guendy – Clarified how the general collision rates are estimated in light of the traffic volumes, and noted that multi-modal traffic counts are typically available for the CMP intersections and for other intersections included in traffic studies associated with development projects.

Kevin Jackson – Inquired about the incident of harassment that was reported approximately ten days earlier, which was forwarded to Chief Johnson. Indicated that the complainant was cycling with his wife along Mary Avenue heading towards El Camino Real when they were harassed by a passing vehicle that had three teenagers. Added that one of the teenagers had his upper body out of the window and tried to grab and yelled at the complainant. Mr. Jackson indicated that this may be a prank for the teenagers, but it can hurt and possibly cause killing the cyclists. Added that such incidents happen in different forms on a regular basis and that cyclists cannot do much about it. However in this case, the complainant noticed where the teenagers parked and called the police. The police officer later indicated that the teenagers did not break the law. This was discouraging to the cyclists and Mr. Jackson because they believe that the teenagers broke several laws even if they do not rise to the level of prosecution. Noted that this was an important teachable moment that was missed. Explained that it would have been more effective to inform the teenagers that they could be arrested and

lose their license rather than telling them this was not nice. Added that without interviewing the offenders, the CHP and police of several other cities determine a clear violation as reported and they typically send a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle stating the reported violation.

Richard Kolber – Reported a few incidents that happened to him. For example while cycling northbound on Wolfe Road near El Camino Real, a cyclist needs to use the whole width of the right lane. When he did, a motorist came behind him and kept on honking the horn, refusing to pass, and waiving at him to cycle on the sidewalk.

Lieutenant Plecque – Clarified that incidents that may be of criminal nature are not reviewed by the traffic enforcement unit, and assured Mr. Jackson that the Chief reviews all reported complaints. Noted that without speaking to the officer, it would be difficult for him to judge what took place. Added that he trust his officers apply the law appropriately in every incident reported. If not, then he would like that such incident be brought to his attention so that the involved officer get retrained and this way the community members provide a service to the City. Added that Sunnyvale already sends letters to the registered owners based on the officers' information gathering and facts determination. Thanked the Commission for all feedback, and noted that the recent fatal collision at the intersection of Bernardo Avenue/Remington Drive did not involve any pedestrians or cyclists and that it is currently under investigation.

Sharlene Liu – Reported that the intersection of Mary Avenue and The Dalles is also unsafe during school hours, and requested prohibiting the vehicular right-turn when children/pedestrians are present.

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Stawitcke – Announced that she will be out of the country in August and unable to attend the August BPAC meeting.

Commissioner Walz – Noted that a public outreach meeting will take place on July 22 which will include a presentation by Don Weden who is a retired Senior Planner that used to work for the County of Santa Clara. Title of the presentation is Cities for all Ages and it is part of the educational efforts held as part of the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) update and Climate Action Plan (CAP) development.

Kevin Jackson – Indicated that the bike lockers at the Sunnyvale library are being used on a regular basis, and that there is space for installing more lockers that can possibly be relocated from the train station. Noted that the next Horizon 2035 Committee meeting will take place on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the West Conference Room, and that the Committee meetings are open to the public.

VTA BPAC member Simons – Indicated that the County is in the processes of reviewing the ordinance covering public events, along with the associated permits and fees that currently apply to all events that utilize and/or access county roads (such as street closure, block party, pedestrian/bicycle crossing of a county expressway, etc.). VTA

BPAC will be making their final recommendations in this regard and the matter is scheduled to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Added that there is a VTA BPAC sub-committee that will be updating the By Laws over the next nine months. Noted that Sunnyvale is already a designated Bicycle Friendly City. Added that the VTA BPAC is currently pursuing an initiative that could assist all cities within Santa Clara county and the County to become bicycle friendly communities. Also noted that the San Jose BPAC will only meet twice a year rather than monthly. This Commission used to be assigned five staff members, which was reduced to only one managing staff due to budget cuts. Commissioner Simons indicated that he is the County representative on the Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Committee, and that the Committee will start to meet six times a year rather than four.

Isaac Porras – Indicated that TransForm will be holding tours by experts leading participants on walking and touring of transit centers. The upcoming tour is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with the first leg in San Jose ending at the Alum Rock station.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the June 17, 2010 Meeting
- 1.B) Approval of Agenda of the July 15, 2010 Meeting
- 1.C) Approval of the 2010 BPAC Calendar Update

**Commissioner Stawitcke moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Durham to approve Consent Calendar items 1.A), 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 5-0.**

### **STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Response to public comments raised during the June 17 BPAC meeting was accepted as submitted in the agenda packet.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kevin Jackson – Inquired if TSCN could assist a high school with educational efforts, and noted that the West Valley Elementary School has not yet participated in the TSCN educational efforts to promote alternative transportation. Indicated that some respondents to the Remington survey may have been confused about Option I believing that it would eliminate curb-side parking. Thus this option may have received more support by cyclists than it deserves. Added that the options presented may not have been ideal, and that better alternatives could have been investigated. Requested that in the future, BPAC review such alternatives and allow for revisions prior to committing to three or four options for public feedback.

Commissioner Walz – Noted that the Remington survey should have been e-mailed to the BPAC members similar to the practice deployed for the Bordeaux survey.

VTA BPAC member Simons – Noted that Sonoma County decided to adopt the VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

2. ACTION: Establishment of Guided Bicycle Routes through Neighborhoods – Study Issue (Draft RTC)

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, provided a brief staff report on the study issue which was previously discussed in three prior BPAC meetings. Highlighted the criteria used in establishing the neighborhood bike routes and changes made to the routes map in response to comments made by the BPAC members. Also noted that the remaining BPAC requests with regard to the establishment of new signs, bike detection, pedestrian crossing facilities, etc. will need to be reviewed in details and implemented as part of the capital project recommended for funding in FY 2011-2012.

Commissioner Walz – Requested that all remaining BPAC requests (expressed during the BPAC meetings of March 18, April 15, May 20 and July 15) recommended for further investigation be listed and attached to the Draft RTC. Emphasized that additional concerns and requests may be initiated in the future.

Commissioner Manidakos – Requested correcting the bike route map by switching the light rail and Caltrain symbols. Noted that Henderson Avenue is not a safe bike route and recommended that the signed route be moved west to Poplar Avenue. Also requested changing the name of the sign from “Sunnyvale Bike Route” to “Sunnyvale *Neighborhood* Bike Route” in order to avoid confusion among cyclists and diverting intercity bicycle traffic from the major bicycle corridors.

Commissioner Durham – Raised concerns regarding the crossing of Wolfe Road at Palo Verde Way and requested moving this recommended east-west route to the use of Evelyn Avenue. Also noted that to cross the light rail tracks from the Calabasas Creek Trail requires northbound cyclists to use the signal at Patrick Henry Drive, while southbound cyclists have to cross as pedestrians at Reamwood Avenue.

Commissioner Gandrud – Inquired about the extent of using signs, and how they would be posted. Also inquired about the formality of the short path located at the easterly end of Evelyn Avenue just south of Old San Francisco Road, which is the subject of community controversy.

Richard Kolber – Suggested establishing a new short north-south signed bike route on Gail Avenue to travel parallel to Wolfe Road up to the fire station.

Kevin Jackson – Thanked the staff for initiating the study issue and for suggesting some of the neighborhood bike routes, and thanked the BPAC members for identifying routes and improvements. Requested expanding the fourth sentence of the last paragraph on the first page of the Draft RTC to indicate “Some motorists are not comfortable driving on busy streets, so they prefer to remain on quieter streets so do some cyclists. However, the vast majority of motorists find that major roads are essential to make efficient use of their transportation time so do cyclists. Therefore the creation of the guide route network is intended to supplement, *but* not replace safe bike

accommodations ~~the bike facilities~~ on major streets". This addition is intended to clarify and emphasize the need for retaining the main bicycle network. In addition, Mr. Jackson requested that the neighborhood bike routes be publicized for examples through a press release, article in the Sun, and posted on the BPAC web site prior to project implementation. Since implementation of the bike routes would be revenue dependent, he inquired if revenue sources have been identified and suggested that this project be included as one of the candidate projects for TDA funds when it comes for BPAC consideration in February/March of 2011.

Patrick Grant – Suggested to BPAC to adopt a motion to provide as a minimum a crosswalk to have legal right to stop vehicular traffic wherever the recommended neighborhood signed bike routes cross arteries.

**Commissioner Manidakos moved a motion to table the issue and allow for a second BPAC review in August after applying the requested revisions to the Draft RTC and attached map. Commissioner Durham seconded the motion. The motion was passed 4-0, with Commissioner Stawitcke abstaining from voting.**

Commissioner Stawitcke abstained from voting on the motion since she will not be able to attend the August BPAC meeting and vote on the study issue. However, Commissioner Stawitcke expressed her support of the bike routes and staff recommendations.

3. ACTION: Election of Officers

This item was carried out at the end of the meeting.

**Commissioner Manidakos nominated Commission member Patrick Walz for the Chair. No further nominations were made, and Commissioner Walz's nomination was voted on 5-0 in favor.**

**Commissioner Stawitcke nominated Commission member Ralph Durham for the Vice Chair. Similarly, this nomination was voted on 5-0 in favor.**

Both the Chair and Vice Chair are planning to attend the Chair's training to be scheduled in early August by the City Clerk's office.

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

- BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Walz – Indicated that a public meeting with regard to the General Plan Consolidation took place on July 13, 2010. Noted that the consolidation efforts are proceeding as planned. Added that the document will mainly contain goals and policies, with considerably less background information. The Committee made recommendations which sections to remain in the General Plan, and other sections to be placed in other

policies. Decisions regarding the formatting are being considered including a web based format. The July meeting will be the last meeting of the Committee.

Commissioner Durham – Reported that the intersection of Borregas/Maude has been paved a few weeks ago and that the edge lines of the travel lanes are yet to be painted.

- **STAFF ORAL COMMENTS**

The BPAC staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, provided brief information on the development of CAP and LUTE update including the Horizon 2035 Committee meeting that took place on July 14<sup>th</sup> and the Public Outreach meeting planned for July 22<sup>nd</sup>. In response to the inquiry of Commissioner Walz, she clarified that the Planning staff presentation to the Planning Commission was on the process with no data and/or product available at the present time. Added that the power point presentation will soon be posted on the web site, and offered that a similar staff presentation be provided during the August BPAC meeting. Also reported on public e-mails requesting street maintenance which was forwarded to the City's Street Maintenance/Lights Division, as well as provision of bicycle parking at an existing business which is the responsibility of the business with City staff support on design and standards if needed.

Commissioner Walz – Requested that the staff presentation that was provided to the Planning Commission on the LUTE and CAP process be offered to the BPAC during the August meeting. Also requested that BPAC be included in future consultation on this project.

### **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

4. City of Sunnyvale 2010 Local Appointment List for Boards and Commissions was accepted as submitted in the agenda packet.
5. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters with associated staff responses during the meeting were accepted.
6. BPAC Active Items List accepted as submitted in the Agenda packet.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Respectfully submitted by:

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