



BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 12, 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 6:03 p.m. by Chairperson Wadler in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Anna Brunzell
Bruce Entin
Carl Hagenmaier
Thomas Muniz
Jim Stallman
John Sullivan
Bart Thielges
Herman Wadler, Chairperson
Joe Walton

Representative Cities

Town of Los Altos Hills
Town of Los Gatos
City of Los Altos
City of Gilroy
City of Saratoga
City of Santa Clara
City of San Jose
City of Campbell
City of Cupertino

Members Absent

John Carpenter
William Manry
Jerri-Ann Meyer, Alt. Ex-Officio
Norma Rome
David Simons
Richard Swent, Vice Chairperson
Corrine Winter, Ex-Officio
Vacant
Vacant

Representative Cities

City of Mountain View
City of Monte Sereno
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
City of Morgan Hill
City of Sunnyvale
City of Palo Alto
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
City of Milpitas
County of Santa Clara

A quorum was present was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Chairperson Wadler noted that Agenda Item #11., VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report for October 2007 would be heard immediately after Agenda Item #9., Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements.

Member Muniz requested that the following item be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda: Agenda Item #8., Receive a report on the Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole accepted the Orders of the Day.

3. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Presentations.

4. **Committee Staff Report**

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner reported that since November 2007, there were several changes to the Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) based on the comments staff received from Member Agencies. These changes are reflected on the revised Board Memorandum that the VTA Board of Directors will take action on December 13, 2007.

Member Entin took his seat at 6:06 p.m.

Ms. DeRobertis noted that the I-880/Brokaw Road Design issues will be forwarded to the Committee next month. She acknowledged the presence of Chris Fernandez, County of Santa Clara appointee to the BPAC and noted that the VTA Board of Directors needs to ratify the appointment at a future meeting.

Member Sullivan took his seat at 6:08 p.m.

5. **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Wadler reported that he attended the San Jose BPAC meeting this month. He expressed concern about Airport Commission's handling of issues such as bicycle and pedestrian safe access and bicycle secured parking. He noted that the bicycle and pedestrian groups need to advocate for a more safe access to the Airport.

Chairperson Wadler thanked the Committee for allowing him to serve as the BPAC Chairperson for 2007.

Member Brunzell took her seat at 6:10 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Minutes of November 7, 2007**

M/S/C (Stallman/Hagenmaier) to approve the Minutes of November 7, 2007.

7. **Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report – July through September 2007**

M/S/C (Stallman/Hagenmaier) to receive the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report – July through September 2007.

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

Receive a report on the Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. **Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects**

Member Muniz expressed concern that he did not see any Gilroy project on the list. He noted that the BPAC should be included in the distribution list of notices regarding VTA's Call for Projects to ensure that the Committee can advocate for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Member Stallman stated that noise can be attributed to the road surface. He stated that this should be investigated before constructing soundwalls.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects was received.

9. **Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements**

Mark Robinson, Acting Chief Engineering and Construction Officer, reported that VTA contracted HNTB to perform a safety study on the Caltrain corridor between Palo Alto and Gilroy and prepare a report that identifies the necessary safety related projects in the county. A five-year phased approach will be utilized to bring all crossings to level of consistency (Phase 1) and introduce a unique crossing upgrade program for specific pedestrian treatments (Phase 2). Mr. Robinson noted that Attachment A notes the Safety Improvement Programs for FY 2008 and 2009. Attachment B contains the Consolidated Safety Study for Caltrain in Santa Clara County.

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

Jerry Grace, Interested Citizen, expressed support for the Caltrain Safety Projects as it promotes a better, more efficient, and safer Caltrain operation.

Member Thielges referred to Attachment B, Page 14, Table 3: Accident Summary, and inquired if this data excluded suicide. Mr. Robinson noted that staff did not make a determination whether it was suicide or not.

Member Stallman provided comments, including: 1) would the crossing become exempt from the 90 decibel horn requirement if improvements are implemented at certain crossings; 2) expressed concern that the double tracking in South County will not capitalize on putting best practices (grade separation); and 3) crossings of other rail lines (i.e. Lafayette Crossing and BART) need attention and should be examined for safety as well. Member Stallman stressed the importance of including safety elements early on as projects are constructed.

Member Muniz stated that there are three roadway projects in Gilroy (Las Animas Avenue, Lewis Street, and 6th Street) that present opportunities for agencies to collaborate and work together to incorporate safety improvements while the project is ongoing. He referred to Attachment B, Page C12, Schools within 2000 Feet of Caltrain Corridor in Gilroy, and noted that three schools were not identified (Glen View Elementary School, Brownell Middle School, and Eliot Elementary School). He stated that the number of school-aged children crossing the tracks is relevant data. He expressed concern that the South County Double tracking project is not mentioned in the study and noted that this project should be a focus item.

M/S/C (Thielges/Walton) to review and recommend that the Board of Directors approve the list of projects for the Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements Project, with the following amendments: 1) Attachment B, Page 14, Table 3 be named as Incident summary with the note that it includes accident and suicide incidents; and 2) include the three Gilroy schools (Glen View Elementary School, Brownell Middle School, and Eliot Elementary School) on Attachment B, Page C12.

11. VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007

Mr. Robinson noted that this is the first VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report. He directed attention to the following projects: US 101 Auxiliary Lanes – Embarcadero to Route 85, I-880 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Widening, and US 101 Improvements – I-280 to Yerba Buena and noted that these projects have full funding and are moving forward to final design. The I-880/I-280/Stevens Creek Improvement project is under the environmental phase. He noted that project readiness ensures a better chance of securing funding.

Member Thielges noted that the report is very concise and valuable. He suggested that the US 101 Improvements – I-280 to Yerba Buena Improvements design phase be placed on the Committee Work Plan.

Member Stallman requested that the BPAC Committee be apprised of the appropriate time to comment on the I-280/I-880 Stevens Creek Improvement Project.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007 was received.

10. Revised Scoring Criteria for the Local Streets & County Roads (LS&CR) Program

Amin Surani, Principal Transportation Planner, discussed the existing and the proposed for both the planning and programming phase scoring criteria. The proposed criteria for planning include: Street Connectivity (up to 25 points), Congestion Relief (up to 25 points), Safety (up to 30 points), and Transportation/Land Use Connection Interface (up to 20 points). The proposal included points for projects that primarily serve the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) communities of concern. The proposed criteria for programming include: Project Readiness (up to 50 points), Match (up to 20 points), and Planning Phase score (up to 30 points).

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, Revised Scoring Criteria for the Local Streets & County Roads (LS&CR) Program was received.

12. Status of Bicycle Project List Development

Ms. DeRobertis distributed an updated Proposed Revisions to the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) for Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035. She discussed the projects to be retained in the BEP and include in the VTP 2035, In-progress projects, Completed or under construction without BEP funds, and Completed with BEP funds.

Member Walton informed staff that Cupertino's Bollinger Road Bicycle Facility Improvements is completed. He suggested that staff contact Cupertino's staff to confirm.

Upon inquiry of Member Muniz, Mr. Augenstein, Deputy Director and Staff Liaison, noted that the deadline for the Call for Projects noted in the memorandum is Friday, December 14, 2007.

Member Hagenmaier suggested that staff include in the presentation the cash flow information to clearly determine where funding is coming from, where it is expended, and which projects it could fund.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, Status of Bicycle Project List Development was received.

13. Nominating Subcommittee Report

Member Sullivan noted that the Nominating Committee nominates current Vice Chairperson Swent as Chairperson and Member Walton as Vice Chairperson for 2008.

Chairperson Wadler thanked the Nominating Committee for their work.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the Nominating Subcommittee Report was received.

OTHERS

14. BPAC Work Plan

Member Stallman suggested that the following items be removed from the Items for Future Consideration: Presentation by City of San Jose and San Jose Airport Staff on Mineta San Jose Airport Expansion on Provisions for Bike/Pedestrian Access and VTA Activities, Studies, Input Opportunities, Etc. on Railroad Crossings.

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

12. Announcements

Member Entin announced that in January 2008, Los Gatos will begin building the bike lanes on both sides of Highway 9 from Big Basin to Santa Cruz.

Member Stallman reported that the City of Saratoga recently completed street rehabilitation that included a street reconfiguration to add bike lanes and pedestrian walkway features.

Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara, noted that the County has started the expressway planning update that included a bicycle element (bike traffic signal detection) and pedestrian elements (no new prohibitions, and pedestrian guide signage). Mr. Collen noted the plans of adding a project that will seismically retrofit the pedestrian crossing at Lawrence Expressway in Sunnyvale. Mr. Collen stated that the County plans to develop a draft Administrative Update of the Pedestrian and Bicycle elements and forward it to the BPAC in March 2008. VTA and the County are working together to combine the role of BPAC as the bicycle and pedestrian advisory to both VTA and Santa Clara County.

Member Walton reported that the winning bid for the Mary Avenue Bridge came in under the engineer's estimate. Golden State Bridge, selected contractor for the project, will begin the project in January 2008, with the expected completion date of March 2009.

Member Hagenmaier referred to the e-mail he sent and read into the record the following: "1) What involvement did VTA have in these projects? Was funding for the projects provided by VTA action;

2) If a member agency project is funded by VTA, does VTA do any verification during or after the project that the design was completed as described? In particular, if there are bicycle/pedestrian aspects or mitigation, does VTA verify that these were completed?

3) If VTA is aware that a member agency did not complete a project as specified, does it have any enforcement authority?

- 4) Would VTA be willing to deny any future funding to the member agency until the deficiency is corrected? and
- 5) Does VTA have a role of fixing the systematic problem?"

Chairperson Wadler noted that these questions could be discussed at a future meeting. He inquired if the Federal government monitors projects to ensure that agencies adhere to guidelines.

Mr. Augenstein noted that all VTA programmed projects are monitored by VTA staff to ensure that the work is done as the project was scoped. Mr. Augenstein noted that there are certain projects in the County that VTA does not have jurisdiction over because these projects are managed or built by another agency (i.e. Caltrans).

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, noted that the Programmed Projects Quarterly Report contains the summary of project actions and project status. This report is forwarded to the BPAC on a quarterly basis.

Member Muniz reported that the East Gilroy Specific Plan Taskforce was formed to provide guidance on zoning and creating roadway network on the approximately 670 acres in Gilroy.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors