



SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2013

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:33 p.m. on July 18, 2013 with Commission Chair James Manidakos presiding. The meeting was held in the West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Members Present: James Manidakos
Kevin Jackson
Richard Kolber
Angela Rausch
Cathy Switzer

Members Absent: Kyle Welch
David Jones

Council Liaison Present: None.

Staff Present: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager, Department of Public Works

Visitors: Art Schwartz
Garth Williams, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Board member
Ralph Durham

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jackson announced a County adaptive signal study. He expressed concern about maximum meter vehicle timing, detection extension for bikes, the outcome of failing detectors, short green times for bikes, what happens in multiple bike events, and whether time continues to be extended. Commissioner Jackson also announced the initiation of the Bike Share Program.

Commissioner Rausch distributed a Bike Share Program article.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of the Draft Minutes of June 20, 2013 Meeting
- 1.B) Updated 2013 BPAC Calendar

Motion by Manidakos, second Switzer to approve the consent calendar. Motion approved, 5-0.



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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Schwartz apologized for not attending meetings, and announced that he plans to attend future meetings.

Ralph Durham stated that on westbound California between Frances Street and San Anselmo Way, there is a failed curb that is a hazard to bikes, and that on W. Maude Avenue from N. Mathilda Avenue to N. Pastoria Avenue there is no bike space near the LinkedIn campus. Mr. Durham also stated that timing on westbound Maude to southbound Mary is insufficient for bikes.

Garth Williams, a Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Board member, distributed their annual report. Mr. Williams also announced the Trailblazer Race at La Avenida on September 29 and provided the Board's website address for more information: www.stevenscreektrail.org.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Review and Make a Recommendation on a Duane Avenue Street Space Allocation Study

Chair Manidakos stated that the report was good, and that the traffic volume is sufficient to install bike lanes. He suggested that the project include words and arrows for pavement legends in addition to the bicyclist symbol.

Commissioner Jackson stated that he thought the report over-considered parking, and stated that he thinks a discussion of mode shift due to bike lane installation should be included, which may reduce anticipated motor vehicle traffic volume. He also noted that lanes are not narrower, and that there is no potential to reduce speeds due to side friction. He suggested implementation of 20 foot parking restrictions at controlled intersections as part of the project, in order to improve safety.

Commissioner Switzer asked to verify the street space policy adoption date, and suggested considering crosswalks near the montessori school.

The public hearing was opened. Art Schwartz stated that he appreciates the Remington Drive – Spinosa Drive crosswalk.

Ralph Durham stated that he would like cross sections of options, and stated that he lives near the area, which has a 4 lane configuration that contributes to visibility issues, congestion and collisions. He also stated that left turns made from San Luisito and San Juan have sight distance problems, and that a red zone used to be present at San Luisito, but has since faded out. Mr. Durham also stated that speeds are very high; that a crosswalk is needed to serve the bus stop at San Luisito; and that parking on Duane Avenue near Fair Oaks Avenue should be eliminated due to the lack of room for bike lanes. Mr. Durham also stated that he supports Alternative 1. He has been harassed by motorists when riding on Duane Avenue.

Chair Manidakos stated that the 4 lane configuration encourages speeding, and a 3 lane configuration will calm traffic.

Commissioner Jackson stated that parking should be a lesser concern per Council policy and that providing complete bike lanes should be the priority.

In response to Chair Manidakos' inquiry about a crosswalk at San Luisito, Staff stated that a crosswalk study was conducted recently, and the location did not meet warrants.

Motion by Chair Manidakos, second by Commissioner Switzer to support staff recommendation.

Commissioner Jackson friendly amendment to put parking restrictions at intersections, accepted. Motion carries, 5-0.

3. Review and Make a Recommendation on a Mary Avenue Street Space Allocation Study

Staff summarized the recommendation.

Chair Manidakos inquired about 6 ft. lanes. Staff stated this was likely not possible between Evelyn Avenue and Central Expressway.

Chair Manidakos stated that at El Camino Real and Evelyn Avenue parking removal is justified, and that at Evelyn Avenue and Central Expressway there is a pinch point. He noted that northbound right turns at Central are difficult for bikes. He also stated that southbound at Evelyn Avenue right turns are heavy and bikes cannot see the programmed visibility signal. Chair Manidakos suggested a light targeted at bikes. He also stated that the RTC is a little confusing and needs to present all four segments only. He stated that street cross sections should be presented by street segment.

Commissioner Jackson noted that on page 32, the web site terminology differs from references in RTC, and that on page 34 he disagrees with the statement that street space policies conflict. He believes near El Camino Real bike lanes are 5 feet northbound and southbound, and recommends narrower travel lanes. Commissioner Jackson also expressed the need for clear demarcation of beginning of parking lanes. He stated that near Bidwell bike lanes are 5 feet on one side and 9 feet on the other, and on southbound Mary bike lanes are 4.5 feet. Commissioner Jackson stated that he would like to see 20 feet parking buffers implemented at intersections in order to improve safety, suggested constructing 1 foot gutters in areas where 6 foot bike lanes cannot be provided, and also suggested radar speed feedback signs.

Commissioner Switzer suggested considering crosswalks and other pedestrian safety improvements.

The public hearing was opened. Art Schwartz stated that cars are cutting corners at intersections and believes cars at signalized intersections will trip through green when turning right. Mr. Schwartz stated that he thinks lane dividers should be provided.

Commissioner Jackson stated that it is difficult for bicycles to see delineators.

Mr. Durham stated that he supports El Camino Real to Fremont Avenue lanes, and thinks variable width lanes north of El Camino will be a good improvement. He also suggested squaring off lanes at parking transitions, and recommended colored bike lanes at right turn transitions. Mr. Durham also suggested at the train tracks consider a bike box southbound on the south side of railroad tracks.

Commissioner Switzer stated that she supports green lanes, and supports considering them at right turn lanes.

Motion by Chair Manidakos to support the staff recommendation with the added provision to provide a design that maximizes 6 foot bike lanes and provide colored bike lanes at intersection turn lanes.

Commissioner Jackson second. Friendly amendment by Jackson, to provide a 1 foot gutter if 6 foot bike lanes cannot be achieved. Commissioner Jackson also stated that when bike lanes are adjacent to on-street parking they should be 6 feet wide, the project should implement 20 feet parking restriction at intersections, speed feedback signs, Begin right turn lane, Yield to Bikes signs, and clearly delineate the beginning of parking lanes.

Chair Manidakos stated that he does not accept gutter narrowing or speed feedback signs.

Commissioner Kolber discussed the effectiveness of speed feedback signs.

Motion approved, 5-0 as amended.

4. Election of Officers

For Chair, Commissioner Rausch nominated Commissioner Switzer. Commissioner Switzer declined.

Commissioners Jackson and Switzer nominated Chair Manidakos. Chair Manidakos accepted. Nomination approved unanimously, 5-0.

For Vice Chair, Commissioner Kolber requested that the Vice Chair be someone who will not be termed out within the next year. Chair Manidakos nominated Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Rausch leaves at 8:04 PM. Nomination approved, 4-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Chair Manidakos and Commissioner Switzer announced that they are out of town in August.

Commissioner Switzer stated that the City of Fremont cracked down on autos passing on the right using bike lanes.

Staff responded to an inquiry regarding trucks.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

1. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters since circulation of the agenda packet of the June 20, 2013 meeting.

2. BPAC Active Items List.

Accepted as submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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