

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 12, 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
Carl Hagenmaier
William Manry
Thomas Muniz
Jim Stallman
John Sullivan
Richard Swent, Chairperson
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 Los Altos
City of Monte Sereno
City of Gilroy
City of Saratoga
City of Santa Clara
City of Palo Alto
City of Campbell
City of Cupertino

Members Absent

Jerri-Ann Meyer, Alt. Ex-Officio
Lane Parker
Norma Rome
David Simons
Corrine Winter, Ex-Officio

Representative Cities

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
City of San Jose
City of Morgan Hill
City of Sunnyvale
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

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

There was no Highway Program Update.

Conditions of Approval Update

There was no Conditions of Approval Update.

County Report

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara Staff, indicated that the County would like to involve the BPAC as a working group for the Countywide Expressway Plan – Pedestrian Element project. The target for the working group meeting is sometime in April or early May 2008.

Member Muniz requested a copy of the Draft Expressway Plan. Chris Augenstein, CMA Deputy Director and Staff Liaison, noted that it is anticipated that the BPAC will receive the draft as it is the County's intent to involve the Committee in the review process.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Swent referred to the unfortunate fatal bicycle accident and noted that the Committee should continue their efforts in advocating for a safer pedestrian and bicycle access.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C (Stallman/Wadler) to remove Agenda Item #7, Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October through December 2007 from the Consent Agenda and place it on the Regular Agenda.

M/S/C (Muniz/Stallman) to remove Agenda Item #8., South County Circulation Study Report Findings from Consent Agenda and place it on the Regular Agenda.

6. Minutes of January 9, 2008

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

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

Review the Proactive CMP Reviewed & Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October 2007 through December 2007.

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

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

Receive the South County Circulation Study Report Findings.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Proactive CMP Reviewed & Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October 2007 through December 2007

Member Stallman referred to Page 28 of 28, Mary Avenue Extension, and noted that if the bridge is installed, it will change the character of traffic. Mr. Augenstein noted that staff is working with the City of Sunnyvale to address that issue.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Proactive CMP Reviewed & Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October 2007 through December 2007 was reviewed.

8. South County Circulation Study Report Findings

Murali Ramanujam, Senior Transportation Planner, provided background on the South County Circulation Study (SCCS) and noted its objectives, study limit areas, and identified improvements. The South County Policy Advisory Board (PAB) reviewed the study findings, and roadway pricing is viewed as an option.

Member Muniz requested a copy of the South County Circulation Study Report Findings. He expressed concern that the document did not address bicycle and pedestrian circulation. Mr. Ramanujam noted that the study examined east-west crossings.

Member Muniz expressed concern on funding and noted that infrastructure improvements need to be in place to accommodate the projected growth in the area. He noted that VTA should consider development fees as a source of revenue to fund the improvements.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the South County Circulation Study Report Findings were reviewed.

9. Blossom Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing of Monterey Road and Caltrain

Shawhin Roudbari, VTA Consultant, presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Blossom Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing." VTA and the City of San Jose partnered to address the access and safety issues on the area. After a two-year funding search, the project can move forward with the \$10.5 million secured for the project. Mr. Roudbari presented maps of the project area, VTA's scope in the project, and the alternatives that were considered. He presented the Blossom Hill Pedestrian Crossing Project's Conceptual Rendering and briefly discussed the project schedule. The project is scheduled to be completed in September 2010.

Mohamed Basma, Deputy Program Manager, clarified that VTA is only responsible for the crossing. The City of San Jose has jurisdiction and responsibility over the network and access issues.

The Committee expressed the following concerns: 1) there should be access to Blossom Hill Road; 2) the bridge's design should be well planned to ensure safety and increase viability to pedestrians and bicyclists; 3) pedestrian solution is necessary; 4) consider pedestrian's willingness to climb the bridge; 4) the bridge is strategically located to ensure that the walk to the points of interest is not so long; and 5) bike circulation should be addressed. Chris Augenstein, Planning Deputy Director, noted that the process is on-going and staff will forward the Committee's comments to the City of San Jose staff.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Blossom Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing of Monterey Road and Caltrain presentation was received.

10. SVRT Bicycle Parking at Future Stations

Oxo Slayer, Transportation Planner, provided a Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) Background and project status, Bicycle Facility Planning and Design Basis, and current BART Bicycle Parking Experience. He reviewed the station overview, station bicycle facilities for the following future stations: Milpitas, Berryessa, Alum Rock, Downtown San Jose, Diridon/Arena, and Santa Clara. He discussed the current and future planning efforts and the planning and design strategies. He noted that collaboration with local jurisdictions is needed to coordinate the safe station access from local streets.

Member Wadler inquired if the planned People Mover Project could accommodate wheelchairs and bicycles. Mr. Augenstein noted that VTA is revisiting the People Mover Project with the City of San Jose and the Airport and will look at all modes.

Member Stallman suggested that during the SVRT Project process, staff should identify the railroad areas where pedestrians and bicyclists cross informally at this time. He noted that VTA should plan installing bridges to those locations for safety.

Member Carpenter referred to the future Santa Clara Station and suggested that the bridge which connects Caltrain and BART at the Millbrae BART station be considered as a model.

Member Bunnell inquired about the timing of the project and how the future BART Milpitas Station aligns with the sidewalk improvements along Montague Expressway.

Mr. Augenstein responded that the SVRT is scheduled to begin operation by 2016 and the improvements will be done prior to that.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the SVRT Bicycle Parking at Future Stations was received.

11. Countywide Bicycle Plan – Review Draft Plan

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, noted the numbers in the plan are still estimates. She noted that she prepared a route by route, segment by segment, city by city and barrier by barrier listings for the Members' review.

Member Muniz stated that the final draft should be mailed out to the Committee prior to the April 2008 meeting and noted that there should be no missing items.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, Countywide Bicycle Plan – Review Draft Plan was received.

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

Member Sullivan reported that the Subcommittee was not able to meet this month but will meet before the April 2008 BPAC meeting. He noted that he will follow up on the Lawson Lane Campus to find out what will be included in the design phase.

Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara, stated that the County staff will work with VTA staff to forward the County Expressway Planning Study – Pedestrian Element draft to the April 2008 meeting. He noted that staff is planning to convene a workshop session for the item.

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

OTHER

13. BPAC Work Plan

Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara, noted that staff intent is to hold a meeting at the County Facility once a year. Chris Augenstein, Planning Deputy Director, noted that staff could talk about the scheduling and logistics.

Member Muniz suggested deferring the Routine Accommodations to May 2008. Member Hagenmaier noted that the Funding Sources and cash flow for the Bicycle Expenditure Plan could be deferred to a future meeting to allow full discussions of items that are supposed to go in April 2008.

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

14. Announcements

Vice Chairperson Walton referred to the accident on Stevens Canyon Road and noted the background for the road expansion done a few years ago. He reported that the Mary Avenue Bridge is being pre-fabricated at other locations.

Member Brunzell invited the Committee to experience the trails in Los Altos Hills. She invited the Committee to participate in the Los Altos Hills Pathways Run/Walk 2008 on May 5, 2008.

Member Muniz reported that the Gilroy BPAC will meet on March 25, 2008. He added that the City of Gilroy is considering converting the Gilroy BPAC to a Commission. He also reported that the City of Gilroy acquired the Gilroy Gardens Theme Park.

Member Sullivan reported that the City of Santa Clara BAC will meet in two weeks.

Chairperson Swent made an announcement for the City of San Jose BAC Member in the Audience. The North/South Bicycle Corridor from Milpitas to Morgan Hill will be opening soon, possibly on the Bike to Work Day.

Member Fernandez noted that he received an e-mail regarding safety concerns at Foothill Expressway. The e-mail called for bike signs and strategic placement/movement of the street name signs.

Member Entin expressed concern about the impending prohibition of bike access on a developer constructed trail in Los Gatos. He noted that the developer is concerned about liability issues. He requested assistance from Members who have knowledge about clearances for switchbacks and sharp turns. Member Wadler volunteered.

Member Carpernter provided an update on the Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View noting that the tunneling under El Camino is completed. He noted that the trail will be opened in a couple of months.

Member Wadler reported that the Campbell BAC will meet next Monday. He noted that he spoke with John Brazil, City of San Jose, about the possibility of allowing bicycles on dedicated lanes downtown.

Chairperson Swent reported that the Amgen Bike Race was very successful. He noted that four candidate locations have been identified for sharrows but are yet to be installed by the City of Palo Alto staff.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors