



DRAFT

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2011

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on November 17, 2011 with Commission 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 Manidakos
Patrick Walz
Ralph Durham

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Heba El-Guendy, BPAC staff liaison/Senior Transportation Planner, Department of Public Works
Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Division Manager, Department of Public Works
Officer Ava Phillips, Department of Public Safety

Visitors: Kevin Jackson, Horizon 2035 Committee member
Arthur Schwartz, Sunnyvale resident

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Chair Durham noted his observation of a cyclist riding a bicycle equipped with a small two stroke engine (believes sub 50cc) using the bike lane, and inquired if such bicycles are allowed legally to use the bike lanes.

Vice Chair Manidakos believes that such motorized bicycles (with internal combustion rather than electric motor) are not allowed in the bike lanes and are considered motorized vehicles, and that they would still be licensed as bicycles.

Officer Philips will check all applicable code sections in this regard for follow-up feedback.

Kevin Jackson indicated that having DPS officers attend the school safety planning meetings was useful and appreciated.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Jackson noted that the "Bicycles may use full lane width" sign is part of the CA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) update which is expected to be officially adopted in January 2012. With regards to the safe routes to schools program, indicated that all planning

meetings for this year have been completed and that the team started conducting workshops for training parents and schools representatives on the different initiatives that could increase walking and cycling. The Horizon 2035 Committee's work on the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) update and Climate Action Plan (CAP) was carried out with the intention to be transformational, and the work will be reviewed in the study session scheduled for November 29th and encouraged participation of all BPAC members. A couple of articles noted that the City of San Jose is implementing the 15 miles/hour speed limit in school zones, and hopes that the City of Sunnyvale would proceed with the same.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the October 20, 2011 Meeting
- 1.B) Approval of the 2011 BPAC Calendar Update

Public member Kevin Jackson pulled item 1.A).

Vice Chair Manitakos moved and Commissioner Switzer seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar item 1.B).

Motion passed: 7-0.

Commissioner Switzer inquired about the rationale of setting the BPAC Work Plan based on a calendar year rather than fiscal year and the possibility of changing it to be consistent with timing of some projects and members' terms.

Heba El-Guendy, staff liaison, noted that all calendars for Council, Commissions and Boards are consistently set based on calendar year. The study issue process is also set based on calendar year. Indicated that she will pass on the Commissioner's inquiry and request to the City Clerk's Office.

Kevin Jackson requested revising last paragraph of the first page to indicate: "Kevin Jackson noted that the officer who attended the meeting at Braly Elementary school *inaccurately* ~~falsely~~ indicated that cycling is not allowed on the sidewalks in Sunnyvale, and requested that officers be informed of the City's municipal code in this regard".

Commissioner Rausch moved and Commissioner Stawitcke seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar item 1.A) as amended.

Motion passed: 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

- 2. ACTION: Update/Review Corner Vision Triangle Municipal Code Ordinance – Study Issue DPW 09-02 (Draft RTC)

Jack Witthaus provided the staff report in light of the Draft Report to Council (RTC) included as part of the agenda packet and explained the rationale behind the staff recommendations. Noted that

the Draft RTC was reviewed by the Planning Commission and was voted 6-0 (With one of the Planning Commission members being absent) in favor of the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Walz inquired if City Planning would want exceptions to fencing, possibility of lengthening the no parking zones when there are no sidewalks, and consideration of including other multi-use/higher density areas in addition to the El Camino Precise Plan. Also inquired how prohibiting parking could impact the City's resources and communities, and if there would be a need for environmental analysis associated with such change.

Commissioner Gandrud inquired about the City's process with regard to code enforcement of vision triangle violations. Recommended against the increase in object height in the vision triangle from 3.0 feet to 3.5 feet due to safety consideration such as the ability to see toddlers. Also recommended that the triangle lines be extended out to the street edges, thereby identifying limits of the no parking zones. Also to consider prohibiting parking at driveways, not just intersections, due to safety concerns and suggested that the driveway vision triangle be measured at 8 feet from and parallel to the curb.

Commissioner Rausch recommended adding language to cover parking prohibition at the corners of uncontrolled, as well as yield and stop controlled intersections.

Commissioner Stawitcke emphasized Commissioner Rausch's above comment especially in school areas. Inquired about the approximate percentage of streets within Sunnyvale that presently lack sidewalks.

Commissioner Switzer inquired about the types of new developments that would be impacted by the proposed ordinance. Requested not to increase the obstruction height to 3.5 feet.

Vice Chair Manidakos asked how the vision triangles are measured at T-intersections. Also inquired about the application and enforcement of the ordinance, and noted that there may not be corrective measures if buildings are located within the vision triangles.

Chair Durham inquired about measurements from the edge of street relative to the property line, and whether or not some fences located within the vision triangles were permitted or grand fathered. Recommended that parking prohibition be a priority on roadways with higher speeds such as arterials and collectors.

Arthur Schwartz noted his agreement with the need for prohibiting parking at driveways and intersections, and added alleyways. Noted that since he started using a tricycle, he has not been harassed by drivers.

Kevin Jackson noted that debris bins should not be allowed in the vision triangles similar to vehicular parking. In commenting on components of the Draft RTC, noted that the reported collisions do not capture close calls which could be more frequent. With regard to vision triangles at driveways of larger development sites, requested researching additional factors besides the 100 on-site parking stalls. Noted that the 20 feet parking prohibition at signalized intersections was probably based on the motorists need only, and requested adding non-signalized intersections. Noted that allowing buildings within the vision triangles could adversely impact safety for right turns on red signal. With regard to Alternative 1: requested adding redevelopment projects not just new developments, adding intersections with stop and yield control and base the associated parking prohibitions on vehicular speeds and volumes, keeping the height of obstruction at 3 feet, and requiring that BPAC review requested exceptions to fencing and such in the vision triangles.

Commissioner Walz moved and Vice Chair Manitakos seconded the motion to approve Alternative 1 with the amendments shown in *Italic* font and strikethrough:

1. Direct staff to prepare a revision to the SMC to include the following provisions related to intersection and driveway sight triangles:
 - a. ~~New land d~~Developments *projects requiring a permit with having* 100 or more parking spaces shall be required to adhere to a 40 foot driveway vision triangle standard.
 - b. Signalized intersections shall provide no parking zones of 20 feet from curb returns, consistent with the parking restriction standards of the California MUTCD. *Add non-signalized intersections.*
 - c. Fences, hedges or any other obstructions more than ~~3.5~~ 3.0 feet in height shall be prohibited in vision triangles.
 - d. Exceptions to vision triangle requirements shall be allowed for ~~wrought iron open fencing~~, fence posts spaced 8 feet apart and not higher than 4.5 feet, one tree with a typical trunk circumference of thirty eight inches at maturity, and buildings at all way stop controlled or signalized intersections located in the El Camino Precise Plan area.
 - e. The driveway vision triangle shall be measured from the back of sidewalk or from the property line where no sidewalk exists.

Motion passed: 7-0.

Vice Chair Manitakos moved and Commissioner Walz seconded a follow on motion to recommend that Council consider a study issue that assesses establishing parking prohibition at driveways, alleyways and intersections.

Motion passed: 7-0.

3. ACTION: Ranking of Study Issues

The following comments and recommendations were provided on some of the study issues:

DPW 09-07: Vice Chair Manitakos questioned the applicability of Cyclovia within Sunnyvale and its practicality in light of current economic conditions. Commissioner Switzer requested combining Cyclovia with an event such as the City's centennial celebration next year.

DPW 12-01: Vice Chair Manitakos and Chair Durham emphasized the importance of developing a Bicyclist Anti-Harassment Ordinance in order to address ongoing safety concerns, and referenced their e-mailed comments which were included as part of the agenda packet. Vice Chair Manitakos noted that the burden of proof is on the plaintiff with possible award of monetary damages, thereby reducing the need for DPS reporting.

Kevin Jackson noted that the value is not only in the punitive damage, but also in the deterrence effect. Disagrees with the staff recommendation and requested that the study issue write-up be reviewed by the City Attorney. Recommended ranking this issue highly.

DPW 12-02: Commissioner Walz recommended eliminating the referenced installation of flashing beacons to reduce the cost of implementing the 15 miles per hour speed limit reduction in school zones. Commissioner Gandrud noted that this is a policy issue not an operational issue.

Kevin Jackson disagrees with the staff recommendation that it is an operational issue since the City would need to enact an ordinance or resolution which would have to be approved by Council. Recommended ranking this study issue highly to address school safety concerns.

DPW 12-03: Vice Chair Manidakos recommended implementing colored bike lanes as part of road resurfacing projects to reduce their implementation costs. Also recommended utilizing colored pavement rather than painting the bike lanes, since painting would have lower friction and require more frequent maintenance. Chair Durham noted its applicability mainly at conflict locations, rather than all along bicycle lanes throughout the City.

Kevin Jackson disagrees with the staff recommendation, and recommended funding its application through grants. Noted the need for changing the title to Green Bike Lanes because the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People may object to the title Colored Bike Lanes.

DPW 12-04: Commissioner Gandrud requested changing the title to "Establish a Bicycle Violation Diversion Program for Adults" to clarify the process differences in the adults versus juvenile programs.

Study Issue	Score	Rank	BPAC Recommendation
DPW 09-01: Comprehensive School Traffic Study	32	4	Forward for Council consideration
DPW 09-04: Impacts of Traffic Calming Devices on Cyclists	35	5	Defer to a future year
DPW 09-07: Sunnyvale Cyclovia Event	44	7	Defer to a future year
DPW 12-01: Bicyclist Anti-Harassment Ordinance	12	1	Forward for Council consideration
DPW 12-02: Establishment of 15 Miles Per Hour School Zones and Flashing Warning Signs	12	1	Forward for Council consideration
DPW 12-03: Conditions for the Installation of Colored Bicycle Lanes	26	3	Forward for Council consideration
DPS 12-04: Expansion of Bicycle Violation Diversion Classes	35	5	Defer to a future year

Commissioner Walz moved and Vice Chair Manidakos seconded the motion to recommend moving only the top four ranked study issues (i.e. DPW 12-01, DPW 12-02, DPW 12-03 and DPW 09-01) for Council consideration. This is with the understanding that study issues previously deferred by Council (i.e. DPW 09-04 and DPW 09-07) will have to return for Council consideration as per process. Also in consideration of their aforementioned recommended measures to reduce the cost of implementing DPW 12-02 and DPW 12-03.

Motion passed: 7-0.

4. DISCUSSION: BPAC's Review Schedule of Study and Budget Issues

Following a brief discussion among the BPAC members, it was agreed that the brainstorming of study and budget issues be regularly conducted during the April and June meetings, followed by BPAC review of the issue papers in August, the finalization of all draft issues would be in September, and the ranking of study issues would be in November.

The staff liaison will prepare the 2012 Work Plan according to the aforementioned schedule.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- **BOARD MEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner Switzer provided copies of the Bicycle Friendly America (A League of American Bicyclists publication) and requested that they would be forwarded to City Council. The publication references the City of Sunnyvale as one of the communities that received a "Bronze" Bicycle Friendly Award from 2008 to 2012. The Commissioner requested that the City strive for a "Silver" award in the coming year.

Commissioner Stawitcke inquired about the need for holding the December BPAC meeting in light of the limited number of agenda items. All BPAC members chose to cancel the December 15th, 2011 meeting.

Chair Durham and Commissioner Rausch noted their inability to attend the Council study session on November 29th due to other schedule commitments.

- **STAFF ORAL COMMENTS**

Heba El-Guendy, staff liaison, requested that all public requests be submitted through the BPAC web page rather than e-mailing the BPAC members directly.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

3. Walk and Roll – Safe Routes to Schools training session. Accepted as submitted.
4. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters since circulation of the agenda packet of the October 20th meeting. Accepted as submitted.
5. BPAC Active Items List. Accepted as submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heba El-Guendy
Senior Transportation Planner