FINAL

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2011

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on July 21, 2011 with Commission Vice Chair Ralph Durham 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
Angela Rausch
Cathy Switzer
David Gandrud
James Manitakos
Ralph Durham

Members Absent: Patrick Walz

Staff Present: Heba El-Guendy, BPAC staff liaison/Senior Transportation Planner, Department of Public Works
Officer Ava Phillips, Department of Public Safety

Visitors: Vice Mayor Jim Griffith

Chair Walz informed the BPAC Vice Chair Durham and the staff liaison in advance of his absence on a personal leave. There were no objections by the BPAC members and the Commissioner's absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Commissioner Durham requested from Officer Phillips to clarify who would have the right-of-way, a cyclist continuing straight on northbound Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road on the approach to El Camino Real versus a northbound vehicle turning right onto Sunnyvale Avenue. Also reported his observations of eastbound motorists using the center lane on Duane Avenue in order to pass eastbound cyclists traveling towards the center of the road to turn left onto San Juan Drive.

Commissioner Switzer inquired if the BPAC memo regarding enforcement of certain sections of the Municipal and Vehicle Codes has been sent to the Police Chief.

Vice Mayor Griffith indicated that it is unlikely that the memo would be forwarded to the Police Chief since it is operational in nature, which is not appropriate for BPAC or Council to guide. Referenced a conversation he had with the City Manager and BPAC Chair, and that the BPAC Chair may pursue the memo as a concerned Sunnyvale resident. Explained

his knowledge of the need to provide multi-modal traffic enforcement in order to support the complete streets design concepts. Noted that BPAC is a policy advisory Commission to Council.

Commissioner Durham clarified that the memo does not intend to criticize the operations of the Public Safety Department, but rather to relay experience of the BPAC members as pedestrians and cyclists.

A member of the public noted that BPAC provides comments on some operational matters of the Public Works Department, which could be applied to the Public Safety Department and referenced projects with BPAC's input on changes to street space allocations. Noted that there was a sign installed in 1978 for vehicles to yield for cyclists on northbound Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road as it turns into Sunnyvale Avenue. Inquired about the possibility of having Public Safety officers provide enforcement while the BPAC members take photos for the Utility Bill Insert.

Commission staff liaison clarified that changes to street space allocations are considered a policy issue, and it is staff practice to request feedback of the BPAC members on such projects. Also noted that all referenced projects were later considered by Council along with the BPAC advice to Council and staff recommendation.

Officer Phillips noted that traffic associated with special events with issued permits can be enforced. However, enforcement is not typically provided for temporary/limited gatherings.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Durham read the City Manager's news release with regard to the death of Council member Ron Swegles, and indicated his condolences to family and friends.

A member of the public noted that Sunnyvale resident Arthur Schawrtz is having another back operation. Also noted that the Horizon 2035 Committee received 31 revised transportation policies and that there will be a Horizon 2035 sub-committee formed to further review and finalize the policies. Indicated that Google is planning to construct two bridges across the Stevens Creek from their Mountain View campus. Although there are some community concerns, he is not expecting major issues. Added that there will be a four-cities committee meeting in August to continue discussing the Stevens Creek Extension.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the June 16, 2011 Meeting
1.B) Approval of the 2011 BPAC Calendar Update

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

Motion passed: 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the public circulated a folder containing educational materials that he picked during the June Moffett Field Bike Ride in the City of Mountain View. Noted one flyer in particular that encourages the public on participating and voicing their concerns with regard to traffic operational issues.

Vice Mayor Griffith noted that the Council's sub-committee on Boards and Commissions policies (Consists of Council members Griffith, Lee and Whittum) will meet the following Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Conference Room. Indicated that this is an open meeting and encouraged the BPAC members to attend the meeting, or to e-mail their comments. Discussion items will include:

- Possibility of adopting a policy for having official Council liaisons to Boards and Commissions that would be non voting members and have no influence on the recommendation of the Boards and Commissions. The intention is to act as a resource for answering questions regarding policies, budget, and other matters. Also to be aware of all comments raised during the meetings by members of the Boards/Commissions and/or the public that may not be reflected in the Action Minutes. Also to keep the meetings focused on the agenda items and minimize staff time;
- Possibility to change the policy that requires Boards and Commissions to meet in July to elect officers, even if there are no other items on the agenda;
- Forming a policy on whether or not to publish personal contact information of Board and Commission members; and,
- Possibility of extending excused absence for maternity leave, and possibly allowing paternity leave.

Noted that BPAC and the Housing and Human Services (HHS) Commission currently have an issue with regard to membership durations that may result in loosing half or more of the experienced Commission members in the same year. This could possibly be addressed by adding or moving years, which is planned as a future discussion item for the Council's sub-committee.

Commissioner Manitakos supported the idea of having Council liaisons attend the meetings of Boards and Commissions. Requested educational materials and maps to give away as he volunteers for overseeing bicycle parking at Stanford games.

Commissioner Rausch noted an article she read in the New York Times describing the City's efforts in making it difficult to drive, while encouraging walking and cycling.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. ACTION: Utility Bill Insert Update

Commission staff provided the staff report and requested specifying a couple of alternative dates and times for the BPAC members to meet with the City's Communication Officer for the purposes of taking the photos needed for this year's Utility Bill Insert. The revised circulation schedule of the insert is during the September/October cycle, which requires sending the insert for prints by August 15th.

As part of the discussion, Commissioner Stawitcke and Commissioner Switzer offered to contact friends to solicit their kids in participating in the photo shoot.

A member of the public requested to plan what the photos are supposed to show and to take into consideration lighting, traffic speeds and volumes. Also suggested showing short signal timing and that cross traffic is required to wait for all traffic within the intersection to clear before proceeding.

Commissioner Switzer moved and Commissioner Manitakos seconded the motion to approve to meet either on July 28th at 10:00 a.m. or August 1st at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Community Center.

Motion passed: 6-0.

3. ACTION: Election of Officers

Vice Mayor Griffith explained the process of electing officers and proceeding with the election of officers prior to the non-agenda items.

Heba El-Guendy noted Chair Walz's e-mail request not to be nominated for Chair or Vice Chair of the Commission.

BPAC member Ralph Durham received majority votes for his nomination as the Chair, and BPAC member James Manitakos received majority votes for his nomination as the Vice Chair.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BOARD MEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Gandrud inquired about potential impacts on pedestrian and bicycle traffic to be caused by the new 49rs stadium planned for establishment in the City of Santa Clara. Also suggested finding ways, such as compactors, to smooth out where slurry sealing is applied to the pavement.

Commission staff liaison noted the staff's review of the 49er's project EIR and the ongoing communication with VTA with regard to the need for additional transit services to serve the proposed stadium. Also noted that it is likely that there will be a need for additional police enforcement on the part of the City of Sunnyvale, which is not currently funded.

Vice Mayor Griffith noted his concerns with regard to some of the EIR assumptions regarding having a few streets serving most vehicular traffic, assuming that majority of the patrons would have season tickets and ride the light rail, and that there would be no parking impacts. Also noted the limited influence that Sunnyvale would have on developments in neighboring cities and the need to be a good neighbor.

Commissioner Switzer requested signs along the greenbelt and at the crossing locations of the streets. Expressed concerns with regard to the roughness of pavement surface along Borregas Avenue, versus Washington Avenue which is very smooth to ride on.

Vice Mayor Griffith suggested addressing this request as a study issue.

Commission staff liaison clarified that this matter is already on the staff work program as part of the second phase of establishing the Neighborhood Bike Routes, and the establishment of East Channel Trail at its connection with the greenbelt.

Commissioner Durham noted the Apple project in Cupertino, and the need for providing standard bike lane width on Homestead Road.

Commissioner Manitakos requested keeping track of work quality of pavement contractors as a performance measure. Also suggested reviewing the possibility of establishing reverse angle parking as a study issue to assist in providing improved sight lines.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

None provided.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

3. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters. Accepted as submitted.

4. BPAC Active Items List. Accepted as submitted, with the staff liaison noting the new City application for infrastructure improvements under Cycle 3 of the Federal Safe Routes to Schools.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heba El-Guendy
Senior Transportation Planner