Consent Calendar 1.A)

DRAFT

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

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

ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Members Present: Kevin Jackson
Andrea Stawitcke
Cathy Switzer
James Manitakos
Patrick Walz
Ralph Durham
Richard Warner

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Acting Lieutenant Andrew Laveroni, Traffic Unit, DPS
Jack Witthaus, Transportation & Traffic Manager, DPW
Heba El-Guendy, Sr. Transportation Planner, Transportation & Traffic Division, DPW

Visitors: Patrick Grant – Sunnyvale resident

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Acting Lieutenant Andrew Laveroni – Provided general information on trends in reported collisions. A comparison between the total number of collisions (involving motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists) that were reported during the period of January 1 through April 13, 2009 with the same period in 2010 showed that the number of collisions decreased from 491 to 421. Collisions involving cyclists during the study period in 2009 were 20 relative to 12 collisions involving cyclists in 2010. This shows that DPS has been successfully working towards their goal to reduce the overall number of collisions including the number of collisions involving cyclists. The review of collision statistics did not show specific trends with regard to the collision locations. Three of the 12 bicycle related collisions in 2010 took place on El Camino Real/SR 82, but at various

sections of the road. In addition noted that as of the following Monday, Lieutenant Jeffrey Plecque will be in charge of the Traffic Unit and will attend the BPAC meetings.

Chair Jackson – Noted his concerns with regard to safety in school areas including concerns caused by distracted motorists, and offered BPAC assistance if they could assist the DPS on this matter. Noted a column written by Gary Richard with regard to the increase in fines of various infractions, and inquired about the feasibility of increasing fines in school zones and publicizing such change. Indicated that Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) has opening in April and May to carry out school safety reviews, but it is up to the schools to approach TSCN. Added that Cupertino Middle and West Valley Elementary schools in particular are in need of the TSCN assessments, and that he is working with some of the parents to encourage them along with the schools on approaching TSCN. Indicated that the TSCN work mainly targets the kids' behavior, but there is still a need for addressing the drivers' behavior. Inquired about a proposal that went to Council for upgrading the intersection control at Wright/The Dalles to an all-way stop control. Also inquired about the TDM study issue which has a 2011 due date for completion.

Jack Witthaus – Noted that staff reviewed this intersection, and the stop control is not warranted. Clarified that carrying out the TDM study issue is subject to budget consideration which will be decided by Council at the end of June 2010.

Commissioner Stawitcke – Indicated that her neighborhood has traffic issues associated with the Stratford School, and that their Cherry Hill Community Association took the initiative of working with DPS on these traffic issues. Noted that areas of Cupertino Middle and West Valley Elementary schools could possibly take a similar approach.

Commissioner Switzer – Noted that she had to contact DPS at phone number (408) 730-7110 because of a parcel van that was following her too close and endangering her safety while cycling. Added that she is very pleased of the fact that a police officer arrived within 15 minutes and talked to the van driver/owner to encourage him to drive safely around cyclists, which has been effective in discouraging him from repeating such driving behavior.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Walz – Indicated that Leadership Sunnyvale will be hosting an energizer station on Bike to Work Day at the southeast corner of Wolfe/El Camino Real and invited the BPAC members to visit the station.

Chair Jackson – Noted that Kerry Haywood, Executive Director of the MPBTA, is looking into the possibility of setting up an energizer station at the northerly Borregas bicycle/pedestrian bridge and that she is looking for volunteers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the March 18, 2010 Meeting
1.B) Approval of Agenda of the April 15, 2010 Meeting
1.C) Approval of the 2010 BPAC Calendar Update

Commissioner Walz moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Durham to approve Consent Calendar items 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 7-0.

Commissioner Durham – Requested revising the paragraph before last to clarify on Page 6 of the minutes to indicate "-----. ~~Noted that the trees on Mary Avenue between Central Expressway and Maude Avenue need to be trimmed~~. *Noted that the road is damaged by tree roots in the northbound direction of Mary Avenue between Corte Madera Avenue and Maude Avenue*".

Commissioner Durham moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Walz to approve Consent Calendar item 1.A) as amended. Motion was passed 7-0.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Grant – Noted that Mr. Fritz Stawitcke, Sunnyvale resident, clarified that ivy is toxic to the wildlife and water of a creek, and that constructing a trail along the Butter Creek provided the opportunity to remove such ivy. Similarly, about 40% of the Stevens Creek area has ivy that has to be routinely removed and that constructing a trail can be a mechanism for controlling such issue.

Chair Jackson – Noted the need for developing knowledge and consideration of the environmental impacts when deciding on the Stevens Creek Trail project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. ACTION: Draft RTC – Consideration of Bordeaux Drive Street Space Allocation Study

Chair Jackson – Commended staff on the initiative to coordinate road resurfacing with a bicycle project, and noted his hope that this would be one of many future initiatives in order to speed up the process of implementing bicycle projects in a cost effective manner for the City.

Jack Witthaus – Presented the staff report on this agenda item and indicated that the street space allocation policy aims at accommodating all transport modes as a higher priority over non-transport modes such as parking. Noted that the current proposal is evaluating a curb to curb street width along the segment of Bordeaux Drive between Moffett Park Drive and Java Drive which is scheduled for resurfacing. There are currently no funds available for constructing sidewalks, but the City has a funding program for providing sidewalks along this road segment in the future. The evaluated alternatives are: (1) One vehicular travel lane per direction, center two-way left-turn lane, and bike lanes; (2) One travel lane per direction, bike lanes and alternate street parking intended for the purpose of traffic calming; and, (3) One travel lane per direction, bike lanes, and parking on both sides of the street. Indicated that staff reviewed the vehicular traffic volumes and speeds, and each of the three alternatives can accommodate the traffic demand. Added that the staff's analysis did not cover the operational Level of Service (LOS) which is not of concern. Also indicated that based on observations, there is no demand for street parking and that there is adequate off-street supply of parking. It should be noted however that a number of area businesses are currently vacant. There is no collision history in this area. City staff consulted with property owners and received a mix of responses (Nine out the 15 property owners responded). Staff also conducted a public web survey publicized through community groups and others. Until April 14, 2010, results of this recent web survey showed that 54 respondents (83%) are in favor of Alternative #1, 7 respondents (11%) are in favor of Alternative #2, and 4 respondents (6%) are in favor of Alternative #3. Noted that the draft staff report to Council currently recommends Alternative #2, but this is open for discussion based on the new survey results and BPAC input. Added that a parking arrangement similar to Alternative #2 has been effective in reducing the vehicular traffic speeds and collisions on Wolfe Road.

Commissioner Walz – Indicated that the issue with Wolf Road is that parked cars encroach within the bike lanes at the limits of the alternate parking space, and inquired if there are devices that can discourage motorists from such parking violations.

Jack Witthaus – Noted his concerns about the use of physical devices that can be hit by cars and constitute a safety hazard, and suggested using raised delineators which are not aesthetically pleasing.

Commissioner Manitakos – Raised his concerns with regard to Alternative #2 because motorists have a tendency to drive straight and ignore painted lines on the road. Added that he does not believe that the traffic calming effect in this case justifies the bicycle hazard that will be created. Added an option that was not reviewed which is to provide parking only on the west side of the road, while providing regular/straight vehicular travel lanes and bike lanes.

Chair Jackson – Noted his discomfort with Alternative #3, and having cars on both sides of traveling cyclists (cars in the travel lane on one side and parked cars on the other side), and prefers the provision of a shoulder that can be used as a refuge for cyclists. Also noted his disagreement with Alternative #2 and added that if speeding is a concern, traffic calming can be achieved through the use of known calming devices

rather than weaving and unreliable street parking. Added that weaving lines on the road suggests slower speeds, but does not require motorists to slow down and can cause some level of discomfort and discourage un-experienced cyclists. Noted that the policy calls for meeting at least the minimum safety standards for all street facilities. Added his believe that after meeting the minimum standards, all transport modes and parking should compete for any additional space. Indicated that it is important to provide an extra safety margin for cyclists because: They are more vulnerable road users, it is the City's goal to encourage cycling not merely tolerate it, it costs very little to create a significant positive impact on cyclists' safety, and cycling has been neglected for a long time and we need to make up for lost time. Suggested splitting the 40-foot pavement width in order to provide 13-foot travel lane, 5-foot bike lane, and 4-foot shoulder for pedestrians on each side. An alternative is to construct a center median rather than the unnecessary center turn-lane, while providing vehicular travel and bike lanes.

Commissioner Durham - Noted that it is difficult for vehicles to follow weaving lines and can be upsetting to some drivers. Emphasized the need for a center turn lane to avoid cars weaving and traveling in the bike lanes to avoid cars that are waiting to turn. Noted that he is in favor of the idea to provide parking on one side of the road to avoid cars parking in the bike lanes in order to drop-off passengers, etc.

Commissioner Warner – Noted that he used to work in this area and traveled on Bordeaux Drive on a regular basis, and that there was never a demand for street parking even when most businesses were occupied. Also indicated that there are two horizontal curves along this street already, and that the proposed weaving parking arrangement would not be effective in slowing down traffic.

Jack Witthaus – Noted that a review of an additional alternative at this time could present a timing issue for staff. Added that there is no flexibility in the paving schedule and the street cannot be left without pavement marking for a lengthy duration.

Patrick Grant – Commended the staff's work and indicated that the bike lanes can be used as safer space for pedestrian movements. Noted the presence of the West Canal in the City's bike path plans and the need for preserving good visibility conditions.

Commissioner Walz – Noted his concerns with the proposal to provide bike lanes and pedestrian shoulders because drivers would utilize the 9-foot width as a second travel lane. Discouraged the creation of a new alternative that may delay the process and the feasibility of implementing the project.

Jack Witthaus – Raised his concerns with regard to American with Disability (ADA) requirements even if the shoulders are not officially pedestrian space. Also that cars could use the bike lane and shoulder for parking or as a second travel lane.

Commissioner Walz moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Switzer to recommend that the City Council approve an option to provide a center turn lane, travel lanes, and bike lanes (i.e. Alternative #1 in the survey). Motion was passed 7-0.

Jack Witthaus – Noted his appreciation of the debate and added that staff will change the recommendation to match the BPAC's motion.

3. DISCUSSION: Study Issue – Establishment of Guided Bicycle Routes Through Neighborhoods

Two maps illustrating the BPAC recommendations and the staff recommendations were included as part of the agenda packet.

Jack Witthaus – Noted that staff was trying to establish a grid of bicycle routes that can function as alternatives to the arterial streets, rather than establishing routes aimed at certain destinations.

Commissioner Manitakos – Indicated his concern with cyclists that are not familiar with the City following the proposed signage to travel on neighborhood and slow streets to destinations rather than using the major bicycle corridors that lack directional signs. Added that the signs need to be clear to differentiate between the slow relative to the major bicycle routes in order to avoid unintended diversion of bicycle traffic. Suggested double checking the Helen Avenue – Tamarack Lane connection. Requested to include this study issue on the agenda of the May BPAC meeting to allow for additional review by the Commission members.

Patrick Grant – Showed sign concepts of "Neighborhood bicycle routes" that were reviewed in the past. Noted concerns with regard to bike routes that force cyclists to cross at mid-block locations such as proposed by staff at Remington west of Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road.

Chair Jackson - Suggested defining the signs as intra-city routes

Commissioner Switzer – Requested adding a bike route on California Avenue.

The BPAC members showed general support of the staff recommendations and will be e-mailing the staff liaison some additional feedback.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Switzer – Indicated that she will be on vacation during the month of May and will not be able to attend the BPAC meeting.

Commissioner Warner – Noted some maintenance issues regarding roadway conditions on Bordeaux Drive and water accumulation, as well as the tree growth and damaged sidewalk on eastbound Moffett Park Drive east of Bordeaux Drive.
Commissioner Warner – Noted that Oprah Winfrey has been calling for dedicating April 30th as a National No Cell Phone Day.

Commissioner Switzer - Inquired if Murphy Avenue will be closed for vehicular traffic.

Commissioner Walz – Noted the possibility of inviting the President of the Downtown Association to the May BPAC meeting to discus the possibility and effects of closing Murphy Avenue. Provided an update on the General Plan (GP) Consolidation including:

- The official GP document will still be a paper copy, while staff will research ways to make the GP more interactive on line such as a series of flash documents;
- Decided on the GP framework and the Sunnyvale Community Vision is likely to become the document's introduction,
- Will decide in future meetings on the goals, policies and action statements along with the messages that they are intended to convey;
- Will decide on the extent of offering background information and details; and,
- Whenever two different elements conflict, the Committee members will have the opportunity to select the one that is consistent with the Vision.

Chair Jackson – Noted that one of the bike lockers by the library is being regularly locked while being empty. Suggested reviewing the possibility of adding bike lockers since the old library drop-off area is no longer being used.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

E-mail inquiries received from the public were provided as part of the Agenda packet.

Heba El-Guendy - Provided brief information with regard to staff and consulting team progress on the Land Use and Transportation Element Update including the ongoing work on validating the traffic model.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

4. BPAC E-mail Messages and/or letters along with associated staff responses were accepted as submitted in the Agenda packet.

5. BPAC Active Items List accepted as submitted in the Agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission Master Work Plan

Calendar Year: 2010

List all regularly scheduled board/commission meetings, annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials, specific issues identified in the Tentative Council Meeting Agenda Calendar, and routine assignments specific to each board or commission.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item/Issue
January 21	- 2010 BPAC Calendar - Sunnyvale Works Program (Staff briefing) - Annual Review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List (Information item)
February 18	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Appointment to the VTA BPAC - Council ranking of Study Issues (Information item) - FY 2010/11 Curb Ramp Installation List (Information item) - US Bike Route System (Information item) - 2010-11 Expressway Pedestrian Projects Program (Information item) - 2010 Earth Day (Information item) - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)
March 18	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Public presentation on Public Access to Urban Creeks and Wildlife Compatibility - PS Department staff update on reported collisions - Study Issue – Establishment of Guided Bicycle Routes Through Neighborhoods - Utility Bill Stuffer Concepts - FY 2010/11 Road Resurfacing List (Information item) - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item/Issue
April 15	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Study Issue – Establishment of Guided Bicycle Routes Through Neighborhoods - Consideration of Bordeaux Drive Street Space Allocation Study – Draft RTC - Update on the General Plan Consolidation - Staff update on the ongoing work on the LUTE - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)
May 20	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Review of the Detailed Two-Year Budget - Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Application for Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects – Draft RTC & Resolution - Draft Utility Bill Stuffer - Update on the General Plan Consolidation - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)
June 17	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Volunteer Recognition - Update on the General Plan Consolidation - Staff update on the ongoing work on the LUTE - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)
July 15	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Annual Review of the Boards and Commissions Council Policy - Study and Budget Issues Development - Handbook for the City of Sunnyvale Boards and Commissions (Information item) - Update on the General Plan Consolidation - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item) - Election of Officers (This is an Action item to be addressed at the end of the meeting)
August 19	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Staff update on the ongoing work on the LUTE - Study Issue – Establishment of Guided Bicycle Routes Through Neighborhoods - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item/Issue
September 16	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Study and Budget Issues Finalization - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List Update (Information item)
October 21	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Staff update on the ongoing work on the LUTE - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List (Information item)
November 18	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - Ranking of Study Issues and Review of Budget Issues - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List (Information item)
December 16	- Updated 2010 BPAC Calendar - 2011 Work Plan - Staff update on the ongoing work on the LUTE - BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters (Information item) - BPAC Active Items List (Information item)