FINAL

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2011

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on April 28, 2011 with Commission Chair Patrick Walz presiding. The meeting was held in the Garden Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Members Present: Andrea Stawitcke
Angela Rausch
Cathy Switzer
David Gandrud
James Manitakos
Patrick Walz
Ralph Durham

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager, PW Department
Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner, PW Department

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Jackson noted that a representative of the Moffett Park Business Group, Ms. Kerry Haywood, is seeking volunteers to staff energizer stations on the Bike to Work Day. The Horizon 2035 Committee discussed a draft list of transportation policies, and each member had the opportunity to select her/his ten highest and ten lowest priority policies. Believes that not all members knew that the Street Space Allocation policies already exist, and these policies were listed individually which used up Mr. Jackson's high priority selections.

Chair Walz noted that he will staff an energizer station at El Camino Real/Wolfe Road on behalf of Leadership Sunnyvale, and requested volunteers and contributions towards the supplies.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the March 17, 2011 Meeting
1.B) Approval of the 2011 BPAC Calendar Update

Commissioner Durham moved and Commissioner Stawitcke seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar items 1.A) and 1.B).

Motion passed: 6-0.

Commissioner Rausch arrived at 6:55 PM due to the change in meeting location.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Jackson noted with regard to one of the e-mail messages contained in the agenda packet that the travel lanes along Tasman Drive are substandard and that cyclists have the right to use full width of the lanes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

4. DISCUSSION: VTA BEP Funding Awards

David Simons (member of the VTA BPAC) noted that the Transportation Funds for Clean Air (TFCA) program was undersubscribed. Bike/pedestrian projects applying for TFCA must meet the cost effectiveness criteria and be ready for implementation. Concerned that the list of projects applying for Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) funds were initially shared with the VTA BPAC as a discussion, and not action item.

2. DISCUSSION: Mary Avenue Bike Lanes – Central Expressway to Maude Avenue

BPAC members reiterated their preference for a road diet along this roadway segment due to:

- Mary Avenue is expected to be the main north-south cycling route through the City, and is a cost effective route in terms of implementation;
- Allow the provision of wider six-foot bike lanes all along the length of the road segment. This wider bike lane width would also exclude the side gutter, relative to the other alternative that generally offers the standard five-foot bike lane including the typical two-foot gutter which narrows the effective width of the bike lane;
- Enhance good safety conditions and encourage cycling through the provision of wider bike lanes. The wider bike lanes will also better accommodate tricycles and baby trailers;
- The provision of wider 12-foot vehicular travel lanes is not expected to significantly increase speeds, and will allow some room for drivers' error;
- Allow for break down and maintenance space on the sides of the road; and,
- Somewhat reduce construction cost relative to other alternatives.

3. DISCUSSION: Grand Boulevard Concept Planning

Chair Walz noted that VTA may form a citizen advisory committee for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project on El Camino Real and encouraged having a cycling activist from the individual cities along the corridor to be a member of such committee. Clarified the need for providing continued bike lanes along El Camino Real as the corridor travels through the different municipalities.

Staff will plan for a future presentation by VTA on the BRT project and invite Council member Moylan who presents Sunnyvale on the project's Policy Advisory Committee.

5. DISCUSSION: Utility Bill Stuffer Concepts

BPAC members selected two photos to be utilized for drafting the 2011 utility bill stuffer, and the photos will be e-mailed to staff.

6. DISCUSSION: Pastoria Avenue Bike Lanes Project

Chair Walz informed the BPAC and public members of his potential professional conflict with the project and left at 8:00 p.m.

Staff stated that the City received a grant to establish bike lanes on Pastoria Avenue possibly between Danforth Drive and Evelyn Avenue. Clarified that due to the narrow pavement width on Pastoria Avenue, the provision of bike lanes is likely to require eliminating vehicular parking and provided alternative cross-sections for possible future changes. Noted that this is an older neighborhood and the project may become controversial, and asked BPAC members for early feedback.

The BPAC members discussed the project and indicated their preference to proceed according to the City's Street Space Allocation policy. Pastoria Avenue serves a considerable amount of bicycle traffic, and observations showed aggressive driving possibly due to the narrow vehicular travel lanes.

Commissioner Simons (VTA BPAC) suggested converting the street to one way vehicular travel lane, bike lanes, and curb-side parking.

Staff noted the lack of a couplet and the possibility of diverting vehicular traffic to other neighborhood streets.

Art Schwartz suggested replacing the existing head-on angle parking with tail-end angle parking to improve visibility in the area adjacent to the community's swimming pool.

Kevin Jackson indicated that majority of the homes along Pastoria Avenue have at least three off-street parking spaces including garages and driveways. There is also curb-side parking on side streets. According to the City's policy, the minimum standards need to be met for all transportation users and currently even the auto lanes are substandard. Parking is stationary, and moving vehicles should have higher priority according to the policy. Noted that San Jose has issues with one-way couplet streets.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BOARD MEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Switzer asked for BPAC volunteers to assist her and Chair Walz during the Health and Safety Fair.

Commissioner Stawitcke noted the ongoing work on the Stevens Creek overpass on the Sunnyvale/Mountain View side.

Commissioner Gandrud indicated the need for marking the bike detectors at the intersection of Maude Avenue/Sunnyvale Avenue, and at Caribbean Drive/Twin Creeks.

Commissioner Manitakos asked if there is a plan to apply pavement markings on Sunnyvale Avenue.

Commissioner Durham noted that the travel lanes on Tasman Drive are substandard and cyclists have to use the full width of the lanes. Consequently, requested that the existing "Share the Road" signs be replaced with "Bikes Allowed Full Use of Lane" signs.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

None.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

7. Sunnyvale Family Fun Bike Ride – VERBS Kick-off Event

8. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters since circulation of the agenda packet of the March 17th meeting.

9. BPAC Active Items List.

Accepted as submitted in the agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heba El-Guendy
Senior Transportation Planner