

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 8, 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 6:05 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
William Manry
Thomas Muniz
Norma Rome
David Simons
Jim Stallman
John Sullivan
Bart Thielges
Herman Wadler, Chairperson
Joe Walton
Corrine Winter, Ex-Officio

Representative Cities

Town of Los Altos Hills
City of Mountain View
Town of Los Gatos
City of Monte Sereno
City of Gilroy
City of Morgan Hill
City of Sunnyvale
City of Saratoga
City of Santa Clara
City of San Jose
City of Campbell
City of Cupertino
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Members Absent

Carl Hagenmaier
Richard Swent, Vice Chairperson
Vacant
Vacant

Representative Cities

City of Los Altos
City of Palo Alto
City of Milpitas
County of Santa Clara

A quorum was present.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that the presentation on Uvas Road Bridge Reconstruction Project, Agenda Item # 11., will be deferred to the next BPAC meeting.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

James Wightman, Interested Citizen, expressed concern regarding the lack of concrete on some bicycle and pedestrian trails at the City of Santa Clara, City of Milpitas, and at the Cisco Way Station in San José.

Mr. Wightman expressed concern about the future installation of surveillance cameras at Light Rail Stations. Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, responded that staff will provide a report at the next meeting regarding the installation of surveillance cameras.

Akos Szoboszlay, Modern Transit Society, reported that the County Road staff brought their propaganda against pedestrians to the County Board of Supervisors by writing a memo that was filled with false statements. He enumerated the false statements: 1) Board of Supervisors opposes pedestrian use of road shoulders; 2) Some Campbell BPAC members supported pedestrian prohibitions; and 3) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits the creation of dirt paths.

Member Brunzell took her seat at 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Szoboszlay reported that the County Road staff ignored the County Board of Supervisors policy not to eliminate existing sidewalks, pathways, or informal paths. He explained that County Road staff destroyed two miles of pedestrian path along San Tomas Expressway.

4. Committee Staff Report

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, reported that VTA was successful in providing service for the San José Grand Prix and the Independence Day event.

Mr. Burns reported that the Board of Directors approved the two-year budget proposal. His report regarding the budget highlighted the following: 1) Restoration of reserves that was included in the approved budget; 2) Achieve 15 percent level of reserves, VTA is currently at 13 percent with \$50,000,000; and 3) Monthly and Day Pass fair reductions for the elderly, youth and disabled. He stated VTA is in a stable financial position.

Mr. Burns reported on the success of the following: 1) Implemented Community Bus Program in Morgan Hill and Gilroy; and 2) Agreement with Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) to take over the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) for Community Bus operators. He added that VTA currently has 20 Community Bus vehicles and will be acquiring a total of 50 to allow growth for the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA).

Mr. Burns reported on the safety improvements on Caltrain. He stated that a study is underway to determine safety improvements at grade crossings and the Caltrain Right-of-

Way. He added that a nexus study of the relationship between safety improvements and service increases will be conducted to determine the eligibility to use Measure A funds.

Mr. Burns reported that VTA closed its relationship with the County regarding the 1996 Measure B Program. He stated that \$50,000,000 was transferred to VTA to complete all the outstanding work. He noted the following outstanding projects: 1) California Avenue Station upgrades for Caltrain; 2) Improve the San Martin parking lot; and 3) Improve the streets leading to the San Martin parking.

Mr. Burns reported that there are continuous positive trends in ridership. He stated the overall ridership is up by seven percent. Rail system ridership is up by 24 percent. Bus ridership remained constant.

Mr. Burns reported that VTA is in the process of implementing the recommendations from the Hay Group Report.

Mr. Burns reported on VTA's financial improvement that highlighted the following: 1) Financial control; 2) VTA's credit rating was upgraded by two credit rating agencies; 3) VTA's debt was reduced by \$54,000,000; and 4) A reimbursement system was developed to accelerate payments due to VTA.

Member Carpenter took his seat at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Burns reported that recommendations for the COA will be received at the August 30, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. He stated that the concept of the COA is to reallocate resources to areas that will build ridership to improve route performance and farebox recovery.

Member Stallman expressed his appreciation on the status of the Caltrain Safety Improvement Study. He queried about a short-term plan to increase Caltrain service to the South County. Mr. Burns responded that Caltrain is at a capacity constraint and there are no plans to increase its service to South County. He stated that Counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco share the operating cost for Caltrain service and there is no sign from the other counties that they are willing to increase the service.

Mr. Burns commented on the concern of Mr. Wightman regarding the installation of surveillance cameras on Light Rail stations. He stated that cameras will be installed for security reasons. He noted that the Santa Clara Station is one of the highest crime areas on the VTA transportation system.

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, welcomed Ex-Officio Member Corrine Winter of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to the VTA BPAC. She stated that Member Thielges will be permitted to participate on the VTA BPAC until the City of San José appoints a new member.

Ms. DeRobertis reported that the issue of having the VTA BPAC serve as the County's BPAC will be considered at the Housing, Land-Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee on August 16, 2007 and to the Board of Supervisors on August 28, 2007. She stated that the current Bylaws may be updated to reflect the

changes if the issue will be approved by the Board of Supervisors. She noted that the September 2007 meeting might be the first official meeting of the VTA BPAC as County BPAC under the new County bylaws.

Ms. DeRobertis commented on the request of Member Stallman to bring the engineers of Mark Thomas & Company before the Committee to discuss design issues at I-880 and Brokaw Road. She stated that Mark Thomas & Company has not yet been awarded the contract with VTA, but they are aware of the issues regarding bicycle lanes along Brokaw Road and the bicycle access to O'Toole Avenue.

Member Stallman queried if the grade crossing safety improvement study is associated with the Across Barrier Connections (ABC) Plan. He also suggested that the group conducting the safety improvement study visit the Committee to receive input. Ms. DeRobertis responded that the two groups are conducting different studies. One deals with improving grade crossings, while the other explores more crossings. She stated that she will facilitate the visit of the study group to relate the two studies.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Wadler welcomed Ex-Officio Member Corrine Winter from the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to the VTA BPAC.

Member Stallman commented regarding the representative of the County to the BPAC. He suggested that the County Director could serve for the VTA BPAC if the Roads Commissioner is unavailable.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Minutes of June 13, 2007

M/S/C (Simons/Walton) to approve the minutes of June 13, 2007.

7. Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report April 2007 through June 2007

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report - April 2007 through June 2007 was reviewed.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report Summary

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report Summary was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Bicycle Expenditure Plan – Projects in Progress

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a report about the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) Funding Sources 2000-2030. Her report enumerated the following: 1) Fund Name; 2) Fund Source; 3) 2000-2010 Initial BEP; 4) 2011-2030; and 5) Contract With.

Member Stallman commented that the fact that Member Agencies must contribute 20 percent to the project cost should be mentioned in the chart. Ms. DeRobertis acknowledged the comment of Member Stallman. She explained that VTA has requirements for local jurisdictions: 1) 20 percent minimum local match for project cost; and 2) Adhere to the Bicycle Technical Guidelines.

Member Walton queried about the funding for the Mary Avenue Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing at I-280 project in the City of Cupertino. Ms. DeRobertis responded that the City of Cupertino has not requested more funds.

Member Simons stated that around \$83,000 was donated by the City of Sunnyvale for its project.

Ms. DeRobertis stated that a list of projects that obtained significant outside funding was presented at the June 13, 2007 BPAC meeting. She explained the some of the projects in the BEP require additional funding. She referenced the San José Guadalupe Creek Trail and Coyote Creek Trail and noted that costs for those projects escalated. She also referenced the North-Side Access Project Study at downtown Sunnyvale and stated that request for retaining its BEP funding may be denied.

Ms. DeRobertis provided a report regarding the BEP Programmed Projects by Funding Source (projects that have programmed funding from BEP). Her report described BEP projects from the following: 1) Campbell; 2) County Roads and Airports; 3) Cupertino; 4) Los Altos; 5) Los Altos Hills; 6) Los Gatos/Monte Sereno; 7) Morgan Hill; 8) Mountain View; 9) Palo Alto; 10) San José; 11) Santa Clara; 12) Saratoga; 13) Sunnyvale; and 14) VTA. She explained that the swap between Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) and the Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds resulted in the funding of many bicycle projects.

Regarding the project in the City of Mountain View, Member Stallman commented that the Stevens Creek Trail Project will pass under El Camino Real. Member Carpenter added that the Project will extend to Mountain View High School.

Regarding the Project in the City of Saratoga, Member Stallman stated that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) directed the City of Saratoga to construct a fence at the grade crossing and pedestrian crossing by Blue Hills Elementary School. Ms. DeRobertis corroborated the statement made by Member Stallman and commented that an increased train activity that the Kaiser Quarry is applying for will not be a danger to the grade crossing at Cox Avenue.

Regarding the Pilot Bicycle Parking Program by VTA, Chairperson Wadler queried about participation of the City of Campbell. Ms. DeRobertis responded that the City of Campbell took part in the Program.

Member Stallman commented that bike lanes on Evelyn Avenue in Sunnyvale are almost completed. Ms. DeRobertis commented that if that is the case, then the City of Sunnyvale may not need the \$287,000 allocated BEP funds for that project.

Member Simons expressed concern regarding the total amount of funds allocated from the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) from 2000-2030. Ms. DeRobertis explained that the total amount of \$99,300,000 is already assigned to specific projects. She added that additional funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects may come from the following: 1) Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds of each city; 2) Other overlapping projects in the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030; and 3) 2000 Measure A Program.

Ms. De Robertis commented that project sponsors for unprogrammed BEP projects might update their project cost estimates to account for inflation during the Triennial Review. She stated that unprogrammed BEP projects that are requesting additional allocations will be reviewed based on the program Evaluation Criteria.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the Bicycle Expenditure Plan – Projects in Progress was received.

10. 2007 Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) Update: Bikeways at Intersections and Local Roads and Bicycle Boulevards

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a powerpoint presentation. Her presentation highlighted the following: 1) Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG): New or Expanded Topics; 2) Chapter 5 – Intersections and Interchanges; 3) Issues presented by installing Right-Turn Lanes; 4) Single Right-Turn-Only Lanes; 5) Channelized Right-Turn Lanes; 6) Free Right-Turn Lanes; 7) Dual Right Turns with Shared Right/Through Lane; 8) Left-Turn Conflicts; 9) Left-Turn Options; 10) Chapter 8 – Local Roadways; and 11) Bicycle Boulevard.

Ex-Officio Member Winter referenced the slide entitled, “Channelized Right-Turn Lanes” and suggested creating dotted lines on bicycle lanes that will cross channelized right-turn lanes so motorists will be aware of bicyclists. Ms. DeRobertis responded that she will review the suggestion.

Member Carpenter queried about the yellow line and its relation to the motorists view of bicyclists. Ms. DeRobertis explained that the yellow line is the travel path of bicyclists and the dotted line intersecting the yellow line represents the view of the motorists.

Chairperson Wadler commented that some seniors are unable to look back and check for bicyclists when passing on a channelized right-turn lane. He referenced a channelized right-turn lane along Foothill Expressway.

Ms. DeRobertis stated that recommendations can be made to cease construction of pork chop islands or to modify their design. She added that another problem is the free right-turn lanes. She referenced slide titled, "Free Right-Turn Lanes."

Member Thielges recommended standardizing the construction of pork chop islands. Ms. DeRobertis acknowledged the point raised by Member Thielges and stated that it could be incorporated in the Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) manual.

Ex-Officio Member Winter suggested striping bicycle routes along right-turn lanes when painting of road lanes will be conducted. Ms. DeRobertis supported the statement made and recommended phasing out or redesigning pork chop islands on future construction projects.

Member Stallman suggested installing a W79 warning sign as a substitute if a flashing beacon will not be used. Ms. DeRobertis stated that a custom sign stating, "YIELD TO BIKES" will be included in the BTG.

Ex-Officio Member Winter commented that signs do not indicate the path of bicyclists to motorists. Member Carpenter expressed concern regarding the visibility of signs in bad weather. Member Sullivan commented that it is the motorists' discretion to be considerate to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Ms. DeRobertis expressed the importance of having a yield sign to inform motorists of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Member Muniz queried if the BTG would regulate the speed limit for motorists. Ms. DeRobertis responded that the speed limit for motorists is not regulated under the BTG. She stated that the design of the curb radii will be covered in the BTG which affects the speed of motorists.

Member Sullivan supported the statement made by Ms. DeRobertis. He explained that turns with tight radii causes motorists to slow down.

Member Stallman left his seat at 7:08 p.m.

Member Carpenter expressed concern regarding the slide titled, "Dual Right Turns with Shared Right/Through Lane." Ex-Officio Member Winter queried about dual right turns with shared right/through lane not being recommended. Ms. DeRobertis responded that BEP funded projects are reviewed and cities are advised not to construct dual right turns with shared right/through lane on roadways with bicycle lanes. She explained that the BTG serves as an interpretation of the standard on building bicycle friendly roads.

Chairperson Wadler referenced the slide titled, "Left-turn Options" and commented that bicyclists using cross walks should walk their bikes.

Ex-Officio Member Winter recommended changing the descriptions of bicyclists making a left-turn. Chairperson Wadler recommended using the following terms: 1) Take the lane and turn like a vehicle; 2) Square the corner like a bicyclist; and 3) Become a pedestrian by walking the bike across the intersection. Ms. DeRobertis stated that she will update the terminology in the BTG.

Chairperson Wadler explained ways of making proper left turns as taught in the academy. Member Sullivan commented that squaring the corner should be used on roads with heavy traffic and fast speed limits.

Ex-Officio Member Winter recommended incorporating marking of the lanes at intersections in the BTG. Ms. DeRobertis responded that intersection issues will be discussed in more detail on Chapter 6.

Member Muniz commented if bicycle markings on the roadway can be applied on Class 3 Bike Routes and if there are cities that implement it. Ms. DeRobertis responded that in Sacramento, bike route is painted on some of the roads. She acknowledged the point made by Member Muniz and stated that she would consider incorporating it in the BTG manual.

Chairperson Wadler queried if the longer/flatter speed bump design is incorporated in the BTG. Ms. DeRobertis stated that the speed bump design was incorporated in the BTG manual. Member Carpenter commented that the profile of speed bumps should match the speed of motorists to travel at 25 miles per hour or less.

Member Thielges referenced section 8.1 of Attachment B, Bike Routes and Signed Shared Roadways. He recommended using the number route system signs, as stated in the BTG, to replace the G93 sign. Ms. DeRobertis responded that signs that show more information will be used, such as the SG45 sign.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the 2007 Bicycle Technical Guidelines Update: Bikeways at Intersections and Local Roads and Bicycle Boulevards was discussed.

OTHERS

11. (Deferred to the September 12, 2007 meeting.)

Presentation on Uvas Road Bridge Reconstruction Project.

12. BPAC Work Plan

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, reported that there are no changes to the work plan except for the presentation on the Uvas Road Bridge Reconstruction Project that was deferred to the next meeting.

Member Simons noted the following items for future consideration: 1) San Jose Airport Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA); 2) Routine accommodations, past, present, and future; and 3) Bike network in the County, review outstanding issues and changes in the network.

Ex-Officio Member Winter noted the review of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Process be added to the items for future consideration.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the BPAC Work Plan was reviewed.

13. Announcements

Ex-Officio Member Winter announced that a Road One Bicycle Education Class will be conducted at the City of Mountain View on August 15, 2007 and August 18, 2007. Chairperson Wadler commented that this class is required for individuals who would like to become a League Cycling Instructor (LCI). He stated that the following materials would be a beneficial reference for the class: 1) Academy Handbook (Eight Edition); 2) Setting the National Standard in Bicycle Education Programs; and 3) Bike Education Road One.

Member Carpenter reported that the Stevens Creek Trail will be extended under El Camino Real. He also noted the Road One Bicycle Education Class that is sponsored by the City of Mountain View.

Member Thielges commented that the Proactive CMP Report from the Consent Agenda has fewer details. He suggested the adding opportunities to comment on how to improve projects.

Ex-Officio Member Winter reported that the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is working with the City of San José to determine if people are using the Guadalupe River Trail for commuting. She added that they need 60 volunteers to conduct trail counts.

Member Walton reported that the City of Cupertino are working on the following: 1) Expanding the bridge on Bollinger Road as it crosses Calabazas Creek; 2) Use of a new device to designate bike routes on the road; and 3) Second bid package being prepared for the Mary Avenue Bridge.

Member Rome stated that the City of Morgan Hill commissioned a study of trails for potential expansion. She noted that Jackson Oaks Community opposed the plan so the eastern side of Morgan Hill will not have a trail. Chairperson Wadler recommended keeping track of the Coyote Valley Community Plan because it will affect the City of Morgan Hill.

Member Sullivan commented that the City of Sunnyvale provided the City of Cupertino a year's worth of their TDA bicycle funding for the Mary Avenue footbridge.

Member Sullivan commented that construction started for the San Tomas Creek Trail and its projected completion is spring 2008. He noted that more information regarding the

San Tomas Creek Trail will be discussed at the Santa Clara Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting on August 22, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall.

Member Muniz noted that the City of Gilroy BPAC will meet on August 28, 2007. He recommended that the planning group of the Coyote Valley Community present before the Committee. Chairperson Wadler stated that he is following the meetings of the Coyote Valley Community Plan to ensure that the interests of pedestrians/bicyclists are considered.

Member Brunzell commented that the Town of Los Altos Hills is organizing a free concert on August 19, 2007 at the Hidden Villa. She noted that additional information is available at www.hiddenvilla.org. She reported a fatal bicycle accident on Sand Hill Road at San Mateo County and warned bicyclists riding that area to be careful.

Chairperson Wadler announced the bicycle related materials that he brought for the Committee: 1) Academy Handbook (Eight Edition); 2) Setting the National Standard in Bicycle Education Programs; and 3) Bike Education Road One. He stated that he is currently editing the Academy Handbook and contributed articles such as heart rate monitors and cadence. He added that Mr. Bob Elgroth contributed articles regarding bicycle advocacy.

Chairperson Wadler announced the Road One Bicycle Education Class that will be held at the City of Mountain View. He noted that he received positive feedbacks regarding previous classes conducted.

Chairperson Wadler reported that the City of Campbell elected a new Board Member. He added that Campbell Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) might have a booth at the October Fest to express its presence to the community.

Chairperson Wadler announced that the renovation San José Velodrome by Hellyer Park is completed. He encouraged bike enthusiasts to come and enjoy the races.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors