

# **BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

## **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 Swent in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present**

Anna Brunzell  
Cheryl Bunnell  
John Carpenter  
Bruce Entin  
Chris Fernandez  
Thomas Muniz  
Lane Parker  
David Simons  
Jim Stallman  
John Sullivan  
Richard Swent, Chairperson  
Corrine Winter, Ex-Officio  
Herman Wadler  
Joe Walton, Vice Chairperson

##### **Representative Cities**

Town of Los Altos Hills  
City of Milpitas  
City of Mountain View  
Town of Los Gatos  
County of Santa Clara  
City of Gilroy  
City of San Jose  
City of Sunnyvale  
City of Saratoga  
City of Santa Clara  
City of Palo Alto  
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
City of Campbell  
City of Cupertino

##### **Members Absent**

Carl Hagenmaier  
William Manry  
Jerri-Ann Meyer, Alt. Ex-Officio  
Norma Rome

##### **Representative Cities**

City of Los Altos  
City of Monte Sereno  
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
City of Morgan Hill

**A quorum was present.**

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

There were no Orders of the Day.

### **3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Presentations.

**4. Committee Staff Report**

**Highway Program Update**

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, noted that all projects are proceeding as expected.

**Conditions of Approval Update**

Ms. DeRobertis requested Members to inform VTA of their respective cities' conditions of approval regarding bicycle and pedestrian issues that VTA may not be aware of.

Member Muniz requested that the Committee be provided with examples of cities that include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations during construction of several improvement projects. He noted that other cities could benefit and be able to follow the model. Member Muniz noted his intention is to request that the City of Gilroy make the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation plan a requirement for all projects. He noted that he wants to find out if other cities are making this a requirement so that the City of Gilroy can follow their model.

**County Report**

There was no County Report.

**5. Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Swent requested Members to e-mail to him the priorities that they have for the year so that the Committee can work on their list of priorities for 2008. He expressed interest in the Expressway Plan Update and the pedestrian element. He noted the possibility of a Committee workshop in March/April 2008 timeframe.

Member Simons suggested that the Committee also discuss convening an annual workshop to plan what needs to be accomplished for the coming year.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. Minutes of January 9, 2008**

M/S/C (Stallman/Carpenter) to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2008.

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

**7. Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for October – December 2007**

M/S/C (Stallman/Carpenter) to review the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for October – December 2007.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **8. Fund Estimates for Valley Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan**

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, explained that staff included this item in tonight's agenda with the expectation that they will get information from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). However, staff did not get the information but will forward the information next month.

Member Stallman inquired if VTA will get a portion of the Regional Measure 2 funds in the next 25 years. Ms. DeRobertis responded that the Regional Measure 2 funds are allocated competitively.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Fund Estimates for Valley Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan was received.

### **9. Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035 – Project Submittal to MTC**

John Sighamony, Senior Transportation Planner, clarified that Attachment A is a draft list only. He noted staff intends to submit this list to MTC on March 5, 2008 for inclusion to its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Attachment B lists the schedule for both the VTP and RTP and highlighted that final adoption of VTP 2035 is slated for February 2009. He expressed concern about the tight timeframe that MTC has given.

Member Muniz requested project summary detail. Mr. Sighamony stated that staff could provide specific project summary detail upon request.

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, noted that there will be a workshop prior to BPAC's March 2008 Regular Meeting. The Members will be notified about the date and venue later.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the VTP 2035 Project List Submittal to MTC was received.

### **10. County of Santa Clara TDA A Article 3 Project Priority List for FY 2008 – 2009 Guarantee Funds**

Paul Pascoal, Santa Clara County, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Proposed 2008-2009 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Project Priority List for the County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department." Mr. Pascoal noted that nothing has been added on the TDA Project List. He discussed in brief the project descriptions and presented photographs of these projects: pedestrian paths along Westerly side of McKee Road between White Road and Staples Avenue; Easterly side of McKee Road between White Road and Staples Avenue; North side of Downing Avenue at Thorton Way; Westerly side of Almaden Expressway at Camden Avenue; Easterly side

of Almaden Expressway at Camden Avenue; Westerly side of Alum Rock Avenue between Miguelita Bridge and Ridgeview Avenue; Southerly side of Hyland Avenue between St. John Vianney School and White Road; and Bicycle shoulder widening on Junipero Serra Boulevard at West Campus Drive.

Upon request of Member Wadler, Mr. Pascoal stated that County staff will bring the design of the San Tomas Expressway, when appropriate.

Mr. Pascoal noted that County Staff recommends merging Projects 1 & 2 (pedestrian paths along Westerly side of McKee Road between White Road and Staples Avenue; and pedestrian paths along Easterly side of McKee Road between White Road and Staples Avenue), pending some community outreach.

Vice Chairperson Walton referred to the widening shoulder on Junipero Serra Boulevard and expressed concern over the safety issues at that location. He inquired if there is an opportunity to prioritize this project to complete it sooner. Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara, reviewed the background for the project, noting that the Committee pushed it down the list with the rationale that bicycle funds should not be used to undo the problem that the road improvement project created. However, it could not be identified who made that road improvement project.

**M/S/C (Stallman/Walton)** to approve the County of Santa Clara TDA A Article 3 Project Priority List for FY 2008 – 2009 Guarantee Funds with the amendment of merging Projects 1 & 2.

Member Stallman commented that Project #8 – Bicycle Shoulder widening on Junipero Serra Boulevard at West Campus Drive should be included as a road project in VTP 2035.

**11. BPAC Subcommittee Report on County Expressway Planning Study Update - Pedestrian Element**

Member Simons noted that the Subcommittee composed of himself, Members Fernandez, Stallman, and Sullivan met four times. He distributed a handout entitled, “VTA/County BPAC Recommendations to County Board of Supervisors for Pedestrian Access to Expressways.” The recommendations include: 1) Maximization of pedestrian to all expressways is the highest priority; 2) Denying pedestrian access to expressways can sometimes cause more negative consequences such as safety hazards; 3) Immediate attention should be focused on areas with greatest need.

Member Sullivan referred to a development on the Northeast corner of Central and San Tomas Expressways and noted that there are no sidewalks on either side. Member Simons stated that this is an example wherein there should be a sidewalk. He noted that there should be a nexus between the need for pedestrian access from a bus stop to the development.

Member Simons reported that the Subcommittee was invited to the County Expressways Policy Advisory Board meeting by Dawn Cameron, Consultant for Santa Clara County, to hear updates. He reported that the Subcommittee will monitor and participate in some of the future public meetings and discuss the proposal.

Mr. Collen stated that there is a difficulty because there is no Board-approved document to reference or require the inclusion of the pedestrian access. Currently the County is redefining the Expressway Pedestrian Improvement Plan, which can be used as a reference document.

Upon request of Member Simons, Chairperson Swent noted that Member Simons can represent himself as member of the Subcommittee at public meetings/hearings as long as the Subcommittee has a consensus of what he will present to the public meeting.

Vice Chairperson Walton noted the importance of being advocates for alternative transportation and applauds the subcommittee for their efforts.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, BPAC Subcommittee Report on County Expressway Planning Study Update - Pedestrian Element was received.

## **OTHERS**

### **12. BPAC Work Plan**

Ms. DeRobertis stated that she is scheduled to attend the City of Mountain View BPAC meeting. She noted that she intends to mail to the Members and the Cities' BPAC contact person hard copies of the Draft Bicycle Plan.

Member Stallman left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Member Muniz expressed interest in discussing the Routine Accommodations within the year, possibly in March 2008.

Ex-Officio Member Winters suggested creating a subcommittee to discuss the routine accommodation and review the MTC policy checklist. Volunteers for the subcommittee are: Ex-Officio Member Winters, Members Wadler and Muniz.

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

### **13. Announcements**

Ex-Officio Member Winters reported about the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's improved website ([www.svbcbikes.org](http://www.svbcbikes.org)) where advocacy update issues at local levels can be uploaded on the website immediately.

Member Wadler reported about the Campbell Avenue Improvement & Widening and noted his concerns about safety and keeping the historical bridge intact. He noted that

the Campbell BAC will be discussing bike-to-work day. He also reported that he will be making some improvements to his personal website.

Member Carpenter noted that the Mountain View BAC approved that the Bicycle Plan be forwarded to the Mountain View City Council. He noted that he is looking for coordination between the VTA plan and the City of Mountain View's plan.

Member Parker introduced himself and noted he is glad to be a new member of VTA BPAC. He reported that representatives from the Water Board were present at the last San Jose BPAC meeting to present a proposal, which could add significant expense when constructing trails. The San Jose BPAC will discuss the Bike to Work Day at their March 2008 meeting.

Member Bunnell introduced herself and noted that she is the new member from the City of Milpitas. The Milpitas BPAC is looking at re-inventing itself and therefore will be visiting various BPAC meetings around the County.

Member Sullivan reported that the Santa Clara City Council heard the petition to remove pedestrian prohibitions on San Tomas Expressway.

Member Muniz reported that the City of Gilroy BPAC will meet on February 26, 2008. He announced that the Advisory Board is looking at making it as a Commission to make it more involved in the decision making and planning.

Member Brunzell reported that the City of Los Altos Hills has a new path around Foothill College and encouraged Members to use the new path.

Vice Chairperson Walton reported about the Mary Avenue ground breaking and noted that the construction is now on-going.

Chairperson Swent announced that the Palo Alto BPAC recommended inclusion of four sharrows, which Palo Alto staff will forward to the City Council. He also announced that the Amgen Tour of California will start in Palo Alto and noted the activities about the race.

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors