



## **BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairperson Wadler, Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present**

Anna Brunzell  
John Carpenter  
Bruce Entin  
Carl Hagenmaier  
William Manry  
Thomas Muniz  
Bill Reisinger  
Norma Rome  
David Simons  
Jim Stallman  
John Sullivan  
Richard Swent, Vice Chairperson  
Bart Thielges  
Herman Wadler, Chairperson  
Joe Walton

##### **Representative Cities**

City of Los Altos Hills  
City of Mountain View  
Town of Los Gatos  
City of Los Altos  
City of Monte Sereno  
City of Gilroy  
City of Milpitas  
City of Morgan Hill  
City of Sunnyvale  
City of Saratoga  
City of Santa Clara  
City of Palo Alto  
City of San Jose  
City of Campbell  
City of Cupertino

##### **Members Absent**

None

##### **Representative Cities**

**A quorum was present.**

## 2. **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Chairperson Wadler requested **Agenda Item #10.**, Lifeline Transportation Program: Status Update, Program Changes and Call-for-Projects be taken out of order and heard after **Agenda Item #7.**, Minutes of February 10, 2007.

M/S/C (Walton/Brunzell) to approve Orders of the Day.

## 3. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Akos Szoboszlay, President, Modern Transit Society, requested that his presentation titled: "Pedestrian along Expressways, Facilities, and Policies" be agendized on a subsequent agenda.

Mr. Szoboszlay expressed concern that the information provided by County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department Staff to the BPAC was misleading and false.

Chairperson Wadler explained VTA's Policies and Procedures when members of the public request to agendize an item of business for discussion and/or action on a subsequent agenda.

M/S/C (Stallman/Swent) to agendize Mr. Szoboszlay's presentation on a future agenda.

Member Hagenmaier requested clarification on the procedure for agendizing public speaker's item of business in a subsequent agenda. Discussion ensued regarding proper procedure.

Member Sullivan took his seat at 6:10 p.m.

## 4. **Committee Staff Report**

There was no Committee Staff Report.

Member Stallman referenced the bicycle path along State Route 87 (SR-87) and requested staff provide additional informational to the BPAC. Member Stallman inquired as to VTA's involvement with the SR-87 Project on Willow Street and I-280 and the mechanism to bring visibility to restoring the bicycle lane. Chris Augenstein, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, responded that VTA funded the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Project on SR-87. Mr. Augenstein advised that staff has inquired and is waiting for a response from the construction staff as to the projected opening of the bicycle lane.

## 5. **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Wadler reported that John Ciccarelli, Bicycle Solutions, will host a seminar in the City of Santa Cruz regarding bicycle and pedestrian committees.

Vice Chairperson Swent added that the County of Santa Cruz is considering establishing a county bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee and has requested recommendations on how to have an effective BPAC.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **The Agenda was taken out of order.**

7. **(Removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda.**

Minutes of February 10, 2007

6. **Minutes of January 10, 2007**

M/S/C (Stallman/Simons) to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2007.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

7. **Minutes of February 10, 2007**

Member Simons referenced Page 4 of 11, **Agenda Item #8.**, Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October through December 2006, fourth paragraph, and requested the following change be made: “Member Simons stated that there is a little reduction in Level of Service (LOS) due to the proposed changes to Mary Avenue Crossing that would not make the ‘Road Diet’ idea a good one to consider.”

M/S/C (Simons/Stallman) on a vote of 12 ayes to 0 noes to 3 abstentions to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2007, as amended. Members Brunzell, Reisinger, and Thielges abstained.

Chairperson Wadler reminded the BPAC that Members do not have to abstain from voting for Minutes when they were absent from the Meeting.

10. **Lifeline Transportation Program: Status Update, Program Changes and Call-for-Projects**

Bill Hough, Transportation Planner III, referenced staff’s recommendation and noted that recent decision by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) prevent funding programs that subsidize transit passes. He highlighted three projects affected by this change and noted that through the

reorganization of one program and elimination of another, \$1,105,487 is available for programming.

Member Muniz asked about the impact to the other projects that received funding. Mr. Hough responded that the four projects are not affected by the decision and are moving forward.

Vice Chairperson Swent requested information regarding the City of San Jose Auto Repair Assistance Program, such as the type of repairs that the Program will cover and how a person qualifies for the Program. Mr. Hough responded that the purpose of the Program is to provide automobile repairs for low-income people who depend on their automobiles to get to work.

Member Entin asked what level of income is considered low income. Mr. Hough responded that he will forward this information.

**M/S/C (Walton/Hagenmaier)** on a vote of 13 ayes to 1 no to 1 abstention to review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors approve a revised scope and grant amount for the City of San Jose's Auto Repair Assistance Program (ARAP) in the amount of \$75,000 and issue a new Call-For-Projects (CFP) for the Lifeline Transportation Program. Member Stallman opposed and Member Carpenter abstained.

Member Stallman requested staff ask the City of San Jose if Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) can fund a free bicycle program for low-income people who have a need for transportation that is not served by VTA. He also requested that staff evaluate if other cities are able to fund free bicycle programs for low-income citizens.

Chairperson Wadler recommended using recovered stolen bicycles that are in possession of police departments in a free bicycle program.

## **8. 2007 Bicycle Technical Guidelines Update: Drainage Systems and Bike Paths**

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner and Staff Liaison, provided a PowerPoint Presentation titled: "Bicycle Technical Guidelines Update 2007" that outlined the following: 1) Why did VTA develop the Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG); 2) 2007 BTG Main Updated Topics; 3) BTG Main Updates; 4) Drainage Inlets and Gutters; 5) Grate less Designs; 6) Acceptable Grate Designs; 7) Grate Placement on Roadways with Curb and Gutter; 8) Grate Placement on Roadways with Shoulders; 9) Gutter Pan Width; 10) Bike Paths and Bridges; 11) Bike Path Cross Section; 12) Bike Pedestrian Bridge; and, 13) Innovative Designs.

Ms. DeRobertis reported that in 1999 the BTG did not address Bicycle Paths because it was addressed in the Santa Clara County Uniform Interjurisdictional Trail Design, Use and Management Guidelines. She noted that because staff has received numerous questions about bicycle paths and bridges, staff has included them in the BTG.

Member Carpenter expressed concern that tall trees may hide 7-foot and 8-foot street signs.

Member Walton inquired as to the availability of the completed BTG. Ms. DeRobertis responded that the BPAC will review the Draft BTG in May 2007.

Member Thielges asked if the BTG will also include comments regarding load bearing capacity of the trails and bridges. Ms. DeRobertis responded that staff's recommendation is that every bridge have the ability to carry occasional service vehicles.

Member Hagenmaier asked if the BTG will address design standards for the barriers that prevent motor vehicles from entering pathways. Ms. DeRobertis responded "yes."

Chris Augenstein, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, encouraged the BPAC to forward photographs of good and bad trails.

**On order of Chairperson Wadler**, there being no objection, the 2007 Bicycle Technical Guidelines Update: Drainage Systems and Bike Paths was discussed.

**9. Santa Clara Caltrain Station Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study**

Brian Stokle, Nelson/Nygaard Consulting, provided a PowerPoint Presentation titled Santa Clara Station Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study, outlining: 1) Introduction; 2) Pedestrian & Bicycle Crossing Survey Results; 3) Caltrain Passenger Intercept Survey; 4) Employee Survey; 5) Analysis; and 6) Conclusions.

Member Stallman inquired if Amtrak Police were present during the surveying. Mr. Stokle responded that he did not observe Amtrak Police.

Member Walton inquired as to the next step in the process. Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner and Staff Liaison, responded once the consultants have gathered all of the information VTA will receive a final report. Ms. DeRobertis also noted she will continue to pursue implementation of a legal crossing.

Member Stallman stated that safety should be the number one priority and noted his support for staff's recommendation of an interim crossing. He also expressed his concern with the cost of the study.

Member Brunzell recommended a less expensive method such as a traffic signal. Ms. DeRobertis stated that an interim solution will be studied and noted that VTA's goal is to have an at-grade crossing with traffic signals.

Member Simons recommended asking the City of San Jose and the City of Santa Clara for funding because of the redevelopment of the FMC site.

**On order of Chairperson Wadler**, there being no objection, the report on the Santa Clara Station Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study was received and filed.

**11. Recent Attendance History of Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**On order of Chairperson Wadler**, there being no objection, the Recent Attendance History of Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was discussed.

**12. Announcements**

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, advised the BPAC that their Meeting of April 11, 2007 will take place in Room B104.

Member Walton, City of Cupertino, reported that construction on the Mary Avenue Bridge is moving along. Mr. Walton advised that the City of Cupertino is asking the City of Sunnyvale for assistance in funding the Project. Completion of the construction on the Mitty Drive and Lawrence Expressway Overcrossing is anticipated by April 2007.

Member Sullivan, City of Santa Clara, reported that the City of Santa Clara is building a playground at the War Memorial Swim Center site. Member Sullivan noted that he asked for information on when the fences will be removed to provide access to bicyclists and pedestrians. He stated that he has not yet received a response.

Member Carpenter, City of Mountain View, reported that the Bicycle Transportation Plan will be updated in 2007.

Member Stallman, City of Saratoga, reported that the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission will review the Sanborn Park Bicycle Trail Feasibility Study at their next meeting. Member Stallman also reported that Union Pacific will upgrade all of the railroad street crossings in the City of Saratoga.

Member Muniz, City of Gilroy, reported that the City of Gilroy's next BPAC meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2007. At Gilroy's February 2007 BPAC Meeting, the Committee discussed a Master Plan that would include trails from the new sports park.

Member Hagenmaier, City of Los Altos, reported that at the February 2007 Los Altos City Council Meeting approximately five resolutions were approved for the feasibility study for the Stevens Creek Trail connecting the Cities of Mountain View and Cupertino.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Vice Chairperson Wadler**, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at **7:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gilda M. Gozdanich, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors